



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

UNIT 12

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. absolve
(ab zälv')

(v.) to clear from blame, responsibility, or guilt

They assumed that their alibi would _____ them of suspicion.

SYNONYMS: acquit, exonerate, vindicate, excuse, pardon
ANTONYMS: condemn, convict, incriminate, inculcate

2. caricature
(kar' i kə chür)

(n.) a representation (especially a drawing) in which the subject's characteristic features are deliberately exaggerated; (v.) to present someone or something in a deliberately distorted way

What began as a hasty newspaper _____ soon turned up on coffee mugs, T-shirts, and sweatshirts.

The satiric television program _____ the movie star and made him seem more clumsy than he really was.

SYNONYMS: (n.) cartoon, burlesque, parody, lampoon

3. clangor
(klang' ə)

(n.) a loud ringing sound; (v.) to make a loud ringing noise

For more than a century, American grade schools summoned children to school with the _____ of a bell.

SYNONYMS: (n.) din, clamor, uproar

ANTONYMS: (n.) silence, stillness, peace and quiet

4. contiguous
(kən tig' yü əs)

(adj.) side by side, touching; near; adjacent in time

Trouble arose over who should control the weeds and bushes that rioted in the lot _____ to ours.

SYNONYMS: adjoining, abutting, next door to

ANTONYMS: detached, apart, distant, remote

5. cupidity
(kyü pid' ə tē)

(n.) an eager desire for something; greed

You say that these catalogue prices show the quality of the goods, but I say they show the seller's _____.

SYNONYMS: avarice, rapacity, craving, lust

ANTONYMS: generosity, contentment, satiation, gratification

6. deleterious
(del ə tir' ē əs)

(adj.) harmful, injurious

Wishing can give zest and purpose to anyone's life, but wishful thinking can have a _____ effect.

SYNONYMS: detrimental, destructive, pernicious, damaging

ANTONYMS: helpful, beneficial, harmless, innocuous



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7. enhance
(en hanz')

(v.) to raise to a higher degree; to increase the value or desirability of

She sanded and varnished the old table in order to

_____ its appearance and value.

SYNONYMS: improve, magnify, heighten, elevate
ANTONYMS: diminish, reduce, lessen, degrade

8. enthrall
(en thrōl')

(v.) to captivate, charm, hold spellbound; to enslave; to imprison

All the critics were _____ by the performance and wrote rave reviews.

SYNONYMS: fascinate, enchant, attract, bewitch
ANTONYMS: bore to tears, repel, put someone off

9. extenuate
(ek sten' yū āt)

(v.) to lessen the seriousness or magnitude of an offense by making partial excuses

Because hunger caused the novel's young hero to steal the bread, the jurors believed that the crime had been committed under _____ circumstances.

SYNONYMS: moderate, mitigate, diminish, downplay
ANTONYMS: intensify, aggravate, worsen, exacerbate

10. implicit
(im plis' it)

(adj.) implied or understood though unexpressed; without doubts or reservations, unquestioning, potentially contained in

Though she never said so, it was _____ that she did not like to have long conversations before her morning coffee.

SYNONYMS: inferred, tacit, unspoken, unconditional
ANTONYMS: explicit, expressed, stated, revealed

11. incisive
(in sī' siv)

(adj.) sharp, keen, penetrating (with a suggestion of decisiveness and effectiveness)

I am truly thankful for your _____ remarks about my report.

SYNONYMS: acute, cutting, perceptive, trenchant

12. ostentatious
(ās ten tā' shas)

(adj.) marked by conspicuous or pretentious display, showy

The inside of the restaurant was so _____ that the meager meal, when it came, seemed only a hasty afterthought.

SYNONYMS: flashy, overdone, affected, flamboyant
ANTONYMS: modest, plain, simple, demure, retiring

13. paragon
(par' ə gān)

(n.) a model of excellence or perfection

I may not be a _____ of scholarship, but I do try my best.

SYNONYMS: exemplar, ideal, paradigm, model, good example



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14. paraphrase
(par' ə frāz)

(v.) to restate in other words; (n.) a statement that presents a given idea in new language

You can _____

Address, "but in doing so you will diminish its force."

SYNONYMS: (v) reword, rephrase; (n.) a rendition, version
ANTONYMS: (v) repeat verbatim, duplicate, quote

15. politic
(pāl' ə tik)

(adj.) prudent, shrewdly conceived and developed; artful, expedient

In your angry state I think it would be _____ to say nothing, at least until you have calmed down.

SYNONYMS: tactful, diplomatic, judicious, circumspect
ANTONYMS: unwise, injudicious, imprudent, rash

16. prosaic
(prō zā' ik)

(adj.) dull, lacking in distinction and originality; matter-of-fact, straightforward; characteristic of prose, not poetic

I remember his singing voice as being on key and clear but also _____.

SYNONYMS: commonplace, humdrum, literal, pedestrian
ANTONYMS: remarkable, distinctive, poetic, inspired

17. redundant
(ri den' dant)

(adj.) extra, excess, more than is needed; wordy, repetitive; profuse, lush

Some _____ expressions, such as "hollow tubing," are considered an acceptable part of the English language.

SYNONYMS: unnecessary, superfluous, verbose, prolix
ANTONYMS: succinct, terse, laconic, scarce, inadequate

18. sanctimonious
(sank tə mō' nē əs)

(adj.) making a show of virtue or righteousness; hypocritically moralistic or pious, self-righteous, canting, holler-than-thou

Cautionary tales that take on a _____ tone often achieve the opposite of the desired result.

