

D-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. austere (ó stér')

(adj.) severe or stern in manner; without adornment or luxury; simple; plain; harsh or sour in flavor

The _____ clothing and conduct of the Puritans expressed their religious humility.

SYNONYMS: forbidding, rigorous, puritanical, ascetic, unadorned, subdued

ANTONYMS: mild, indulgent, luxurious, flamboyant

2. beneficent (bə nef' ə sən't)

(adj.) performing acts of kindness or charity; conferring benefits, doing good

From them I learned that purely _____

acts can require as much hard work as a nine-to-five job.

SYNONYMS: humanitarian, magnanimous, charitable

ANTONYMS: selfish, cruel, harmful, deleterious

3. cadaverous (kə dəv' ə r ə s)

(adj.) pale, gaunt, resembling a corpse

Weak from hunger and _____ in appearance, the rescued captives were carried from the plane.

SYNONYMS: corpse-like, wasted, haggard, emaciated, ghastly

ANTONYMS: robust, portly, rosy, the picture of health

4. concoct (kən kɔkt')

(v.) to prepare by combining ingredients; make up (as a dish); to devise; invent; fabricate

He _____ a savory stew with fresh herbs and vegetables from the garden.

SYNONYMS: create, fashion, rustle up

5. crass (kras)

(adj.) coarse, unfeeling; stupid

We feel that the positions of our representative show a _____ indifference to our problems.

SYNONYMS: crude, vulgar, tasteless, oafish, obtuse

ANTONYMS: refined, elegant, tasteful, polished, brilliant

6. debase (dí bās')

(v.) to lower in character, quality, or value; to degrade, adulterate; to cause to deteriorate

Every time a new rule is introduced in a popular sport, there are fans who say it will _____ the game.

SYNONYMS: cheapen, corrupt, demean, depreciate

ANTONYMS: elevate, uplift, improve, enhance

7. desecrate (des' ə krāt)

(v.) to commit sacrilege upon, treat irreverently; to contaminate, pollute

The search continues for the vandals who _____ the cemetery.

SYNONYMS: profane, defile, violate

ANTONYMS: revere, honor, venerate, consecrate

8. disconcert (dis kən sɛrt')

(v.) to confuse; to disturb the composure of

They had hoped to _____ him with an unexpected question, but he was well prepared.

SYNONYMS: upset, rattle, ruffle, faze, perturb

ANTONYMS: relax, calm, put at ease

9. grandiose (gran' də ós)

(adj.) grand in an impressive or stately way; marked by pompous affectation or grandeur; absurdly exaggerated

In how many stories, I wonder, does an ambitious villain become the victim of _____ plans?

SYNONYMS: majestic, bombastic, highfalutin

ANTONYMS: simple, modest, unaffected, humble

10. inconsequential (in kən sɛ kwen' shəl)

(adj.) trifling, unimportant

Feel free to ignore the _____ details, provided that you know exactly which ones they are.

SYNONYMS: trivial, negligible, petty, paltry

ANTONYMS: important, essential, crucial, vital

11. infraction (in frak' shən)

(n.) a breaking of a law or obligation

His uncle paid a fine for his _____ of the local recycling regulations.

SYNONYMS: violation, transgression, breach, offense

12. mitigate (mít' ə gāt)

(v.) to make milder or softer; to moderate in force or intensity

I had hoped to _____ her anger by offering an apology.

SYNONYMS: lessen, relieve, alleviate, diminish

ANTONYMS: aggravate, intensify, irritate, exacerbate

13. pillage (píl' ij)

(v.) to rob of goods by open force (as in war); plunder; (n.) the act of looting; booty

The commanding officer warned his troops not to _____ the conquered city.

_____ and murder became a fact of life in Europe during the Dark Ages.

SYNONYMS: (v.) ravage, sack, loot; (n.) booty



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

14. prate
(praɪt)

(v) to talk a great deal in a foolish or aimless fashion
He would _____ endlessly about the past but say nothing useful about our present dilemma.
SYNONYMS: chatter, prattle, blab, blabber, palaver
ANTONYMS: come to the point, not waste words

15. punctilious
(pank tɪl' e əs)

(adj.) very careful and exact; attentive to fine points of etiquette or propriety
The clerk was so _____ in obeying court rules that I had to remind him why I was there.
SYNONYMS: precise, scrupulous, exacting, fussy, finicky
ANTONYMS: careless, negligent, lax, perfunctory

16. redoubtable
(ri daɪ' tə bəl)

(adj.) inspiring fear or awe; illustrious, eminent
As a ruler he was _____ but, like all such rulers, not much loved.
SYNONYMS: formidable, fearsome, awesome, august
ANTONYMS: laughable, risible, contemptible

17. reprove
(ri pruv')

(v) to find fault with, scold, rebuke
She _____ her staff for having followed orders blindly.
SYNONYMS: chide, chastise, upbraid, reproach
ANTONYMS: praise, commend, laud, pat on the back

18. restitution
(res tə tʃu' shən)

(n) the act of restoring someone or something to the rightful owner or to a former state or position; making good on a loss or damage
They made _____ for the damage to the car but never fully regained the friendship of its owner.
SYNONYMS: compensation, reimbursement, redress, restoration

19. stalwart
(stɔl' wɔrt)

