



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at 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. anomalous
(ə nām' ə ləs)

(*adj.*) abnormal, irregular, departing from the usual
Feeling protective of my friend but knowing of his difficulties placed me in an _____ position.

SYNONYMS: exceptional, atypical, unusual, aberrant
ANTONYMS: normal, regular, customary, typical, ordinary

2. aspersion
(ə spər' zhən)

(*n.*) a damaging or derogatory statement; the act of slandering or defaming

Think twice before casting _____ on his honesty, for he might be telling the truth.

SYNONYMS: innuendo, calumny, denigration
ANTONYMS: endorsement, testimonial, praise

3. bizarre
(bi zār')

(*adj.*) extremely strange, unusual, atypical
Years from now I will look at this picture and wonder what sort of _____ costume I was wearing.

SYNONYMS: grotesque, fantastic, outlandish
ANTONYMS: normal, typical, ordinary, expected

4. brusque
(brask)

(*adj.*) abrupt, blunt, with no formalities
His request for a large loan for an indefinite length of time was met with a _____ refusal.

SYNONYMS: curt, tactless, ungracious, gruff, rough
ANTONYMS: gracious, tactful, courteous, diplomatic

5. cajole
(kə jōl')

(*v.*) to coax, persuade through flattery or artifice; to deceive with soothing thoughts or false promises

With a smile, a joke, and a second helping of pie, she would _____ him into doing what she wanted.

SYNONYMS: wheedle, inveigle, soft-soap, sweet-talk
ANTONYMS: coerce, force, strong-arm

6. castigate
(kas' tə gāt)

(*v.*) to punish severely; to criticize severely
After he _____ the unruly children, they settled down to study quietly.

SYNONYMS: chastise, rebuke, censure, upbraid
ANTONYMS: reward, honor, praise, laud

Words you have completed each letter of the item that is highlighted word.

(Line)

of the United States (6-1949) was

Civil War. (5)

Rockefeller, head of the Standard Oil Company, was forced to give up his oil empire in 1911. (10)

His blazoned coat of arms was widely known.

power, but he was rebuffed more. A (15)

games, he was famous for the "equalizer" and equally famous for his "equalizer" (20)

as and warring nations that (25)

White Sox of the World Series. Officials of the (25)

honor of the (25)

able in his (25)

of an (25)

to give up (25)

could schedule (25)

he was (25)

table (line 25) is (25)

c. slow (25)

d. reasonable (25)

most nearly means (25)

c. favorite (25)

d. instructor (25)



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7. contrive
(kən trɪv')

(v) to plan with ingenuity, invent; to bring about as the result of a scheme or plan

She can _____ wonderful excuses; but when she tries to offer them, her uneasiness gives her away.
SYNONYMS: think up, devise, concoct, fabricate

8. demagogue
(dem' ə gəg)

(n) a leader who exploits popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power

Often a show of angry concern conceals the self-serving tactics of a _____.
SYNONYMS: rabble-rouser, firebrand

9. disabuse
(dis ə byüz')

(v) to free from deception or error, set right in ideas or thinking

He thinks that all women adore him, but my sister will probably _____ him of that idea.
SYNONYMS: undeceive, enlighten, set straight
ANTONYMS: deceive, delude, pull wool over one's eyes

10. ennui
(än wē')

(n) weariness and dissatisfaction from lack of occupation or interest, boredom

Some people seem to confuse sophistication with _____.

SYNONYMS: languor, world-weariness, listlessness
ANTONYMS: enthusiasm, liveliness, excitement, intensity

11. fetter
(fet' ə)

(n) a chain or shackle placed on the feet (often used in plural); anything that confines or restrains; (v) to chain or shackle; to render helpless or impotent

The old phrase "chain gang" refers to prisoners made to work, each joined to the next by linked _____.
It is said that good inventors do not _____ themselves with conventional thinking.

SYNONYMS: (n) bond, restraint; (v) bind, hamper
ANTONYMS: (v) free, liberate, emancipate

12. heinous
(hā' nə)

(adj) very wicked, offensive, hateful

A town so peaceful, quiet, and law-abiding was bound to be horrified by so _____ a crime.
SYNONYMS: evil, odious, abominable, outrageous
ANTONYMS: excellent, wonderful, splendid

13. immutable
(i myü' tə bəl)

(adj) not subject to change, constant

Scientists labored to discover a set of _____ laws of the universe.
SYNONYMS: unchangeable, unalterable, fixed, invariable
ANTONYMS: changeable, inconstant, variable, fickle, flicker

14. insurgent
(in sər' jənt)

(n) one who rebels or rises against authority; (adj) rising in revolt, refusing to accept authority; surging or rushing in or on

George Washington and his contemporaries were _____ against Britain.
The army was confident that they could crush the _____ forces.

