



Here are the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com)

## 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. amnesty

(am' na stē)

(*n.*) a general pardon for an offense against a government; in general, any act of forgiveness or absolution

Many political prisoners were freed under the \_\_\_\_\_ granted by the new regime.

### 2. autonomy

(ô tăn' a me)

(*n.*) self-government, political control

Even after the thirteen colonies gained \_\_\_\_\_ from England, many Americans clung to English traditions.

SYNONYMS: home rule  
ANTONYMS: dependence, subjection, colonial status

### 3. axiomatic

(ak sē a mat' ik)

(*adj.*) self-evident, expressing a universally accepted principle or rule

One should not accept the idea that the camera never lies as an \_\_\_\_\_ truth.

SYNONYM: taken for granted  
ANTONYMS: questionable, dubious, controversial

### 4. blazon

(blāz' an)

(*v.*) to adorn or embellish; to display conspicuously; to publish or proclaim widely

They will \_\_\_\_\_ the results of the election across the Internet and every television set in the land.

SYNONYMS: broadcast, trumpet  
ANTONYMS: hide, conceal, cover up, bury

### 5. caveat

(kav' é at)

(*n.*) a warning or caution to prevent misunderstanding or discourage behavior

The well-known Latin phrase "\_\_\_\_\_ emptor" means "Let the buyer beware."  
SYNONYMS: admonition, word to the wise

### 6. equitable

(ek' wa ta bal)

(*adj.*) fair, just, embodying principles of justice

He did more work, so a sixty-forty split of the profits seemed an \_\_\_\_\_ arrangement.

SYNONYMS: right, reasonable, evenhanded  
ANTONYMS: unjust, unfair, one-sided, disproportionate

### 7. extricate

(ek' strā kat)

(*v.*) to free from entanglements or difficulties; to remove with effort

The ring must have slid off my finger as I was trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the fish from the net.



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### 8. filch

(filch)

SYNONYMS: disentangle, extract, disengage  
ANTONYMS: enmesh, entangle, involve

(*v.*) to steal, especially in a sneaky way and in petty amounts  
If you \_\_\_\_\_ pennies from the cash drawer, you are unlikely, after a while, to be satisfied with only pennies.  
SYNONYMS: pilfer, purloin, swipe

### 9. flout

(flaut)

(*v.*) to mock, treat with contempt

She chose to ignore my advice, not because she wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ my beliefs, but because she had strong opinions of her own.

SYNONYMS: scoff at, sneer at, snicker at, scorn  
ANTONYMS: obey, honor, revere, uphold

### 10. fractious

(frak' shəs)

(*adj.*) tending to be troublesome; unruly, quarrelsome, contrary, unpredictable

It seems as if even the smoothest-running organizations contain one or two \_\_\_\_\_ elements.

SYNONYMS: refractory, recalcitrant, peevish  
ANTONYMS: docile, tractable, cooperative

### 11. precept

(prē' sept)

(*n.*) a rule of conduct or action

Many religions follow the \_\_\_\_\_ that it is important to treat others as you, yourself, would like to be treated  
SYNONYMS: principle, maxim

### 12. salutary

(sal' ya ter é)

(*adj.*) beneficial, helpful, healthful, wholesome

The cute new puppy had a \_\_\_\_\_ effect on her health.

SYNONYMS: salubrious, curative  
ANTONYMS: detrimental, deleterious, pernicious

### 13. scathing

(skā' thinj)

(*adj.*) bitterly severe, withering; causing great harm

Sometimes a carefully reasoned discussion does more to change people's minds than a \_\_\_\_\_ attack.

SYNONYMS: searing, harsh, ferocious, savage  
ANTONYMS: bland, mild

### 14. scourge

(skarj)

(*v.*) to whip, punish severely; (*n.*) a cause of affliction or suffering, a source of severe punishment or criticism

Jonathan Swift used wit to \_\_\_\_\_ the British government for its cruel treatment of Ireland.  
Competing teams consider my daughter the \_\_\_\_\_ of the soccer field.

of the soccer field



**15. sepulchral**  
 (sə pal' kral)

SYNONYMS: (v.) flog, beat; (n.) bane, plague, pestilence  
 ANTONYMS: (n.) godsend, boon, blessing

(adj.) funereal, typical of the tomb; extremely gloomy or dismal  
 My sister announced in a severe and \_\_\_\_\_  
 tone of voice that we were out of cookies.  
 SYNONYMS: doleful, lugubrious, mortuary

**16. soporific**  
 (səp ə rɪf' ɪk)

(adj.) tending to cause sleep, relating to sleepiness or lethargy;  
 (n.) something that induces sleep

