

- 1. aghast**
(ə ɡɑːst)
(*adj.*) filled with amazement, disgust, fear, or terror
People were _____ at the senseless brutality of the crime.
SYNONYMS: shocked, horrified, stupefied
ANTONYMS: delighted, overjoyed, unmoved
- 2. ample**
(əmˈplɪ)
(*adj.*) more than enough, large, spacious
Thanks to the wet spring weather, birds and other animals will have an _____ supply of food for the rest of the year.
SYNONYMS: sufficient, adequate, considerable
ANTONYMS: insufficient, inadequate
- 3. apparition**
(ə pəˈrɪʃən)
(*n.*) a ghost or ghostly figure; an unexplained or unusual appearance
The vivid _____ seemed so real that it completely unnerved me.
SYNONYMS: phantom, specter
- 4. assert**
(ə sɜːt)
(*v.*) to declare or state as truth, maintain or defend, put forward forcefully
Throughout the trial and the lengthy appeal process that followed, the defendant firmly _____ her innocence.
SYNONYMS: affirm, avow
- 5. cower**
(kaʊˈɜː)
(*v.*) to crouch or shrink away from in fear or shame
The tiny kittens _____ in the corner, obviously frightened by the huge, growling dog.
SYNONYMS: cringe, flinch
ANTONYM: stand up to
- 6. disdain**
(dɪsˈdaɪn)
(*v.*) to look upon with scorn; to refuse scornfully; (*n.*) a feeling of contempt
I emphatically _____ their cowardly behavior.
Fair-minded people have only _____ for racism in all its forms.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) spurn, reject
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) revere, venerate, esteem, respect
- 7. epitaph**
(epˈɪtəf)
(*n.*) a brief statement written on a tomb or gravestone
Most people never stop to consider the words that might one day appear as their own _____.
SYNONYM: tombstone inscription
- 8. ethical**
(ethˈɪkəl)
(*adj.*) having to do with morals, values, right and wrong; in accordance with standards of right conduct; requiring a prescription for purchase
New developments in medicine often lead to discussions of important _____ questions.
SYNONYMS: upright, virtuous, honorable
ANTONYMS: immoral, unscrupulous, dishonest
- 9. facetious**
(fəˈsiːʃəs)
(*adj.*) humorous, not meant seriously
We had to laugh at her _____ remarks.
SYNONYMS: comical, witty, tongue-in-cheek
ANTONYMS: serious, humorless
- 10. inaudible**
(ɪnˈɔːdəbəl)
(*adj.*) not able to be heard
Some high-frequency sounds are _____ to even the keenest human ear.
SYNONYMS: faint, indistinct
ANTONYMS: audible, easily heard
- 11. indiscriminate**
(ɪn dɪsˈkrɪmɪˈneɪt)
(*adj.*) without restraint or control; unselective
The _____ slaughter of right whales brought that species to the brink of extinction.
SYNONYMS: haphazard, random, uncritical
ANTONYMS: selective, discriminating, judicious
- 12. intrigue**
(n., ɪnˈtrɪɡ; v., ɪnˈtrɪɡ)
(*n.*) crafty dealings, underhanded plotting; (*v.*) to form and carry out plots; to puzzle or excite the curiosity
Investigators uncovered a shocking network of lies and international _____.
The old album full of faded family pictures and postcards from exotic places _____ me.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) scheme, plot, conspiracy
ANTONYM: (*n.*) fair play
- 13. jurisdiction**
(jʊrɪsˈdɪkʃən)
(*n.*) an area of authority or control; the right to administer justice
Cases involving robbery and assault are usually tried under the _____ of the state courts.
SYNONYM: purview
- 14. plausible**
(pləʊˈzəbəl)
(*adj.*) appearing true, reasonable, or fair
Their story didn't sound _____ to me.
SYNONYMS: believable, probable
ANTONYMS: improbable, far-fetched
- 15. plebeian**
(pləˈbiːən)
(*adj.*) common, vulgar; belonging to the lower class; (*n.*) a common person, member of the lower class
Despite the couple's enormous wealth, their taste in cars and houses is surprisingly _____.
At one time, the _____ of ancient Rome were excluded from holding public office of any kind.
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) lowborn, proletarian, coarse, unrefined
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) aristocratic, refined, cultivated
- 16. prodigal**
(prɪdˈɪɡəl)
(*adj.*) wastefully extravagant; lavishly or generously abundant; (*n.*) one who is wasteful and self-indulgent
We have a tight budget, but we make an exception for _____ celebrations on family birthdays.
The elderly man told us that he greatly regretted the years he spent living the life of a _____.
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) improvident; (*n.*) spendthrift, wastrel
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) frugal, economical, stingy, miserly
- 17. proximity**
(prɒkˈsɪmɪtɪ)
(*n.*) nearness, closeness
People with children often choose a house because of its _____ to schools.
ANTONYMS: distance, remoteness
- 18. pulverize**
(pʊlˈvəraɪz)
(*v.*) to grind or pound to a powder or dust; to destroy or overcome (as though by smashing into fragments)
At many old mills in Vermont, granite stones were used to _____ the grain.
SYNONYMS: crush, demolish
- 19. sequel**
(sɪˈkwəl)
(*n.*) that which follows, a result; a literary work or film continuing the story of one written or made earlier
Readers are eagerly awaiting a _____ to the author's best-selling mystery novel.
SYNONYMS: follow-up, continuation
ANTONYMS: prelude, overture, curtain-raiser
- 20. volatile**
(vɒlˈaɪl)
(*adj.*) highly changeable, fickle; tending to become violent or explosive; changing readily from the liquid to the gaseous state
A person who is usually calm and collected may nevertheless sometimes behave in a _____ manner.
SYNONYMS: unstable, erratic
ANTONYMS: stable, steady, static, inert, dormant