ANTONYMS: heartfelt, sincere, humble

19. scintillating
(sīn' tə lāt in)

(adj., part.) sparkling, twinkling, exceptionally brilliant (applied to mental or personal qualities)

She was known for her _____ conversation.

SYNONYMS: stimulating, lively, glittering, flashing
ANTONYMS: dull, boring, insipid, flat, tame, vapid

(adj.) charming, attractive, pleasing (often suggesting a childlike charm and innocence)

When my little brother wanted something badly, he became as _____ as a puppy.

SYNONYMS: winning, engaging, delightful, prepossessing
ANTONYMS: unattractive, unappealing, repulsive

Completing the Sentence

From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. Her new hairstyle greatly _____ her appearance.
2. The jury may have found him not guilty, but the "court of public opinion" will never _____ him of responsibility for the crime.
3. Detective stories seem to _____ her to such a degree that she reads virtually nothing else.
4. Until he rose to speak, the meeting had been dull, but he immediately enlivened it with his _____ wit.
5. We resented his _____ self-assurance that he was morally superior to everyone else.
6. She did her work so quietly that it took us time to realize that she was a veritable _____ of efficiency and diligence.
7. His highly technical discussion will have to be _____ if it is to be understood by most readers.
8. How can anyone be so foolish as to develop a smoking habit when it has been proven that cigarettes are _____ to health?
9. Since we had been told the new TV series was original and witty, we were disappointed by the obvious and _____ situation comedy that unfolded on our screen.
10. The fact that he had hungry children at home does not justify what he did, but it does _____ his crime.
11. With that one _____ comment, she brought an end to all the aimless talk and directed our attention to the real problem facing us.
12. "Evening dress is far too _____ for such an informal occasion," I thought to myself as I tried to decide what to wear that night.
13. In most contracts there are _____ duties and obligations that must be fulfilled even though they aren't expressed in so many words.
14. There are some situations in life when it is _____ to remain quiet and wait for a better opportunity to assert yourself.
15. To characterize the literary style of Edgar Allan Poe as "unique and one of a kind" is certainly _____.
16. The _____ of the fire bells as they echoed through the night filled our hearts with terror.
17. His long nose and prominent teeth give the candidate the kind of face that cartoonists love to _____.

18. Marie's engaging personality and charming manner make her quite _____.
19. Since the gym is _____ to the library, it is easy for me to shift from academic to athletic activities.
20. His normal desire for financial security was eventually distorted into a boundless _____.

Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the boldface word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. a din of cowbells from the bleachers _____
2. to improve the sound of the chorus _____
3. an exemplar of team spirit _____
4. a trenchant report _____
5. a lively play of wit _____
6. the commonplace routines of housework _____
7. a parody of his behavior _____
8. a book with the power to enchant _____
9. a hypocritical accusation _____
10. an engaging smile _____
11. a flashy new car _____
12. a detrimental effect on the harvest _____
13. an unspoken but lifelong loyalty _____
14. a judicious decision _____
15. bought lots that were adjoining _____

Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the boldface word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

16. never exhibited generosity _____
17. evidence to incriminate _____
18. charges aggravated by circumstances _____
19. issuing succinct instructions _____
20. to quote her memorable words _____

Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

- What we do now to remedy the evils in our society will determine whether or not we are to be (**absolved, paraphrased**) of blame for the injustices of the past.
- Is it logical to conclude that because this substance has had a (**prosaic, deleterious**) effect on some test animals, it is not at all safe for human consumption?
- When he demanded that I immediately "return back" the money I owed him, I found him not merely unpleasant but (**redundant, winsome**).
- I will try to tell the story in a balanced way, without either exaggerating or (**extenuating, scintillating**) his responsibility for those sad events.
- It is hardly (**politic, clangorous**) for someone who hopes to win a popularity contest to go about making such brutally frank remarks.
- Words about "tolerance" are empty and (**sanctimonious, contiguous**) when they come from one who has shown no concern about civil liberties.
- As long as we are (**enthralled, extenuated**) by the idea that it is possible to get something for nothing, we will not be able to come up with a sound economic program.
- "In seeking to discredit me," I replied, "my opponent has deliberately (**caricatured, paraphrased**) my ideas, making them seem simplistic and unrealistic."
- She delivered her lines with such artistry and verve that she made the rather commonplace dialogue seem (**scintillating, deleterious**).
- In the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Lincoln asked a few (**incisive, prosaic**) questions that showed up the fatal weaknesses in his opponent's position.
- The aspiring salesperson stood in front of the mirror for hours, practicing a (**winsome, redundant**) smile.
- A fresh coat of paint and some attention to the lawn would greatly (**enhance, absolve**) the appearance of our bungalow.
- He was the type of officer who expected (**ostentatious, implicit**) obedience from the troops he commanded. When he gave an order, he assumed it would be carried out.
- She tried to convince me that the proposed advertisement would be "dynamic" and a "real eye-catcher," but I found it utterly (**politic, prosaic**).
- I realized I was being kept awake not by the (**paragon, clangor**) of the city traffic but by a gnawing fear that I had done the wrong thing.
- The Gettysburg Address is so concise, so lucid, and so beautiful, that it would be folly to attempt to (**paraphrase, enthrall**) it.
- My parents set up my older brother as such a (**caricature, paragon**) that I despaired of ever being able to follow in his footsteps.
- Isn't it rather (**ostentatious, redundant**) to wear a Phi Beta Kappa key on a chain around your neck?
- We wanted to find a house that was near that of my parents, but not (**contiguous, prosaic**) to it.
- The rumors of "easy money" and "lush profits" to be made in the stock market aroused the (**clangor, cupidity**) of many small investors.

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