



1. **abyss**  
(ə bɪs')
- (*n.*) a deep or bottomless pit  
Mountain climbers must take great care lest they slip and fall into an \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYMS: chasm, gorge  
ANTONYMS: summit, promontory, pinnacle
2. **befall**  
(bi fɒl')
- (*v.*) to happen, occur; to happen to  
It is only natural to worry from time to time about the ills that may someday \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- SYNONYM: come to pass
3. **crucial**  
(krʊ'ʃəl)
- (*adj.*) of supreme importance, decisive, critical  
In many adventure films, the hero always arrives just at the \_\_\_\_\_ moment.
- SYNONYM: pivotal, vital  
ANTONYMS: insignificant, inconsequential
4. **dregs**  
(dregz)
- (*n. pl.*) the last remaining part; the part of least worth  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of bitterness are all that is left of our former friendship.
- SYNONYMS: grounds, lees, residue, leftovers  
ANTONYMS: elite, upper crust, cream of the crop
5. **embody**  
(em bɒd' ē)
- (*v.*) to give form to; to incorporate, include; to personify  
The villain in a melodrama \_\_\_\_\_ cold-blooded ruthlessness.
- SYNONYM: encompass
6. **exasperate**  
(eg zə's pə ræt)
- (*v.*) to irritate, annoy, or anger  
Small children sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ adults with endless questions.
- SYNONYMS: vex, try one's patience  
ANTONYMS: soothe, mollify, please, delight
7. **flasco**  
(fē əs' kō)
- (*n.*) the complete collapse or failure of a project  
With the bases loaded, our star pitcher gave up a home turning a close game into a \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYMS: disaster, flop, bomb  
ANTONYMS: complete success, triumph, hit
8. **garnish**  
(gār' nɪʃ)
- (*v.*) to adorn or decorate, especially food; (*n.*) an ornament or decoration, especially for food  
The chef \_\_\_\_\_ our salad with colorful edible flowers.  
When it comes to mystery novels, I prefer those that have a \_\_\_\_\_ of wit.
- SYNONYMS: (*v.*) embellish, gussy up
9. **heritage**  
(her' ə tɪʒ)
- (*n.*) an inheritance; a birthright  
A rich \_\_\_\_\_ of human history and creativity is housed in the world's libraries and museums.
- SYNONYMS: legacy, descent, pedigree
10. **inert**  
(ɪn ɜrt')
- (*adj.*) lifeless, unable to move or act; slow, inactive  
In order to keep patients \_\_\_\_\_ during surgery, doctors use various general anesthetics.
- SYNONYMS: motionless, sluggish, lethargic  
ANTONYMS: vigorous, energetic, volatile, lively
11. **mercenary**  
(mər' sə ner ē)
- (*adj.*) acting or working for self-gain only; (*n.*) a hired soldier, a soldier of fortune  
A fortune hunter's motives are \_\_\_\_\_ rather than romantic.  
A country that does not have a standing army may need to call upon \_\_\_\_\_ to fight in its wars.
- SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) grasping, avaricious  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) unselfish, disinterested, altruistic
12. **negligent**  
(neg' lɪ ʒənt)
- (*adj.*) marked by carelessness or indifference; failing to do what should be done  
A driver who is \_\_\_\_\_ about obeying traffic regulations may end up causing an accident.
- SYNONYMS: careless, neglectful, remiss, derelict  
ANTONYMS: careful, attentive, conscientious
13. **oblivion**  
(ə blɪv' ē ən)
- (*n.*) forgetfulness, disregard; a state of being forgotten; an amnest general pardon  
Down through the ages, poets have described sleep as a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ that brings relief from wo
- SYNONYMS: obscurity, nothingness  
ANTONYMS: fame, renown, celebrity
14. **opus**  
(ɒ' pəs)
- (*n.*) an impressive piece of work, especially a musical composition or other work of art  
Many scholars consider Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel paintings to be his greatest \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYMS: work, composition, piece, oeuvre
15. **pallid**  
(pal' ɪd)
- (*adj.*) pale, lacking color; weak and lifeless  
A long illness may leave a person looking extremely frail and \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYMS: colorless, bloodless, ashen, dull  
ANTONYMS: ruddy, sanguine, racy, colorful
16. **parable**  
(par' ə bəl)
- (*n.*) a short narrative designed to teach a moral lesson  
Sermons are often based on \_\_\_\_\_ from the New Testament.
- SYNONYMS: moral tale, fable, allegory
17. **rational**  
(rəʃ' ə nəl)
- (*adj.*) based on reasoning; able to make use of reason; sensible, reasonable  
Calm and \_\_\_\_\_ analysis should lead you to a solution to most problems.
- SYNONYM: logical  
ANTONYMS: mad, insane, illogical, absurd
18. **reciprocal**  
(rɪ sɪp' rə kəl)
- (*adj.*) shared; involving give-and-take between two persons or things; working in both directions; (*n.*) (*math*) a number that, when multiplied by another number, gives 1  
A \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of each other's likes and dislikes is important in a close friendship.  
The fraction 4/3 is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fraction 3/4.
- SYNONYM: (*adj.*) mutual  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) one-sided, unilateral
19. **stricture**  
(strɪk' tʃər)
- (*n.*) a limitation or restriction; a criticism; (*medicine*) a narrowing of a passage in the body  
Most religions impose dietary \_\_\_\_\_ of some sort on their followers.
- SYNONYM: restraint  
ANTONYMS: compliment, praise, accolade, swelling
20. **veneer**  
(və nēr')
- (*n.*) a thin outer layer; a surface appearance or decoration; (*v.*) to cover with a thin layer  
Some people may adopt a thin \_\_\_\_\_ of friendliness to hide their true feelings toward others.  
Furniture makers often \_\_\_\_\_ sturdy but common wood with a finer, more costly variety.
- SYNONYMS: (*n.*) facing, overlay, façade, pretense  
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) nucleus, inner core