

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. **acme**
(ak' mē)
(n.) the highest point
A perfect game is the _____ of any pitcher's career in baseball.
SYNONYMS: summit, top, peak, pinnacle
ANTONYMS: low point, bottom, nadir
- 2. **attribute**
(n., at' trə byūt;
v., ə trib' yət)
(n) a quality or characteristic belonging to or associated with someone or something; (v) to assign to, credit with; to regard as caused by or resulting from
The _____ I most admire in you is your willingness to give everyone's opinions a fair hearing.
The doctor _____ my runny nose and itchy eyes to multiple allergies.
SYNONYMS: (n.) trait; (v.) ascribe
- 3. **belittle**
(bi lit' əl)
(v) to make something appear smaller than it is; to refer to in a way that suggests lack of importance or value
Candidates for public office may resort to negative ads that _____ their opponents' records.
SYNONYMS: minimize, underrate, disparage
ANTONYMS: exaggerate, magnify, overestimate
- 4. **convey**
(kən vā)
(v) to transport; to transmit; to communicate, make known; to transfer ownership or title to
Please _____ our best wishes to your parents on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.
SYNONYMS: carry, send, impart
- 5. **doctrine**
(dāk' trin)
(n.) a belief, principle, or teaching; a system of such beliefs or principles; a formulation of such beliefs or principles
No two religions see eye to eye on every fine detail of _____.
- 6. **excise**
(v., ek sīz';
n., ek' sīz)
(v) to remove by cutting; (n.) an indirect tax on the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a commodity or service
If you _____ that irrelevant remark, you will improve your essay.
The _____ imposed on such potentially dangerous products as tobacco and alcohol have skyrocketed.
SYNONYMS: (v.) cut out, delete, expunge
ANTONYMS: (v.) put in, insert, interpolate
- 7. **exotic**
(ig zāt' ik)
(adj.) foreign; charmingly unfamiliar or strikingly unusual
A recipe may call for _____ herbs and spices that are difficult to obtain.
SYNONYMS: strange, alien, picturesque, colorful
ANTONYMS: native, indigenous, familiar, commonplace
- 8. **haggard**
(hag' ərd)
(adj.) thin, pale, and careworn as a result of worry or suffering; wild-looking
The _____ refugees were given food, clothing, and temporary shelter.
SYNONYMS: drawn, gaunt, wasted
ANTONYMS: healthy, glowing, radiant, hale and hearty
- 9. **jaunty**
(jōn' tē)
(adj.) lively, easy, and carefree in manner; smart or trim in appearance
I bought a _____ straw hat.
SYNONYMS: unconcerned, lighthearted
ANTONYMS: downcast, dejected, glum
- 10. **junction**
(jungk' chər)
(n.) a joining together; the point at which two things are joined; any important point in time
Our property ends at the _____ of the two stone walls.
SYNONYMS: union, seam, joint, turning point

- 11. **menial**
(mē' nē əl)
(adj.) lowly, humble, lacking importance or dignity; (n.) a person who does the humble and unpleasant tasks
During the Great Depression, people were thankful to have work of any kind, no matter how _____.
New immigrants may find jobs as _____ in hotels and restaurants.
SYNONYMS: (n.) underling, scullion, servant
ANTONYMS: (adj.) lofty, elevated; (n.) boss, master
- 12. **parry**
(par' ē)
(v) to ward off, fend off, deflect, evade, avoid; (n.) a defensive movement in fencing and other sports
An effective press secretary can _____ almost any question a reporter asks.
The challenger's swift _____ caught the champion completely off guard.
- 13. **predatory**
(pred' ə tōr ē)
(adj.) preying on, plundering, or piratical
Owls and other _____ birds play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature.
SYNONYMS: looting, pillaging, ravenous, rapacious
- 14. **ravage**
(rav' ij)
(v) to destroy, lay waste, ruin; (n.) ruinous damage, destruction
Swarms of locusts _____ the farmer's fields and orchards.
No one can escape the _____ of time.
SYNONYMS: (v.) wreck, devastate
ANTONYM: (v.) spare
- 15. **stance**
(stans)
(n.) a way of holding the body; an attitude or position on an issue
A fashion model's _____ is calculated to show off a designer's clothing to best advantage.
SYNONYMS: posture, bearing
- 16. **tawdry**
(tō' drē)
(adj.) showy and flashy but lacking in good taste
An excess of gold braid and glittery beads gave the costumes a _____ look.
SYNONYMS: loud, garish, gaudy, tacky, vulgar
ANTONYMS: refined, tasteful, subdued, muted
- 17. **turncoat**
(torn' kōt)
(n.) a person who switches to an opposing side or party
Strikers generally consider those workers who cross the picket lines to be _____.
SYNONYMS: traitor, quisling, deserter, renegade
ANTONYMS: loyalist, diehard
- 18. **unassuming**
(ən ə sū' mīŋ)
(adj.) not putting on airs, unpretentious; modest
Many celebrities remain _____ despite their fame and wealth.
ANTONYMS: conceited, pretentious, self-important
- 19. **wallow**
(wāl' ə)
(v) to roll about in a lazy, clumsy, or helpless way; to overindulge in; to have in abundance; (n.) a wet, muddy, or dusty area used by animals as a sort of bath; a state of moral or physical collapse
After a strenuous hike, I was too tired to do anything but _____ blissfully in a hot bath.
On the Serengeti Plain, _____ offer animals much-needed relief from the sun's scorching rays.
SYNONYMS: (v.) delight in, bask in
- 20. **waver**
(wā' vər)
(v) to move to and fro, become unsteady; to show lack of firmness or decision
The committee _____ for several days before choosing the winner of the essay contest.
SYNONYMS: hesitate, falter
ANTONYMS: stand firm, be resolute