



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

UNIT 13

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. abet**
(ə bet')

(v.) to encourage, assist, aid, support (especially in something wrong or unworthy)
To allow a man in his condition behind the wheel of a car is to _____ a potential crime.
ANTONYMS: hamper, hinder, impede, frustrate
- 2. aver**
(ə var')

(v.) to affirm, declare confidently
I will _____ your fitness to do the work to any prospective employer who inquires.
SYNONYMS: assert, asseverate, avouch
ANTONYMS: deny, disavow, repudiate, disclaim
- 3. blatant**
(blāt' ənt)

(adj.) noisy in a coarse, offensive way; obvious or conspicuous, especially in an unfavorable sense
Your comments showed a _____ disregard for my feelings.
SYNONYMS: flagrant, glaring, egregious, disagreeably loud
ANTONYMS: inconsequential, trifling, piddling, petty
- 4. broach**
(brōch)

(v.) to bring up or begin to talk about (a subject); to announce, introduce; to break the surface of the water; to turn sideways to the wind and waves; to pierce (a keg or cask) in order to draw off liquid; (n.) a spit for roasting; a tool for tapping casks
Though he did not like scrambled eggs, he opted not to _____ the subject for fear of insulting his hosts.
- 5. buttress**
(bə' trəs)

(v.) to support, prop up, strengthen; (n.) a supporting structure
He has read so widely and in such depth that he can produce facts to _____ any argument he advances.
I had to add _____ on either side of my rickety shed to keep it from collapsing.
SYNONYMS: (v.) bolster, reinforce, brace, shore up
ANTONYMS: (v.) undermine, weaken, impair
- 6. carousal**
(kə raú' zəl)

(n.) noisy revelry or merrymaking (often with a suggestion of heavy drinking)
Vikings are notorious for having enjoyed a _____ after each of their battles.
SYNONYMS: drinking bout, drunken revel, binge



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

7. collate
(kō' lāt)

(*v*) to compare critically in order to note differences, similarities, etc.; to arrange in order for some specific purpose

We decided to _____ the recipes according to how complicated they are.
SYNONYMS: sort out, cross-check, rearrange

8. connoisseur
(kän ə sə' sər')

(*n*) an expert; one who is well qualified to pass critical judgments, especially in one of the fine arts

She was a _____ of both music and film.
SYNONYMS: authority, savant, pundit
ANTONYMS: ignoramus, philistine, yahoo

9. disconsolate
(dis kän' sə lət)

(*adj*) deeply unhappy or dejected; without hope; beyond consolation

Shakespeare's Macbeth hardly seems _____ when his wife dies, and bluntly says he has no time to grieve.
SYNONYMS: grief-stricken, inconsolable, comfortless
ANTONYMS: cheerful, blithe, buoyant, jaunty

10. encumber
(in kəm' bər)

(*v*) to weigh down or burden (with difficulties, cares, debt, etc.); to fill up, block up, hinder

I feared that joining another club would _____ me with too many obligations.
SYNONYMS: overload, saddle, hamper, clog
ANTONYMS: unburden, unload, relieve

11. foment
(fō mənt')

(*v*) to promote trouble or rebellion; to apply warm liquids to, warm

Toward the end of the film, the peasant leader attempts to _____ a storming of the scientist's castle.
SYNONYMS: instigate, incite, stir up
ANTONYMS: quell, quash, quell, suppress

12. grisly
(griz' lē)

(*adj*) frightful, horrible, ghastly

Katherine Anne Porter's "Pale Horse, Pale Rider" reveals the _____ effects of the influenza virus during the epidemic that followed World War I.
SYNONYMS: gruesome, gory, hideous
ANTONYMS: pleasant, delightful, attractive

13. herculean
(hər kyū' iē' ən)

(*adj*) (*capital H*) relating to Hercules; (*lowercase h*) characterized by great strength; very hard to do in the sense of requiring unusual strength