(adj.) strong and sturdy; brave; resolute: (n.) a brave, strong person; a strong supporter; one who takes an uncompromising position
She became as _____ on the basketball court as she was quick at mathematical puzzles.
The enemy had broken through our first line but was repulsed by the _____ defending the gates.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) sturdy, stout, intrepid, valiant; (n.) mainstay
ANTONYMS: (adj.) weak, infirm, irresolute, vacillating

20. vulnerable
(vul' nər ə bəl)

(adj.) open to attack; capable of being wounded or damaged; unprotected
Those brave enough to have opposed the dictator's rise now found themselves in a _____ position.
SYNONYMS: defenseless, exposed, unguarded

**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. Though most of our players were the equals of theirs, the awesome size of their _____ center filled us with apprehension.
2. I became desperately tired of listening to him _____ about how important he was, how much money he had, and so forth.
3. Who can ever forget those pictures showing the _____ faces of the people who had been in concentration camps?
4. Whenever she serves as chairperson, she is so _____ that she insists on observing every fine point of parliamentary procedure.
5. I found that beneath his rather _____ manner and appearance there was a warm, sympathetic person.
6. An official who is responsible for shaping vital national policies should not waste time and energy on such _____ matters.
7. Even a so-called minor _____ of the traffic laws may lead to a serious accident.
8. At a time when we need a modest, low-cost housing program, how can we be expected to accept such a(n) _____ scheme?
9. His work on behalf of the homeless was merely the latest in a long line of _____ undertakings.
10. Is there any way that we can make _____ for the terrible wrong we have done them?
11. Fond remembrances of happy days of family life intensified rather than _____ her grief.
12. They _____ the funeral service by talking loudly during the ceremonies, laughing, and generally showing a complete lack of respect.
13. Before they arrived home from the party, they _____ an elaborate story that they hoped would excuse their being two hours late.
14. It is hard to forgive the _____ selfishness with which they took most of the food supplies for their own use.
15. Our democracy, I believe, is more _____ to decay from within than it is to attack from the outside.
16. Though she looked rather frail, her _____ spirit made her a tireless crusader for women's rights.
17. We are, I trust, long past the time when it was considered quite "natural" for newly elected officials to _____ the city treasury.

10. She has _____ her considerable talents by writing books that are designed to appeal to the lowest tastes.

19. I'm telling you this not to _____ you for having made a mistake but to prevent the mistake from being repeated.

20. He went right on with his speech, refusing to be _____ by the heckling of a few loudmouths.

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. not perturbed by the noise _____
2. vulgar appeal for money _____
3. to chatter boringly about the weather _____
4. compensation for his misdeeds _____
5. diminish the horror of the crime _____
6. fabricate an excuse _____
7. exaggerating trivial flaws _____
8. a breach of our agreement _____
9. exposed to wind and high water _____
10. loot the museum of valuables _____
11. to demean our group's reputation _____
12. an Intrepid and faithful sidekick _____
13. an ascetic life of plain food and little sleep _____
14. was reproached for his mistakes _____
15. happy results from magnanimous choices _____

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. a robust specimen _____
17. her unaffected delivery of Shakespeare's lines _____
18. honor this ritual of the tribe _____
19. laughable as a challenger _____
20. negligent in filling out the form _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. That sum may seem **(inconsequential, vulnerable)** to you, but to me it is a great deal of money.
2. By concentrating on personal gain, he has **(debased, disconcerted)** both himself and the high office to which he was elected.
3. The starving children shown in the TV special looked more like **(cadavers, stalwarts)** than living creatures.
4. Whenever I go to a concert, I seem to spend half my time shushing the **(crass, austere)** boors who chitchat while the orchestra is playing.
5. As **(restitution, infraction)** for the damage he had caused to the family car, Phil promised to clean and polish it regularly for a full year.
6. Since my next paycheck was not to be had until the first of the month, I reconciled myself to living **(austerely, inconsequentially)** until then.
7. The woman is known and loved throughout the community for her many **(redoubtable, beneficent)** acts on behalf of all types of unfortunates.
8. The principal **(disconcerted, reproved)** the entire student body for their discourteous behavior toward the guest speaker at the school assembly.
9. His **(grandiose, beneficent)** schemes for world conquest collapsed in a nightmare of military defeat and internal revolt.
10. In her clumsy efforts to be recognized as an "intellectual," she **(prates, desecrates)** endlessly about matters she does not really understand.
11. All the power of Great Britain could not shake the American colonists in their **(stalwart, beneficent)** opposition to measures that they considered unfair and tyrannical.
12. She is such a **(redoubtable, crass)** foe of the trite phrase that her students tremble lest her wrath descend on them for using a cliché.
13. The sale of so many great works of art to foreign collectors is, in my eyes, little more than **(pillage, mitigation)** of our cultural heritage.
14. The master chef has **(debased, concocted)** a dessert that is so rich that it will be a menace to weight watchers throughout the country.
15. He is so **(punctilious, austere)** about every detail that it is said he irons his shoelaces before wearing them.
16. Her self-confidence is so unshakable that she is simply not **(grandiose, vulnerable)** to "put-down" remarks that would annoy other people.
17. The fact that he did everything possible to help the poor child after the accident tends to **(mitigate, desecrate)** his responsibility for the tragedy.
18. It is a **(desecration, restitution)** of the memory of Lincoln to involve his name in defense of such a racist policy.
19. Although his conduct may not have violated any law, I consider it a gross **(cadaver, infraction)** of conventional ethical standards.
20. The conductor of the orchestra was so **(desecrated, disconcerted)** by the noisy audience that he stopped the performance and asked for quiet.