He claimed that the musical, despite its energy, was  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and that he had slept  
 through the entire second act.  
 Shakespeare's Juliet drinks a \_\_\_\_\_

so as to appear to be dead—a trick she is soon to regret.  
 SYNONYMS: (n.) narcotic, anesthetic  
 ANTONYMS: (adj.) stimulating; (n.) stimulant, stimulus

**17. straitlaced**  
 (strat' lāsɪ)

(adj.) extremely strict in regard to moral standards and  
 conduct; prudish, puritanical

Travelers may find people overseas \_\_\_\_\_  
 in some ways but surprisingly free in others.  
 SYNONYMS: highly conventional, overly strict, stuffy  
 ANTONYMS: lax, loose, indulgent, permissive, dissolute

**18. transient**  
 (tran' shənt)

(adj.) lasting only a short time, fleeting; (n.) one who stays only  
 a short time

His bad mood was \_\_\_\_\_, and by  
 the time he'd finished his breakfast, he was smiling.  
 Many farm hands lived the lives of \_\_\_\_\_  
 during the Great Depression.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) impermanent, ephemeral, evanescent  
 ANTONYMS: (adj.) permanent, imperishable, immortal

**19. unwieldy**  
 (ən wɪl' ɪd)

(adj.) not easily carried, handled, or managed because of size  
 or complexity

We loaded the truck with the chairs and the coffee table, but  
 the grand piano was too \_\_\_\_\_.  
 SYNONYMS: cumbersome, bulky, clumsy, impractical  
 ANTONYMS: manageable, easy to handle

**20. vapid**  
 (vəp' ɪd)

(adj.) dull, uninteresting; tiresome; lacking in sharpness, flavor,  
 liveliness, or force

While critics called the movie \_\_\_\_\_,  
 I thought the performers were very compelling.  
 SYNONYMS: insipid, lifeless, colorless  
 ANTONYMS: zesty, spicy, savory, colorful, lively

**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.

- Her approach to the problem seems to have been guided by the time-honored \_\_\_\_\_ that "Force is the remedy for nothing."
- Since the close of World War II, almost 100 former colonies have gained full \_\_\_\_\_ and joined the family of nations.
- She has made so many contradictory promises to so many people that I don't see how she can \_\_\_\_\_ herself from the situation.
- Shivers went up and down our spines as, in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ voice, the teacher spoke to us of ghouls, vampires, and the "living dead."
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ that democracy, more than any other form of government, calls for the active participation of all the people in public affairs.
- The decision was a disappointment to me, but after thinking it over, I had to agree that it was \_\_\_\_\_.
- The new government, seeking to restore normal conditions, declared a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ for all political prisoners.
- It was Lincoln who said: "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of war may speedily pass away."
- The standards of behavior generally accepted in Victorian times would probably be rejected today as excessively \_\_\_\_\_.
- I tried to warn them of the dangers involved in such an undertaking, but all my \_\_\_\_\_ and admonitions fell on deaf ears.
- The carton was not heavy, but it was so \_\_\_\_\_ that it took four of us to carry it to the shed.
- Even the most talented actors could not breathe life and credibility into the \_\_\_\_\_ lines of that silly play.
- Who would have thought that the new treasurer could sink so low as to \_\_\_\_\_ money from the club's petty cash fund?
- My teacher's criticism of my term paper was so \_\_\_\_\_ that after reading it I felt thoroughly crushed.
- It became clear that the squad of policemen would be unable to control the small but \_\_\_\_\_ crowd of angry protesters.
- His fame as a football star proved to be \_\_\_\_\_, and he found himself just another young man looking for a job.
- Failures are always unpleasant, but if you learn from them, they may have a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ effect on your future career.

- 18. Any unit of government—national or local—that \_\_\_\_\_ sound economic principles is headed for disaster.
- 19. The fighter planes of World War II sometimes had the pictures of famous movie stars, like Betty Grable, \_\_\_\_\_ on the fuselage.
- 20. The \_\_\_\_\_ effect of his droning lectures surpasses that of any sleeping pill now in use.

**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. guided by stern **principles** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. a **doleful** atmosphere during the service \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. eager to **scoff at** the unknown \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. a **warning** regarding possible difficulties \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. too **cumbersome** to carry home \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. **pardon** for the former rebels \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. working toward a **reasonable** treaty \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. **disengage** the cat from the tree \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. to **purlain** some coins from petty cash \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. an argumentative, **refractory** congress \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. **ephemeral** as a rainbow \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. **flog** the oxen unmercifully \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. an **insipid** little five-note tune \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. unruffled by his **savage** tone \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

- 15. a **dubious** motto to live by \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. the **detrimental** effects of sunshine \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. **subjection** of the small nation \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. the **indulgent** grandmother \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. medicine that acted as a **stimulant** \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. to **conceal** the famous trademark \_\_\_\_\_