SYNONYMS: (adj) revolutionary, rebellious, mutinous
ANTONYMS: (adj) loyalist, loyal, faithful

15. megalomania
(meg ə lö mä' nə ə)

(n) a delusion marked by a feeling of power, wealth, talent, etc., far in excess of reality

Sudden fame and admiration can make people feel unworthy—or it can bring on feelings of _____.
SYNONYM: delusions of grandeur
ANTONYMS: humility, modesty, self-abasement

16. sinecure
(sɪ' nə kyūr)

(n) a position requiring little or no work; an easy job

The office of Vice President of the United States was once considered little more than a _____.
SYNONYMS: "no-show" job, cushy job, "plum"

17. surreptitious
(sər əp tɪsh' əs)

(adj) stealthy, secret, intended to escape observation; made or accomplished by fraud

The movie heroine blushed when she noticed the _____ glances of her admirer.
SYNONYMS: furtive, covert, clandestine, concealed
ANTONYMS: open, frank, aboveboard, overt

18. transgress
(tranz gres')

(v) to go beyond a limit or boundary; to sin, violate a law

The penitent citizens promised to never again _____ the laws of the land.
SYNONYMS: overstep, exceed, trespass, err
ANTONYMS: obey, toe the line

19. transmute
(tranz myüt')

(v) to change from one nature, substance, or form to another

To _____ distrust into friendship along that war-torn border will take more than wise politicians and just laws.
SYNONYMS: transform, convert, translate, metamorphose
ANTONYMS: maintain unchanged, preserve

20. vicarious
(vi kār' ē əs)

(adj) performed, suffered, or otherwise experienced by one person in place of another

In search of _____ excitement, we watched movies of action and adventure.
SYNONYMS: surrogate, substitute, imagined, secondhand
ANTONYMS: real, actual, firsthand

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.

- The _____ way in which they planned the undertaking shows that they were aware of its illegal character.
- Is there any other crime in history as _____ as the attempt of the Nazis to annihilate so-called "inferior" racial groups?
- Although the _____ were defeated by the government's forces, a small group escaped into the mountains, where they kept the spirit of rebellion alive.
- Although most of us lead a quiet, humdrum sort of life, we can all get a(n) _____ thrill from the achievements of our astronauts.
- The Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln once and for all broke the _____ that bound Southern blacks to a life of servitude and humiliation.
- I find it hard to understand how they were able to _____ such an elaborately underhanded scheme in so short a time.
- His endless talk about himself and his interests is truly unexcelled for producing _____ in others.
- Wearing _____ masks at Halloween is a tradition that goes back many centuries.
- Resorting to rather farfetched promises, I finally _____ Tina into going to the prom with me.
- At the very outset of the term, I urged you to _____ yourself of the idea that you can pass this course without hard, regular work.
- The one fact about nature that seems completely _____ is that everything is subject to change.
- His conceit is so great and so immune to the lessons of experience that this must be considered a kind of _____.
- Anyone who refers to my job as a(n) _____ should spend just one day in my place!
- The alchemists of the Middle Ages, who were both skilled magicians and primitive chemists, hoped to _____ base metals into gold.
- The speaker's blatant appeal to the emotions of the crowd smacked more of the _____ than the true leader of the people.
- Since he had always been quiet and retiring, we were amazed when he stood up at the meeting and _____ the chairperson for failing to give everyone a chance to speak.
- Can you imagine anything as _____ as a successful drama coach who has never acted on the stage!

- In his determination to be blunt and honest, he has _____ the limits of good taste.
- Rude questions call for _____ answers, and mine is "No!" _____ on my sincerity and good faith.
- I welcome honest criticism, but I deeply resented their _____ on _____

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.**

- abominable** treatment of prisoners of war _____
- an unwarranted **denigration** against my friend _____
- Trying to **restrain** our imaginations _____
- the fear-mongering of a **rabble-rouser** _____
- undecieve** him of that belief _____
- wish to **rebuke** the vandals _____
- the disposition of a **revolutionary** _____
- the cleverest plan we could **devise** _____
- an **atypical** position _____
- inveigle** a pay raise _____
- a truly **outlandish** set of circumstances _____
- a woman of **unalterable** habits _____
- a scandal involving "**no-show**" jobs _____
- convert** ambition into action _____
- sensed **furtive** movements in the darkness _____

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.**

- his usual **gracious** reply _____
- the **excitement** of the ninth inning _____
- the **modesty** of the real genius _____
- obey** the week-night curfew _____
- experienced **actual** thrills at the race _____

