

## Definitions

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. approbation**  
(ap rə bā' shən) (n.) the expression of approval or favorable opinion, praise; official approval  
My broad hint that I had paid for the lessons myself brought smiles of \_\_\_\_\_ from all the judges at the piano recital.  
SYNONYMS: commendation, sanction  
ANTONYMS: disapproval, condemnation, censure
- 2. assuage**  
(ə swāj') (v.) to make easier or milder, relieve; to quiet, calm; to put an end to, appease, satisfy, quench  
Her eyes told me that more than a few well-chosen words would be needed to \_\_\_\_\_ her hurt feelings.  
SYNONYMS: mitigate, alleviate, slake, allay  
ANTONYMS: intensify, aggravate, exacerbate
- 3. coalition**  
(kō ə lish' ən) (n.) a combination, union, or merger for some specific purpose  
The various community organizations formed a \_\_\_\_\_ to lobby against parking laws.  
SYNONYMS: alliance, league, federation, combine  
ANTONYM: splinter group
- 4. decadence**  
(de' kə dəns) (n.) decline, decay, or deterioration; a condition or period of decline or decay; excessive self-indulgence  
Some characterized her love of chocolate as \_\_\_\_\_ because she ate at least two candy bars a day.  
SYNONYMS: degeneration, corruption  
ANTONYMS: rise, growth, development, maturation
- 5. elicit**  
(ē lis' it) (v.) to draw forth, bring out from some source (such as another person)  
My attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ information over the phone was met with a barrage of irrelevant recordings.  
SYNONYMS: call forth, evoke, extract, educe  
ANTONYMS: repress, quash, squelch, stifle
- 6. expostulate**  
(ik spās' chə lāt) (v.) to attempt to dissuade someone from some course or decision by earnest reasoning  
Shakespeare's Hamlet finds it useless to \_\_\_\_\_ with his mother for siding with his stepfather.  
SYNONYMS: protest, remonstrate, complain

Fill in the words for this story, pronounced, defined, and used in the context at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com)

7. **hackneyed** (hak' néd) (*adj.*) used so often as to lack freshness or originality  
The *Great Gatsby* tells a universal story without being marred by \_\_\_\_\_ prose  
SYNONYMS: banal, trite, commonplace, corny  
ANTONYMS: new, fresh, novel, original
8. **hiatus** (hī ā' tās) (*n.*) a gap, opening, break (in the sense of having an element missing)  
I was awakened not by a sudden sound but by a \_\_\_\_\_ in the din of traffic.  
SYNONYMS: pause, lacuna  
ANTONYMS: continuity, continuation
9. **Innuendo** (in yū en' dō) (*n.*) a hint, indirect suggestion, or reference (often in a derogatory sense)  
Those lacking the facts or afraid of reprisals often tarnish an enemy's reputation by use of \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: insinuation, intimation  
ANTONYM: direct statement
10. **Intercede** (in tər séd') (*v.*) to plead on behalf of someone else; to serve as a third party or go-between in a disagreement  
She will \_\_\_\_\_ in the dispute between the two children, and soon they will be playing happily again.  
SYNONYMS: intervene, mediate
11. **Jaded** (jā' did) (*adj.*) wearied, worn-out, dulled (in the sense of being satiated by excessive indulgence)  
The wilted handclasp and the fast-fading smile mark the \_\_\_\_\_ refugee from too many parties.  
SYNONYMS: sated, surfeited, cloyed  
ANTONYMS: unspoiled, uncloyed
12. **lurid** (lūr' əd) (*adj.*) causing shock, horror, or revulsion; sensational; pale or sallow in color; terrible or passionate in intensity or lack of restraint  
Bright, sensational, and often \_\_\_\_\_, some old-time movie posters make today's newspaper ads look tame.  
SYNONYMS: gruesome, gory, grisly, baleful, ghastly  
ANTONYMS: pleasant, attractive, appealing, wholesome
13. **meritorious** (mer i tōr' ē əs) (*adj.*) worthy, deserving recognition and praise  
Many years of \_\_\_\_\_ service could not dissuade him from feeling that he had not chosen work that he liked.  
SYNONYMS: praiseworthy, laudable, commendable  
ANTONYMS: blameworthy, reprehensible, irredeemable

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14. **petulant** (petch' ə lənt) (*adj.*) peevish, annoyed by trifles, easily irritated and upset  
An overworked parent may be unlikely to indulge the complaints of a \_\_\_\_\_ child.  
SYNONYMS: irritable, testy, waspish  
ANTONYMS: even-tempered, placid, serene, amiable
15. **prerogative** (prē rāg' ə tiv) (*n.*) a special right or privilege; a special quality showing excellence  
She seemed to feel that a snooze at her desk was not an annoying habit but the \_\_\_\_\_ of a veteran employee.  
SYNONYMS: perquisite, perk
16. **provincial** (prə vin' shəl) (*adj.*) pertaining to an outlying area; local; narrow in mind or outlook, countrified in the sense of being limited and backward; of a simple, plain design that originated in the countryside; (*n.*) a person with a narrow point of view; a person from an outlying area; a soldier from a province or colony  
The banjo, once thought to be a \_\_\_\_\_ product of the Southern hills, actually came here from Africa  
At first, a \_\_\_\_\_ may do well in the city using charm alone, but charm, like novelty, wears thin.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) narrow-minded, parochial, insular, naive  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) cosmopolitan, catholic, broad-minded
17. **simulate** (sīm' yə lāt) (*v.*) to make a pretense of, imitate; to show the outer signs of  
Some skilled actors can \_\_\_\_\_ emotions they might never have felt in life.  
SYNONYMS: feign, pretend, affect
18. **transcend** (tran send') (*v.*) to rise above or beyond, exceed  
A great work of art may be said to \_\_\_\_\_ time, and it is remembered for decades, or even centuries.  
SYNONYMS: surpass, outstrip
19. **umbrage** (em' brāj) (*n.*) shade cast by trees; foliage giving shade; an overshadowing influence or power; offense, resentment; a vague suspicion  
She hesitated to offer her opinion, fearing that they would take \_\_\_\_\_ at her criticism.  
SYNONYMS: irritation, pique, annoyance  
ANTONYMS: pleasure, delight, satisfaction
20. **unctuous** (anj' chū əs) (*adj.*) excessively smooth or smug; trying too hard to give an impression of earnestness, sincerity, or piety; fatty, oily; pliable  
Her comment inquiring about the health of my family at first seemed friendly, later \_\_\_\_\_