



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

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.

Definitions

- abate**
(ə bāt')
 - adulation**
(ə j ə lī' shən)
 - anathema**
(ə nath' ə mə)
 - astute**
(ə stūt')
 - avarice**
(əv' ə r is)
 - culpable**
(kəl' pə bəl)
- (v.) to make less in amount, degree, etc.; to subside, become less; to nullify; to deduct, omit
- We stood on the dock on that moonless night, waiting for the storm to _____.
- SYNONYMS: diminish, decrease, subside, let up
ANTONYMS: intensify, increase, magnify, wax
- (n.) praise or flattery that is excessive
- Athletes have little choice but to enjoy the sometimes puzzling _____ of their fans.
- SYNONYMS: adoration, idolization, hero-worship
ANTONYMS: ridicule, derision, scorn, odium
- (n.) an object of intense dislike; a curse or strong denunciation (often used adjectivally without the article)
- The author's views on bringing up children are _____ to my dad but a delight to my mother.
- SYNONYMS: malediction, imprecation, abomination
ANTONYMS: benediction, blessing
- (adj.) shrewd, crafty, showing practical wisdom
- The _____ management of money is a valuable skill but may not by itself make a good executive.
- SYNONYMS: shrewd, acute, sagacious, judicious, wily
ANTONYMS: obtuse, doltish, empty-headed, dumb
- (n.) a greedy desire, particularly for wealth
- Her career exhibited both the miser's ever-growing _____ and the miser's diminishing charm.
- SYNONYMS: cupidity, rapacity, acquisitiveness
- (adj.) deserving blame, worthy of condemnation
- It was the inspectors' _____ neglect of duty that left such old buses in service.
- SYNONYMS: guilty, delinquent, peccant, blameworthy
ANTONYMS: blameless, innocent, laudable, meritorious



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7. dilatory

(dīl' ə tōr ē)

(adj.) tending to delay or procrastinate, not prompt; intended to delay or postpone

She hired an assistant because, on her own, she was always _____ in paying her bills.

SYNONYMS: stalling, slow, tardy, laggard
ANTONYMS: prompt, punctual, speedy, expeditious

8. egregious

(i grē' jəs)

(adj.) conspicuous, standing out from the mass (used particularly in an unfavorable sense)

Whoever allowed that man on a stage is guilty of an _____ blunder.

SYNONYMS: glaring, flagrant, blatant
ANTONYMS: unnoticeable, paltry, piddling

9. equivocate

(i kwiv' ə kāt)

(v.) to speak or act in a way that allows for more than one interpretation; to be deliberately vague or ambiguous

I won't soon give my vote to a candidate who shows such a marked tendency to _____.

SYNONYMS: to talk out of both sides of one's mouth, palter, hedge
ANTONYM: to speak one's mind plainly

10. evanescent

(ev ə nes' ənt)

(adj.) vanishing, soon passing away; light and airy

Looking back, I see that the magic of that summer was _____.

SYNONYMS: ephemeral, transient, transitory
ANTONYMS: everlasting, immortal, imperishable

11. irresolute

(ir ez' ə lüt)

(adj.) unable to make up one's mind, hesitating

In *Hamlet*, the prince is _____ about whether to obey his father's ghost or to go on as if nothing had happened.

SYNONYMS: indecisive, vacillating, wavering
ANTONYMS: determined, decisive, unwavering

12. nebulous

(neb' yə ləs)

(adj.) cloudlike, resembling a cloud; cloudy in color, not transparent, vague, confused, indistinct

By the time everyone present had expressed an opinion, the original idea had become somewhat _____.

SYNONYMS: hazy, fuzzy, cloudy, vague, murky, opaque, indeterminate
ANTONYMS: definite, distinct, clear, sharply focused

13. novice

(nāv' is)

(n.) one who is just a beginner at some activity requiring skill and experience (also used adjectivally)

You must be patient and realize that all his mistakes are typical of a _____ in this line of work

SYNONYMS: neophyte, tyro, trainee, apprentice



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14. penury
(pen' ya rē)

(n.) extreme poverty; barrenness, insufficiency
We never seem to tire of stories of people who go from _____ to sudden wealth.

SYNONYMS: destitution, want, indigence
ANTONYMS: affluence, abundance, luxury, opulence

15. pretentious
(prē ten' shəs)

(adj.) done for show, striving to make a big impression; claiming merit or position unjustifiably; making demands on one's skill or abilities, ambitious
Talking about one's wealth is thought to be _____ and in poor taste.

SYNONYMS: inflated, ostentatious, affected
ANTONYMS: unassuming, unaffected, modest

16. recapitulate
(rē ka pich' ə lāt)

(v.) to review a series of facts; to sum up
Don't bother to _____ the plot of the book; instead, tell me if you liked it.

SYNONYMS: review, summarize, sum up, go over

17. resuscitate
(ri səs' ə tāt)

(v.) to revive, bring back to consciousness or existence
We need someone who can _____ our neighborhood council and thus perk up the community spirit.

SYNONYMS: revitalize, reanimate, restore, reactivate

18. slovenly
(sləv' ən lē)

(adj.) untidy, dirty, careless
Her room was in a _____ state, and it took her an entire Saturday to clean it.

SYNONYMS: unkempt, slatternly, slipshod, lax
ANTONYMS: neat, tidy, careful, meticulous

19. supposition
(səp ə zish' ən)

(n.) something that is assumed or taken for granted without conclusive evidence
Guided by a _____ that turned out to be false, they made some disastrous decisions.