We carried the desk into the house successfully but saw that getting it up the stairs would require a _____ effort.
SYNONYMS: mighty, powerful, arduous, onerous, colossal



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

14. impassive
(im pas' iv)

(*adj*) showing no feeling or emotion; inanimate; motionless
Since nervous laughter is the sign of an inexperienced actor, I tried to adopt an _____ expression on stage.
SYNONYMS: emotionless, stoical, unemotional, insensible
ANTONYMS: emotional, passionate, excitable

15. inauspicious
(in ə spish' əs)

(*adj*) unfavorable, unlucky, suggesting bad luck for the future
Our road trip got off to an _____ start when we ran out of gas within five miles of home.
SYNONYMS: unpropitious, unpromising, untimely
ANTONYMS: propitious, favorable

16. incontrovertible
(in kən trə vər' tə bəl)

(*adj*) unquestionable, beyond dispute
The document was remarkable for its tact yet also _____ in its facts.
SYNONYMS: incontestable, indisputable, indubitable
ANTONYMS: debatable, dubious, open to question

17. nonplussed
(nän plast')

(*adj*, *part*) puzzled, not knowing what to do, at a loss
Prepared as she thought she was for all contingencies, she found herself _____ by the surprising turn of events.
SYNONYMS: perplexed, baffled, stumped, flabbergasted
ANTONYMS: poised, confident, assured

18. opportune
(əp ə tün')

(*adj*) suitable or convenient for a particular purpose; occurring at an appropriate time
If you intend to give that dog a bath, you had better pick an _____ moment, and then pounce!

SYNONYMS: timely, appropriate, felicitous
ANTONYMS: untimely, inconvenient, inappropriate

19. prolific
(pro lif' ik)

(*adj*) abundantly productive; abundant, profuse
Haydn was a more _____ composer than Mozart, in part because he lived much longer.
SYNONYMS: fruitful, fecund, prolific
ANTONYMS: barren, unproductive, sterile, sparse

20. rejoinder
(ri join' dər)

(*n*) a reply to a reply, especially from the defendant in a legal suit
When he explained where he had been and what he had done, her _____ was sharp and critical.
SYNONYMS: answer, reply, response, riposte, retort

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. I don't think you can really accuse the producers of _____ favoritism simply because they chose a friend for the title role.
2. I will not in any way _____ their plans to play a cruel and humiliating trick on an unoffending person.
3. "When I first _____ this topic two years ago," I observed, "my ideas were met by a very indifferent reception."
4. Aren't you exaggerating when you suggest that the job of stock clerk calls for someone with _____ strength?
5. If the pages aren't _____ properly, they'll be out of proper sequence when our class magazine is bound.
6. The mangled bodies of the victims told their own _____ story of what had happened.
7. When I saw the worried expression on the face of my employer, I realized that it wasn't a(n) _____ time to ask for a raise.
8. One need not be a(n) _____ of modern dance to recognize that Martha is exceptionally talented in that field.
9. The New Year's Eve party started off quietly enough, but it soon became a full-fledged _____.
10. The testimony of three different witnesses, all confirming the same basic facts, made the guilt of the accused _____.
11. He is such a(n) _____ writer that his books occupy almost an entire shelf in the school library.
12. The big game had a truly _____ start for us when our star quarterback fumbled and lost the ball on the first play.
13. She is so _____ with family obligations that she rarely has a free moment for herself.
14. Although we have had our disagreements, I will _____ now that she was always been scrupulously honest in her dealings with me.
15. Although she remained outwardly _____ during the trial, I could sense the emotional turmoil beneath the surface.
16. I know you are really disappointed at not getting that job, but don't allow yourself to feel so _____ that you won't have the energy to look for another.
17. The towering walls of many medieval cathedrals are prevented from falling down by huge "flying _____" on the outsides of the buildings.

18. I was utterly _____ when I realized that football practice and the rehearsal for the class show were at the same time.

19. It would be impossible to _____ racial discord in a school where students of different backgrounds understand and respect one another.