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

- 1. I didn't expect the play to be particularly stimulating, but I certainly never anticipated its overwhelmingly (**equitable**, **soporific**) power
- 2. How easy it is for a nation to become trapped in an inflationary price rise; how difficult to (**blazon**, **extricate**) itself from the upward spiral!
- 3. Instead of brooding about past wrongs, I suggest that you declare a personal (**amnesty**, **caveat**) and start thinking about the future.
- 4. I intend to be guided by the simple (**scourges**, **precepts**) that have proven their value over long periods of human experience.
- 5. Unabridged dictionaries often alert the reader to common mistakes in the use of a word by including brief (**caveats**, **scourges**).
- 6. The ghost of Hamlet's father whispered in (**sepulchral**, **salutary**) tones the story of his tragic death.
- 7. Appointed by the Governor to be Commissioner of Investigations, she soon became the (**scourge**, **autonomy**) of dishonest and incompetent officials.
- 8. You may regard her ideas as (**salutary**, **straitlaced**), but I think that they reflect good thinking and sound values.
- 9. Today our intricate network of mass communications can (**blazon**, **flout**) news of national importance across the country in a matter of minutes.
- 10. We had many talented players, but the (**fractious**, **scathing**) behavior of a few individuals impaired our team spirit and led to a losing season.
- 11. The rules of the club proved so (**equitable**, **unwieldy**) that it was all but impossible to carry on business.
- 12. I now know that *Gulliver's Travels*, far from being a "children's book," is a work of mature and (**scathing**, **vapid**) satire.
- 13. Some sadly misguided individuals seem to go through life trying to (**filch**, **blazon**) petty advantages from everyone they encounter.
- 14. Arriving at (**equitable**, **fractious**) arrangements in human affairs often requires sound judgment, as well as good intentions.
- 15. The Judeo-Christian tradition teaches that material things are (**transient**, **fractious**), while spiritual values are eternal.
- 16. Young people who consider themselves nonconformists often go to extremes in their determination to (**blazon**, **flout**) the conventions.
- 17. Isn't it strange that the basic ideas that some economists regard as (**sepulchral**, **axiomatic**) are rejected by others as absolutely false!
- 18. Young people, tired of being controlled by parents, teachers, and others, often have a strong impulse to gain (**amnesty**, **autonomy**).
- 19. In spite of the tremendous sales of that novel, I found it to be mediocre and (**vapid**, **salutary**) in every respect.
- 20. Few things are more (**salutary**, **unwieldy**) for a young person than an occasional painful reminder that life is not a bowl of cherries.

## Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is the same or almost the same in meaning as the highlighted word.

### A Very Heavy Hitter

(Line

Though he grew to be only 5' 7", the first baseball commissioner of the United States was named after a mountain. Kenesaw Mountain Landis (1866-1949) was named after the Georgia peak where his father was wounded in the Civil War. From boyhood, Kenesaw was said to have lived as if watching humanity from on high and laying down the law. Not surprisingly, he became a Chicago judge in 1905 before he was forty years old.

He ruled his courtroom with a king's **autonomy**, and when John D. Rockefeller, head of Standard Oil and the richest man in America, declined to testify in a case against his

own company, Landis forced him to appear. The clashing of wills between these powerful men was **blazoned** across headlines nationwide.

Landis always loved power, but he may have loved baseball more. A devoted fan at Chicago games, he called baseball "remarkable for the hold it has on the people, and equally remarkable for its cleanness." But by 1919 gamblers' schemes and warring team owners had so **flouted** that

cleanness that Chicago White Sox players deliberately lost the World Series in return for bribes. Officials



Bat meets ball

appointed Landis as baseball commissioner, with the job of saving the honor of the game. The owners expected to be treated gently, but Landis was **equitable** in his reforms, and a **scourge** to all sides.

Players suspected of taking bribes were barred for life with no hope of an **amnesty**. Trades were canceled, star players suspended. Owners had to give up investments in race tracks, and fought Landis for years before they could schedule games at night. For two decades, Landis ruled. When he died in 1944 he was known to all in baseball as "the judge."

(30)

1. The meaning of **autonomy** (line 7) is  
a. snobbery  
b. meanness  
c. home rule  
d. whim
2. **Blazoned** (line 11) most nearly means  
a. set fire to  
b. denounced  
c. praised  
d. trumpeted
3. **Flouted** (line 20) is best defined as  
a. mocked  
b. observed  
c. showed off  
d. misunderstood
4. The meaning of **equitable** (line 25) is  
a. surprising  
b. quick  
c. slow  
d. reasonable
5. **Scourge** (line 26) most nearly means  
a. bane  
b. comfort  
c. favorite  
d. instructor
6. **Amnesty** (line 28) is best defined as  
a. transfer  
b. general absolution  
c. apology  
d. explanation