



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

UNIT 8

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. **acrimonious**
(ak rə mō' nē əs)

(adj.) stinging, bitter in temper or tone

She whirled to face me when I spoke, and her answer startled me by its _____ bluntness.

SYNONYMS: biting, caustic, rancorous, hostile, peevish
ANTONYMS: gentle, warm, mild, friendly, cordial

2. **bovine**
(bō' vīn)

(adj.) resembling a cow or ox; sluggish, unresponsive

After I told him what had happened, he sat there with a _____ expression and said nothing.

SYNONYMS: stolid, dull, slow, stupid
ANTONYMS: alert, sharp, bright, keen, quick

3. **consternation**
(kən stər nā' shən)

(n.) dismay, confusion

His father looked at the mess with _____, hardly knowing what to say first.

SYNONYMS: shock, amazement, bewilderment, dismay
ANTONYMS: calm, composure, aplomb

4. **corpulent**
(kōr' pyə lənt)

(adj.) fat; having a large, bulky body

Though she had grown _____ with the years, the opera singer's voice and her way with a song were the same.

SYNONYMS: overweight, heavy, obese, stout, portly
ANTONYMS: slender, lean, spare, gaunt, emaciated

5. **disavow**
(dis ə vau')

(v.) to deny responsibility for or connection with

The suspect stubbornly continued to _____ any part in the kidnapping plot.

SYNONYMS: disown, disclaim, retract, abjure
ANTONYMS: acknowledge, admit, grant, certify

6. **dispassionate**
(dis pash' ə nət)

(adj.) impartial; calm, free from emotion

Being a neighbor but not quite a family friend, he was called in to give a _____ view of our plan.

SYNONYMS: unbiased, disinterested, cool, detached
ANTONYMS: committed, engaged, partial, biased

7. dissension
(di sen' shən)

(*n.*) disagreement, sharp difference of opinion
The political party was torn by _____
and finally split into two wings.
SYNONYMS: strife, discord, contention
ANTONYMS: agreement, accord, harmony

8. dissipate
(dis' ə pāt)

(*v.*) to cause to disappear; to scatter, dispel; to spend foolishly, squander; to be extravagant in pursuit of pleasure
As chairman he is fair and open, but he _____
his energies on trivial things.
SYNONYMS: disperse, strew, diffuse, waste
ANTONYMS: gather, collect, conserve, husband

9. expurgate
(ek' spər gāt)

(*v.*) to remove objectionable passages or words from a written text; to cleanse, purify
According to the unwritten law of journalism, the editor alone
has the right to _____
the article.
SYNONYMS: purge, censor, bowdlerize

10. gauntlet
(gōnt' lət)

(*n.*) an armored or protective glove; a challenge; two lines of men armed with weapons with which to beat a person forced to run between them; an ordeal
In the Middle Ages, a knight threw down his _____
as a challenge, and another knight picked it up only if he
accepted.
SYNONYMS: dare, provocation, trial, punishment

11. hypothetical
(hī pə thet' ə kəl)

(*adj.*) based on an assumption or guess; used as a provisional or tentative idea to guide or direct investigation
Science is not based on _____
assumptions, but on proven facts.
SYNONYMS: assumed, supposed, conjectural, conditional
ANTONYMS: actual, real, tested, substantiated

12. ignoble
(ig nō' bəl)

(*adj.*) mean, low, base
Most people will agree that a noble purpose does not justify
_____ means.
SYNONYMS: inferior, unworthy, dishonorable, sordid
ANTONYMS: admirable, praiseworthy, lofty, noble

13. impugn
(im pyūn')

(*v.*) to call into question; to attack as false
You can _____ the senator's facts,
but you cannot accuse her of concealing her intentions.
SYNONYMS: challenge, deny, dispute, query, question
ANTONYMS: confirm, prove, verify, validate

14. intemperate
(in tem' per ət)

(*adj.*) inmoderate, lacking in self-control, inclement
Experience taught her to control her _____
outbursts of anger.
SYNONYMS: excessive, extreme, unrestrained, inordinate
ANTONYMS: moderate, restrained, cool and collected

15. odium
(ō' dē əm)

(*n.*) hatred, contempt; disgrace or infamy resulting from hateful conduct
Those eager to heap _____ on
the fallen tyrant learned that he had escaped in the night
SYNONYMS: abhorrence, opprobrium, shame, ignominy
ANTONYMS: esteem, admiration, approbation

16. perfidy
(pər' fə dē)

(*n.*) faithlessness, treachery
Rulers in Shakespeare's plays often find themselves armed
against enemies but not against the _____
of their friends.
SYNONYMS: betrayal, disloyalty, treason, duplicity
ANTONYMS: faithfulness, loyalty, steadfastness

17. relegate
(rel' ə gāt)

(*v.*) to place in a lower position; to assign, refer, turn over; to banish
Even if they _____ him to a mere
clerical job, he is determined to make his presence felt.
SYNONYMS: transfer, consign, demote, exile
ANTONYMS: promote, elevate, advance, recall

18. squeamish
(skwē' mish)

(*adj.*) inclined to nausea; easily shocked or upset; excessively fastidious or refined
If I am called _____ for disliking
the horror movie, what do we call those who say that they
liked it?

