

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. abashed**
(ə bash't') (adj., part.) embarrassed, ashamed, or nonplussed
I was thoroughly _____ by the foolish mistake that I made at the dinner party.
ANTONYMS: unembarrassed, unashamed
- 2. aloof**
(ə lūf') (adj.) withdrawn, standing apart from others (usually as a matter of choice)
In almost every office or business, there are some people who keep decidedly _____ from their coworkers.
SYNONYMS: distant, cold, standoffish
ANTONYMS: involved, sociable
- 3. anguish**
(anj' gwish) (n.) great mental suffering, distress, or pain; (v.) to be deeply tormented by pain or sorrow
Survivors of a natural disaster often suffer great mental _____ long after their terrible ordeal is over.
The child's disappearance _____ every member of the community.
SYNONYMS: (n.) misery, woe, torment
ANTONYMS: (n.) joy, delight, peace of mind
- 4. articulate**
(v, är tik' yü lä; adj., är tik' yä lit) (v.) to pronounce distinctly; to express well in words; to fit together into a system; (adj.) able to use language effectively; expressed clearly and forcefully
A successful candidate can _____ ideas in a way that makes them acceptable to voters.
To be successful as a professional lecturer, a person must, of necessity, be _____.
SYNONYMS: (v.) enunciate, expound; (adj.) glib, eloquent
ANTONYMS: (adj.) tongue-tied, mumbled, incoherent
- 5. bask**
(bask) (v.) to be in, or expose oneself to, pleasant warmth; to take pleasure in or derive enjoyment from
Because they are cold-blooded creatures, lizards and other reptiles must _____ in the sun to regulate their body temperature.
SYNONYMS: wallow, revel
- 6. defect**
(n., dé' fekt; v., di fekt') (n.) an imperfection, flaw, or blemish of some kind; (v.) to desert a cause or organization
There is no one who does not have at least one serious character _____.
In 1948 the Dixiecrats _____ from the Democratic Party and held their own presidential nominating convention.
- 7. finesse**
(fi nes') (n.) delicate skill; tact and cleverness; (v.) to accomplish something by cleverness, good judgment, or skillful evasion
To become a champion, a tennis player needs to combine power with _____.
Skilled politicians know how to _____ their answers to embarrassing questions from reporters.
SYNONYMS: (n.) delicacy, subtlety
ANTONYMS: (n.) clumsiness, awkwardness
- 8. flaunt**
(flónt) (v.) to wave or flutter showily, to display in a conceited, offensive way
Some people seem to need to _____ their wealth and good fortune in life.
SYNONYMS: show off, parade
ANTONYMS: hide, downplay
- 9. forthright**
(fórh' rit) (adj.) frank, direct, straightforward
I appreciate the _____ way in which you express your opinions, even when they do not agree with my own.
SYNONYMS: candid, blunt
ANTONYMS: indirect, evasive, deceitful, two-faced
- 10. genial**
(jén' yai) (adj.) cordial, pleasantly cheerful or warm
The _____ host and hostess made each party guest feel especially welcome.
SYNONYMS: friendly, amiable
ANTONYMS: cold, unfriendly, unsociable
- 11. instill**
(in stil') (v.) to add gradually; to introduce or cause to be taken in
How can parents best _____ in their children a love for reading?
SYNONYMS: implant, infuse, inculcate
ANTONYMS: root out, eradicate, extirpate
- 12. ostracize**
(ás' trā sīz) (v.) to exclude from a group, banish, send away
Society _____ those who commit acts of treason.
SYNONYMS: cast out, expel, blackball, snub
ANTONYMS: fraternize with, associate with
- 13. premonition**
(prē miə nish' ən) (n.) forewarning or foreboding of a future event
I felt a vague _____ of danger as I entered the abandoned building.
SYNONYM: presentiment
- 14. pseudonym**
(sü' də nim) (n.) a pen name, name assumed by a writer
It is wise to use a _____ to protect your privacy when you chat on the Internet.
SYNONYM: nom de plume
- 15. purge**
(pärj) (v.) to wash away impurities, clean up; (n.) the process of getting rid of something or someone decisively
A soaking rainstorm will usually _____ the air of pollutants.
The change of government was achieved through a peaceful election rather than a brutal _____.
SYNONYMS: (v.) cleanse, purify
ANTONYMS: (v.) pollute, contaminate, defile
- 16. rehabilitate**
(rē hä bil' ə tät) (v.) to make over in good form; to restore to good condition or to a former position
Over the years government agencies have spent a good deal of money trying to _____ run-down inner-city neighborhoods.
SYNONYMS: reclaim, rebuild, reform
- 17. repercussion**
(rē pä rash' ən) (n.) an effect or consequence of some action or event, result; an echo or reverberation
The _____ of the 1929 stock market crash were felt all over the world.
ANTONYMS: cause, source
- 18. resolute**
(rez' ə lüt) (adj.) bold, determined; firm
Commencement-day speakers generally urge new graduates to be _____ in pursuit of their dreams.
SYNONYMS: steadfast, unflinching
ANTONYMS: weak, spineless, indecisive
- 19. retentive**
(ri tent' iv) (adj.) able to hold, keep, or recall; retaining knowledge easily
A _____ memory is a great asset for any actor, especially one who performs on stage.
ANTONYMS: porous, forgetful
- 20. scapegoat**
(skäp' göt) (n.) a person or thing carrying the blame for others
In ancient times, a messenger who brought bad news was often made the _____ for it and killed.
SYNONYMS: fall guy, whipping boy