



Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

- 1. antics** (an' tiks)
(n. pl.) ridiculous and unpredictable behavior or actions
The _____ of the chimpanzees amused the crowds at the zoo.
SYNONYMS: pranks, shenanigans
- 2. avowed** (ə vaüd')
(adj., part) declared openly and without shame, acknowledged
The governor was an _____ supporter of the plan to aid public libraries throughout the state.
SYNONYMS: admitted, sworn
ANTONYMS: unacknowledged, undisclosed
- 3. banter** (ban' tər)
(v.) to exchange playful remarks, tease; (n.) talk that is playful and teasing
There is nothing my friends and I enjoy more than to _____ good-naturedly for hours.
Casual _____ helps to pass the time during a long journey.
SYNONYMS: (n.) joking, raillery
ANTONYM: (n.) serious talk
- 4. bountiful** (baunt' i fəl)
(adj.) giving freely, generous; plentiful, given abundantly
On Thanksgiving Day, people all over America celebrate the _____ gifts of nature.
SYNONYMS: liberal, abundant, copious
ANTONYMS: scarce, scanty, in short supply
- 5. congested** (kan jest' id)
(adj., part) overcrowded, filled or occupied to excess
The doctor grew very concerned when the patient's lungs became _____ with fluid.
SYNONYMS: jammed, packed, choked
ANTONYMS: uncluttered, unimpeded
- 6. detriment** (det' rə mənt)
(n.) harm or loss; injury, damage; a disadvantage; a cause of harm, injury, loss, or damage
The home team survived a six-game losing streak with almost no _____ to its standing in the league.
SYNONYMS: hindrance, liability
ANTONYMS: advantage, help, plus
- 7. durable** (dūr' ə bəl)
(adj.) sturdy, not easily worn out or destroyed; lasting for a long time; (n. pl.) consumer goods used repeatedly over a series of years
Denim is a very _____ kind of fabric.
Most people own household _____ such as furniture and appliances.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) long-lasting, enduring
ANTONYMS: (adj.) fragile, perishable, fleeting, ephemeral
- 8. enterprising** (ent' ə prī zīŋ)
(adj.) energetic, willing and able to start something new; showing boldness and imagination
An _____ young person may turn a hobby into a way of earning money to pay for college.
SYNONYMS: vigorous, ambitious, aggressive, audacious
ANTONYMS: lazy, indolent, timid, diffident
- 9. frugal** (frū' gəl)
(adj.) economical, avoiding waste and luxury; scanty, poor, meager
At home, we usually prepare _____ but nourishing and delicious meals.
SYNONYMS: thrifty, skimpy
ANTONYMS: wasteful, improvident, lavish, extravagant
- 10. gingerly** (jin' jər lē)
(adj., adv.) with extreme care or caution
Difficult and demanding customers should be handled in a _____ and courteous manner.
Pedestrians made their way _____ along the slippery, snow-covered streets.
SYNONYMS: (adv.) cautiously, warily, circumspectly
ANTONYMS: (adv.) firmly, confidently, aggressively
- 11. glut** (glət)
(v.) to provide more than is needed or wanted; to feed or fill to the point of overstuffing; (n.) an oversupply
Hollywood studios _____ theaters with big-budget action movies during the summer season.
When there is a _____ of gasoline on the market, prices at the pump may drop dramatically.
SYNONYMS: (v.) flood, inundate, (n.) surplus, plethora
ANTONYMS: (n.) shortage, scarcity, dearth, paucity
- 12. incognito** (in kəŋ nē' tō)
(adj., adv.) in a disguised state, under an assumed name or identity; (n.) the state of being disguised; a person in disguise
Just before the battle of Agincourt, Shakespeare's King Henry V prowls through his camp _____.
In a way, makeup artists are practitioners of the fine art of _____.
ANTONYM: (adj.) undisguised
- 13. invalidate** (in val' ə dāt)
(v.) to make valueless, take away all force or effect
Lawyers will try to _____ the contract.
SYNONYMS: cancel, annul, disapprove, discredit
ANTONYMS: support, confirm, back up, legalize
- 14. legendary** (lej' ən der ē)
(adj.) described in well-known stories; existing in old stories (legends) rather than in real life
Ajax was one of the _____ Greek heroes who fought before the walls of Troy.
SYNONYMS: mythical, fabulous, famous, celebrated
- 15. maim** (mām)
(v.) to cripple, disable, injure, mar, disfigure, mutilate
Each year, falls _____ thousands of people, some of them for life.
- 16. minimize** (mīn' ə mīz)
(v.) to make as small as possible, make the least of; to make smaller than before
Whenever you are in a car, you should wear your seatbelt to _____ the risk of injury in an accident.
SYNONYMS: belittle, downplay, underrate
ANTONYMS: magnify, enlarge, exaggerate
- 17. oblique** (ō blēk')
(adj.) slanting or sloping; not straightforward or direct
The boxer's _____ blow left his opponent unscathed.
SYNONYMS: diagonal, indirect
ANTONYMS: direct, straight to the point
- 18. veer** (vēr)
(v.) to change direction or course suddenly, turn aside, shift, swerve
The huge storm finally _____ out to sea, leaving much destruction in its wake.
- 19. venerate** (ven' ə rāt)
(v.) to regard with reverence, look up to with great respect
In a number of religions, it is customary for people to _____ saints and martyrs to the faith.
SYNONYMS: worship, revere, idolize
ANTONYMS: despise, detest, ridicule, deride
- 20. wanton** (wānt' ən)
(adj.) reckless; heartless, unjustifiable; loose in morals; (n.) a spoiled, pampered person; one with low morals
The gas chambers at Auschwitz are a grim testimony to the _____ cruelty of the Nazis.
The main character in the popular miniseries was a charming but heartless _____.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) rash, malicious, spiteful, unprovoked
ANTONYMS: (adj.) justified, morally strict, responsible