SYNONYMS: nauseated, queasy, delicate, oversensitive, priggish

19. subservient
(səb sər' vē ənt)

(*adj.*) subordinate in capacity or role; submissively obedient; serving to promote some end

The officers were taught to be respectful of but not blindly
_____ to their superior's wishes
SYNONYMS: secondary, servile, obsequious, useful
ANTONYMS: primary, principal, bossy, domineering

20. susceptible
(sə sep' tə bəl)

(*adj.*) open to; easily influenced; lacking in resistance
The trouble with being _____ to
flattery is that you can never be sure that the flatterer is
sincere.
SYNONYMS: vulnerable, receptive, impressionable
ANTONYMS: resistant, immune

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. We have had enough of high-powered, excited oratory; what we need now is a(n) _____ examination of the facts.
2. Although she seems rather plodding in her behavior and rarely becomes excited, I think it is unfair to call her "_____."
3. She is a person of such fine moral standards that she seems incapable of a(n) _____ act.
4. Instead of using all their forces in one concerted attack on the enemy, they _____ their strength in minor engagements.
5. The job of cleaning up the field and the stands after the big game was _____ to the freshmen.
6. Our discussion that day was a(n) _____ one, based on the possibility—still far from definite—that I would take the job.
7. Far from presenting a unified front, the party is torn by all kinds of strife and _____.
8. I am not trying to _____ his truthfulness, but I still do not see how the facts support his claims.
9. Now that these ugly facts about his business dealings have come to light, I must _____ my support of his candidacy.
10. Vigorous debate is fine, but is there any real need for such unrestrained and _____ name-calling?
11. He is so _____ to flattery that with a few complimentary words I can get him to do almost anything I want.
12. Though her overall position seemed to be sensible, her language was so unrestrained and _____ that people wouldn't support her.
13. Anyone as _____ as that trainee will have trouble accustoming himself to the sights, sounds, and smells of hospital work.
14. Because Vidkun Quisling cooperated with the Nazis, his name has become a symbol of _____ in his home country of Norway.
15. The _____ for this tragic failure does not belong to any individual or small group but to the community as a whole.
16. To the _____ of the people in the stands, the lion leaped out of the cage and bounded toward the exit.
17. Thomas Bowdler _____ certain words from Shakespeare's plays because he felt that they were unfit to "be read aloud in a family."

18. Under the American form of government, all branches of the military are clearly _____ to the civilian authority.

19. The bold candidate threw down the _____ and dared her opponent to face her in a televised debate.
20. People with a tendency toward being _____ must wage a lifelong struggle against rich foods.

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. standing before us in **bewilderment** _____
2. to **disown** any credit for herself _____
3. deciding to **bowdlerize** the passage _____
4. unwilling to **question** his honor _____
5. setting aside her **conjectural** motive _____
6. the brutal **challenge** he endured _____
7. a **dishonorable** end to a shadowy life _____
8. feeling **queasy** at the very thought _____
9. **consigned** to the highest bleachers _____
10. not a hint of **duplicity** in him _____
11. a show of **unrestrained** scorn _____
12. a **stolid**, faithful devotion _____
13. to deliberately **waste** her wealth _____
14. give a **detached** account _____
15. his **caustic** way of speaking _____

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 slow, **gaunt** old man _____
17. the **esteem** attached to that name _____
18. a family vacation marked by **harmony** _____
19. quite **immune** to outside influences _____
20. an intern's **domineering** manner _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. A certain amount of disagreement is healthy in any organization, but in our club (**dissension, perfidy**) has almost become a way of life.
2. I noticed with some distaste how her usually overbearing manner became (**susceptible, subservient**) when our employer joined the group.
3. If we are going to be required to perform a(n) (**expurgated, relegated**) version of the play, then I think it is not worth doing.
4. Imagine our (**consternation, dissension**) when the brakes failed and we headed full speed toward the busy intersection!
5. Students who have been well trained in the social sciences should not be (**susceptible, ignoble**) to the cheap fallacies of racism.
6. The estate he had inherited from his father was (**dissipated, disavowed**) in a long series of impractical and/or mismanaged business enterprises.
7. Try your best to subdue your natural reluctance and make a (**squeamish, dispassionate**) decision that will be in your son's best interests.
8. My Spanish friend finds it hard to understand the (**odium, dissension**) attached to bullfighting in most non-Hispanic countries.
9. Their (**susceptible, bovine**) stares and obvious inability to understand the seriousness of the situation made me doubt their mental capacity.
10. Though I was annoyed by the child's behavior, the father's outburst of anger seemed to me deplorably (**intemperate, bovine**).
11. I am not ordinarily a (**corpulent, squeamish**) person, but the sight of that terrible automobile accident haunted me for weeks.
12. By reference to (**hypothetical, ignoble**) cases, you may be able to clarify the difference between "murder" and "manslaughter" for the law students.
13. It is not for me to (**expurgate, impugn**) his motives, but how could anyone except an overambitious scoundrel have misled his friends in that way?
14. Aren't you going a little far when you accuse me of (**consternation, perfidy**) because I didn't vote for you in the beauty contest?
15. The retiring coach said he no longer had the stomach to run the (**gauntlet, odium**) of critics who assailed him after every loss.
16. There is often a thin line between the kind of debate that is spirited and useful and that which is (**acrimonious, hypothetical**) and nonproductive.
17. Not too long ago in our society, a (**corpulent, bovine**) body was generally admired as a sign of prosperity and physical vigor.
18. When Mr. Kummer saw my pathetically inept efforts to prepare a banana split, I was (**impugned, relegated**) to the ranks of the unemployed.
19. The prisoner attempted to (**disavow, dissipate**) his confession on the grounds that he had not been informed of his legal rights.
20. Far from being (**ignoble, dispassionate**), her failure after making a valiant effort may serve as an inspiration to young people.

Vocabulary in Context

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