SYNONYMS: assumption, presumption, hypothesis

20. torpid
(tôr' pid)

(adj.) inactive, sluggish, dull
We all felt _____ after that long, dull lecture.

SYNONYMS: sluggish, lethargic, otiose, languid
ANTONYMS: energetic, dynamic, vigorous

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.

- I don't think I'd call such a(n) _____ grammatical mistake a minor "slip of the pen."
- It will mean more to him to gain the approval of the few people who can appreciate his work than to receive the _____ of the crowd.
- He holds forth in great detail on what is wrong with our city government, but the remedies he suggests are exceedingly _____.
- Her mind, _____ as a result of hours of exposure to the bitter cold, was not alert enough to sense the impending danger.
- Since he was a(n) _____ at bridge, the three veteran players hoped to find someone more suitable to fill out their table.
- Using the most up-to-date equipment, the firefighters worked tirelessly to _____ the victim of smoke inhalation.
- The study of history teaches us that a hunger for land, like other kinds of _____, is the cause of a great many wars.
- Your brilliant plan is based on one false _____—that I am willing to work without pay.
- The _____ she had experienced in her childhood and youth made her keenly aware of the value of money.
- Sure, it's great to be a big-league ballplayer, but bear in mind that the years of stardom are brief and _____.
- I told my friend that dress for the party was casual, but he showed up looking, in my opinion, just plain _____.
- Does he use all those quotations as a means of clarifying his meaning, or simply as a(n) _____ display of his learning?
- I was so _____ about whether to go out for basketball or for swimming that I ended up going out for neither.
- As her anger slowly _____, she realized that such childish outbursts of emotion would do nothing to help solve her problems.
- I was impressed by the _____ way our hostess guided the conversation away from topics that might be embarrassing to her guests.
- Since I truly loathe people who think they are "above the common herd," any form of snobbery is absolutely _____ to me.
- Although she tried to _____, we insisted on a simple "yes" or

- When you are _____ in returning a book to the library, you are preventing someone else from using it.
- After giving us extremely detailed instructions for more than an hour, she briefly _____ and then sent us out on our assignments.
- How can you consider him _____ when the accident was caused by a landslide that no one could have foreseen or prevented?

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.**

- driven by a limitless **cupidity**
- guilty of **flagrant** rudeness
- a delicate and **transitory** beauty
- sum up** your requirements
- ashamed of a **slipshod** job
- struggle along in **destitution**
- revive** the dull party
- made **sluggish** by the heat
- a maddeningly **murky** explanation
- demonstrated **shrewd** understanding
- a reasonable **presumption**
- the clumsiness of a **neophyte**
- the hurricane's wind **subsided**
- vacillating** over a choice
- a last, muttered **imprecation**

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.**

- a **laudable** decision to walk away
- ready to meet the **scorn** of the crowd
- a **prompt** reckoning of their losses
- speak plainly** on important subjects

Choosing the Right Word

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

- What do you think of the concept that when a crime is committed, society is often at **(culpable, astute)** as the criminal?
- The heat in the room, the quiet drone of the fly at the window, and the bright sunlight put me into a **(torpid, slovenly)** state.
- As a result of **(irresolution, egregiousness)** when that novel was first submitted, the publishing house lost the biggest best-seller of the year.
- What she calls her "philosophy of life" seems to me a hodgepodge of childish fallacies and **(nebulous, dilatory)** generalizations.
- As the election drew nearer, the candidates went from reasonable discussion to quarrelsomeness to **(anathematizing, recapitulating)** each other.
- The glory of this perfect spring day seems to be all the more precious because it is so **(torpid, evanescent)**.
- Biologists have a theory that every plant or animal in the course of its development **(abates, recapitulates)** all the stages of its evolution.
- Only a **(penury, novice)** at golf would have tried to use a driver when hitting into such a strong wind.
- In everyone's life, a situation may arise that calls for a basic moral choice to be made, without compromise or **(abatement, equivocation)**.
- Is it any wonder that a 17-year-old star athlete becomes smug when she receives such **(recapitulation, adulation)** from the entire school?
- Since he is known to be a multimillionaire, it seems almost **(culpable, pretentious)** of him, in an inverted sense, to drive around in a small, battered, inexpensive car.
- He is completely indifferent to wealth and luxurious living; his **(anathema, avarice)** is directed instead toward fame and prestige.
- Sportswriters attribute the success of the pennant-winning team largely to the **(astute, evanescent)** managing of old Buck Coakley.
- In the densely populated and underdeveloped countries we visited, we saw the depths to which people can be reduced by **(penury, anathema)**.
- The **(slovenly, pretentious)** physical appearance of the report was matched by its careless writing and disorganized content.
- They say that school spirit at Central High is dead, but I am confident that it can be **(resuscitated, equivocated)** if the right methods are used.
- When the results of her mistakes became public knowledge, she gained a well-deserved reputation for being an **(astute, egregious)** blunderer.
- In playing chess, she deliberately uses **(dilatatory, nebulous)** tactics to make her opponent impatient and tense.
- You may be right in your belief that she won't let us use her car, but remember that this is still only a(n) **(anathema, supposition)**.
- As soon as the hurricane **(abated, equivocated)**, rescue teams rushed out to help people in the devastated area.