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. A favorite play of the (**anomalous**, **demagogue**) is to appoint a convenient scapegoat upon whom a misguided populace can vent its anger.
2. By casting (**sinecures**, **aspersions**) on the ability and character of others, you reveal the misgivings you have about yourself.
3. The task of education, said the speaker, is to (**transgress**, **transmute**) the primitive selfishness of the child into socially useful modes of behavior.
4. His conduct after his mother's death was so (**anomalous**, **brusque**) that I must conclude he was not in full possession of his faculties.
5. With the innumerable activities open to a young person like you, I can't understand why you should suffer from (**ennui**, **megalomania**).
6. I cannot understand how she was able to (**disabuse**, **contrive**) a meeting between two people who had refused to have anything to do with each other.
7. If, as they now claim, they were not aware of the illegal character of their undertaking, why did they plan it so (**cajolingly**, **surreptitiously**)?
8. The President complained that government bureaucracy was hobbling his programs with (**fetters**, **aspersions**) of red tape.
9. He's so tight with his money that it's just about impossible to (**cajole**, **transmute**) a nickel out of him, no matter how worthy the cause.
10. Her description of the Western frontier was so vivid that I seemed to be (**vicariously**, **surreptitiously**) experiencing the realities of pioneer life.
11. In *Gulliver's Travels* and other writings, Jonathan Swift (**cajoled**, **castigated**) the human race for its follies and wickedness.
12. Her opinion of her own importance is so grotesquely exaggerated that we have come to regard her as a (**megalomaniac**, **demagogue**).
13. He may have kept within the letter of the law, but there is no doubt that he has (**cajoled**, **transgressed**) the accepted moral code.
14. For ancient Romans, fleeing from the battlefield was the most (**heinous**, **immutable**) act of cowardice a soldier could commit.
15. The institutions of our society, far from being (**immutable**, **anomalous**), are in the process of change at this very moment.
16. A(n) (**insurgent**, **heinous**) group at the convention refused to accept the choices of the regular party leaders.
17. Have you ever heard of anything as (**bizarre**, **brusque**) as an experimental technique to test the intelligence of cows?
18. What hurt my feelings was not so much his refusal to give me a job as the (**brusque**, **vicarious**) way in which he told me that he had nothing for me.
19. Although her new position bore a high-sounding title, it was really little more than a(n) (**insurgent**, **sinecure**).
20. Although she is well into middle age, my aunt Sally seems unable to (**cajole**, **disabuse**) herself of the idea that she is still a teenager.

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.

Kudzu

Some readers may recognize kudzu as the name of a comic strip, but Southerners know it as a fact of nature too **bizarre** to be funny. This galloping vine, nearly impossible to kill, grows from a finger-like shoot that winds around any stump, car, shed, tree, house, or barn that stands in its way. In one day's time, kudzu (pronounced "kad-zü") can grow up to twelve inches. All too soon, its trunk is the width of a one-quart milk bottle, and its leaves are as large as this book. Its flowers bloom purple and fragrant; its root can weigh well over two hundred pounds.

(9) This **insurgent** weed, long common in Asia, was welcomed here in the late nineteenth century as a pretty porch decoration. Then the U.S. Government spread kudzu in the South to prevent soil erosion and to make cheap grazing for livestock. But the vine soon eluded the **fetters** of farm work, and in that damp, warm climate made its **surreptitious** way across seven million acres, mainly in North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama. Now, neither farmers nor state governments can afford the labor needed to chop off the trunks and dig up the roots. Scientists put their hope in certain kinds of plant-eating beetles but must first make certain that the hungry little creatures will not **transgress** the bounds of their assignment and start new troubles of their own.

(10) Whatever solution is **contrived** for the kudzu problem, it cannot be applied too soon. The vine has hitchhiked, flown, or wiggled through the mail to Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Should it manage to acclimate itself to the cold Northern winter, it will stretch out and make itself at home there, too.

(11) The meaning of **bizarre** (line 2) is
a. common
b. commercial
c. widespread
d. strange

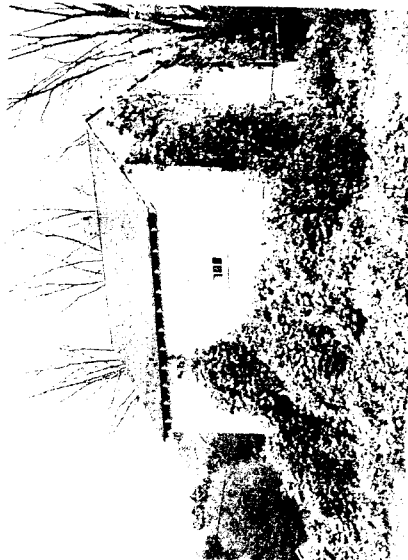
(12) **Insurgent** (line 11) most nearly means
a. huge
b. widespread
c. mutinous
d. sweet-smelling

(13) **Fetters** (line 19) is best defined as
a. assignments
b. weariness
c. restraints
d. complications

(14) The meaning of **surreptitious** (line 21) is
a. furtive
b. awkward
c. speedy
d. deliberate

(15) **Transgress** (line 26) most nearly means
a. misunderstand
b. overstep
c. trample
d. consume

(16) **Contrived** (line 28) is best defined as
a. devised
b. forbidden
c. attempted
d. evaded



Kudzu covering a house in rural Georgia