

Unit 3

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. allot**
(ə lāt')
(v.) to assign or distribute in shares or portions
The teacher _____ books and supplies to each student on the first day of school.
SYNONYMS: apportion, parcel out, allocate
- 2. amass**
(ə mas')
- 3. audacious**
(ə dā' shəs)
(adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring
The audience cheered the _____ feats of the trapeze artists.
SYNONYMS: enterprising, brave
ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly
- 4. comply**
(kəm plī')
- 5. devoid**
(di void')
- 6. elite**
(ā līt')
- 7. grapple**
(grap' əl)
(n.) an iron hook used to grab and hold; (v.) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with
A ship equipped with _____ may be used to recover large pieces of wreckage from the ocean floor.
Store employees _____ with the thieves and held them until the police arrived.
SYNONYMS: (v.) tackle, confront, struggle with
- 8. incapacitate**
(in kə pas' ə tāt)
(v.) to deprive of strength or ability; to make legally ineligible
In the 1940s and 1950s, polio _____ many thousands of people each year all over the world.
SYNONYMS: disable, debilitate, paralyze, cripple
ANTONYMS: rehabilitate, restore
- 9. instigate**
(in' stə gāt)
(v.) to urge on; to stir up, provoke, start, incite
Several demonstrators in the angry crowd did their best to _____ a riot.
ANTONYMS: stop, quell, squelch, quash
- 10. longevity**
(lān jēv' ə tē)
(n.) long life, long duration, length of life
The sea turtle is known for its _____.
ANTONYMS: brevity, transience
- 11. myriad**
(mir' ē əd)
(adj.) in very great numbers; (n.) a very great number
Scientists continue to make new discoveries in their studies of the _____ life-forms of the jungle.
You will find information on a _____ of subjects on the Internet.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) innumerable, countless
ANTONYMS: (adj.) few, scant, sparse

- 12. perspective**
(pə spek' tiv)
(n.) a point of view or general standpoint from which different things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance of various objects at a given time, place, or distance
The designs for the children's playhouse were drawn to _____ and in the right _____.
SYNONYMS: viewpoint, sense of proportion
- 13. perturb**
(pə tər b')
(v.) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into confusion
The rude and disruptive behavior of several party guests _____ the host and hostess.
SYNONYMS: upset, agitate, anger, irritate
ANTONYMS: delight, gladden, please
- 14. prodigious**
(prə dij' əs)
(adj.) immense; extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree
Few intellects have rivaled the _____ mind of Albert Einstein.
SYNONYMS: gigantic, tremendous, astounding
ANTONYMS: puny, minuscule, insignificant
- 15. relevant**
(rel' ə vənt)
(adj.) connected with or related to the matter at hand
I found several Web sites that provided information _____ to the topic of my research paper.
SYNONYMS: pertinent, germane, applicable
ANTONYMS: unconnected, extraneous
- 16. skittish**
(skit' ish)
(adj.) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid; extremely cautious; unstable, undependable
Only an experienced and confident rider should mount a _____ horse.
SYNONYMS: jumpy, restive, capricious, fickle
ANTONYMS: bold, daring, reckless, cool, unflappable
- 17. tether**
(teth' er)
(n.) a rope or chain used to fasten something to a fixed object; the outer limit of strength or resources; (v.) to fasten with a rope or chain
Some young people find it difficult to break the emotional and financial _____ that bind them to their parents.
Before the storm, I _____ the boat securely to the dock.
SYNONYMS: (v.) tie up, chain up, leash
ANTONYMS: (v.) untie, let loose
- 18. unison**
(yū' nə sən)
(n.) a sounding together; agreement or accord
The members of our new student orchestra need to practice playing in _____.
SYNONYMS: harmony, concord, assent
- 19. vie**
(vi)
(v.) to compete; to strive for victory or superiority
Many actors _____ for the leading role in the famous director's new film.
SYNONYMS: contend, rival
- 20. willful**
(wil' fəl)
(adj.) stubbornly self-willed; done on purpose, deliberate
After lengthy deliberations, the jury found the defendant guilty of _____ murder.
SYNONYMS: headstrong, obstinate, premeditated
ANTONYMS: docile, obedient, tractable