20. Now that you mention it, I don't think that "Sez you" was a particularly effective _____ to her trenchant and insightful criticisms of your proposal.

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. **introduce** a complete change of plan _____
2. was **grief-stricken** after the tragedy _____
3. gave a conciliatory **reply** _____
4. **support** her sleazy scheme _____
5. an **unpromising** beginning _____
6. **baffled** by the answer _____
7. woken by the **drunken revel** _____
8. **overloaded** with cares and troubles _____
9. a **colossal** challenge _____
10. a **timely** moment to act _____
11. **shore up** their declining popularity _____
12. **sort out** in order of relevance _____
13. **gruesome** evidence of the wreck _____
14. **stir up** fury in the crowd _____
15. **indisputable** proof of innocence _____

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. going through an **unproductive** period _____
17. an **inconsequential** error _____
18. a disturbingly **excitable** nature _____
19. a **philistine's** appreciation of food _____
20. **disavow** an earlier statement _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. Dr. Slavin's original diagnosis, although questioned by several colleagues, was strongly (**buttressed, fomented**) by the results of the laboratory tests.
2. I like a good time as much as anyone, but I don't think that the celebration of our nation's birthday should become a rowdy (**carousal, rejoinder**).
3. Well-meaning but misguided friends (**abetted, averred**) his plans to run away to Hollywood and "become a movie star."
4. You will never be able to complete this hike if you (**encumber, collate**) yourself with so much "essential equipment."
5. What could be more (**disconsolate, herculean**) than the long drive home on a rainy night after we had lost the championship game by one point!
6. His parents are such sensitive people that I'm not at all sure how I should (**broach, foment**) the news of his untimely death to them.
7. In spite of her long and (**grisly, prolific**) career, her reputation today rests entirely on one great play.
8. Cleaning up the old beach house seemed an almost impossible task, but she attacked it with (**herculean, disconsolate**) energy.
9. Psychologists tell us that people who seem to be unusually (**impassive, blatant**) are often the ones most likely to lose control of their emotions in times of stress.
10. I wasn't so much surprised at not getting the job as I was (**nonplussed, encumbered**) by his strange explanation that I was "overqualified."
11. The speaker's inept replies to questions from the floor were met with a barrage of indignant (**carousals, rejoinders**).
12. When they offered to help him, he proudly (**averred, abetted**) that he could handle the situation entirely on his own.
13. If you are going to wait for an occasion that seems (**opportune, grisly**) in every respect, then in all probability you will have to wait forever.
14. I don't know anything about quiches and soufflés, but I'm a true (**buttress, connoisseur**) when it comes to pizza.
15. I know that he is wealthy and comes from a "prominent" family, but does that excuse his (**blatant, impassive**) disregard of good manners?
16. I truly felt that reality could never be as horrible as the (**prolific, grisly**) phantoms that were disturbing my dreams.
17. The opening of our show took place most (**inauspiciously, opportunely**) in the midst of a transit strike and a record-breaking snowstorm.
18. Isn't it ridiculous to say that the disorder was (**fomented, nonplussed**) by "outsiders" when we all know that it resulted from bad conditions inside the institution?
19. With tireless patience, the wily detective (**encumbered, collated**) bits and pieces of evidence until he gained an insight into how the crime had been committed.
20. What we need is not opinions or "educated guesses" but (**impassive, incontrovertible**) proof that can stand up under the closest examination.

Vocabulary in Context

- (Line) John F. British C had paic for color
- (5) Young publishe Zenger! but, see quit the
- (10) to open Comp master connec task. Ze
- (15) Dutch fo hoped t endeavor book. E
- (20) **inausp** **prolific** printing opposi colonia an opp
- (25) a targe dange the firs brought no true
- (30) In mini an emi

1. The mean
a. peculiar
b. memor

2. **Buttress**
a. to expl
b. to bolst

3. **Inauspici**
a. unfavo
b. unusue