

Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

1. affluence
(af' lü əns)

(*n.*) wealth, riches, prosperity; great abundance, plenty
Education, hard work, and a very strong desire to succeed can raise a person from poverty to _____.
SYNONYM: opulence; ANTONYMS: poverty, want, destitution, scarcity

2. arrears
(ə rēz')

(*n., pl.*) unpaid or overdue debts; an unfinished duty
Bad spending habits and unexpected expenses left my aunt in _____.
SYNONYMS: in default, in the red, late, overdue

3. cascade
(kas kād')

(*n.*) a steep, narrow waterfall; something falling or rushing forth in quantity; (*v.*) to flow downward (like a waterfall)
We were thrilled when we hit the jackpot, which produced a _____ of loudly jangling coins.
I watched the clear, sparkling water _____ down the mountainside.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) plunge, rush, tumble
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) dribble, drop; (*v.*) trickle, ooze

4. cringe
(krinj)

(*v.*) to shrink back or hide in fear or submissiveness
My father told me to be brave and not to _____ when the doctor vaccinated me.
SYNONYMS: flinch, duck, fawn; ANTONYMS: strut, swagger

5. crotchety
(kräch' ə tē)

(*adj.*) cranky, ill-tempered; full of odd whims
It is unfortunate that the teacher asked me to work with the most _____ partner in the class.
SYNONYMS: grumpy, grouchy, crabby, disagreeable
ANTONYMS: sociable, friendly, agreeable, amiable

6. immobile
(i mō' bəl)

(*adj.*) not movable; not moving
Models must remain _____ for a long time in order for an artist to draw or paint them accurately.
SYNONYMS: fixed, unmoving; ANTONYMS: movable, nimble, agile

7. impassable
(im pas' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) blocked so that nothing can go through
Fallen trees formed an _____ barrier across the highway after the storm.
SYNONYMS: closed, impenetrable; ANTONYMS: unblocked, clear

8. innovation
(i nō vā' shən)

(*n.*) something new, a change; the act of introducing a new method, idea, device, etc.
Our furnace has an energy-saving _____ that turns the heat on and off at certain intervals.
SYNONYMS: novelty, modernization, new wrinkle

9. jovial
(jō' vē əl)

(*adj.*) good-humored, in high spirits; merry
My _____ friend is very entertaining and is always the life of the party.
SYNONYMS: jolly, cheerful, festive
ANTONYMS: gloomy, morose, melancholy, cheerless

10. manacle
(man' ə kəl)

(*n., usually pl.*) a handcuff, anything that chains or confines; (*v.*) to chain or restrain (as with handcuffs)
The kidnappers clamped _____ on their frightened hostages.
The guards _____ the uncooperative prisoner to the chair.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) put in chains, fetter
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) unchain, set free, emancipate, release

11. martial
(mär' shəl)

(*adj.*) warlike, fond of fighting; relating to war, the army, or military life
The army band plays _____ music as the troops formally march past the visiting general.
SYNONYMS: hostile, bellicose
ANTONYMS: peace-loving, pacific, unwarlike

12. minimum
(min' ə məm)

(*n.*) the smallest possible amount; (*adj.*) the lowest permissible or possible
I need to sleep a _____ of seven hours every night.
The _____ age to get a driver's license in this state is sixteen.
SYNONYM: (*adj.*) least
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) maximum; (*adj.*) highest, most

13. nimble
(nim' bəl)

(*adj.*) quick and skillful in movement, agile; clever
As the _____ climber scaled Mount Everest, it looked as if she was barely exerting any energy at all.
SYNONYMS: lively, keen, flexible
ANTONYMS: awkward, clumsy, stiff, inflexible

14. **onset**
(än' set)

(n.) the beginning, start (especially of something violent and destructive); an attack, assault

At the _____ of the heavy storm, frightened people ran to find shelter.

SYNONYMS: outset, commencement
ANTONYMS: conclusion, close, end

15. **partition**
(pä'r tish' ən)

(n.) something that divides (such as a wall); the act of dividing something into parts or sections; (v.) to divide or subdivide into parts or shares

A cloth _____ in the study gave each of us some privacy.

If you like, we can easily _____ the backyard into four separate play areas.

SYNONYMS: (n.) divider, separation
ANTONYMS: (v.) join, combine, consolidate, merge

16. **perishable**
(per' ə shə bəl)

(adj.) likely to spoil or decay

You must keep _____ foods chilled, or they will spoil.

SYNONYMS: short-lived, fleeting
ANTONYMS: long-lasting, undying, permanent

17. **retrieve**
(ri trēv')

(v.) to find and bring back, get back; to put right, make good

I don't relish having to _____ the tennis balls every time you hit them over the fence!

SYNONYMS: regain, fetch, remedy, rectify

18. **sinister**
(sin' ə stər)

(adj.) appearing evil or dangerous; threatening evil or harm

A _____ message left on our voicemail made us suspect the caller had the wrong number.

SYNONYMS: frightening, ominous
ANTONYMS: cheering, encouraging, reassuring, benign

19. **taut**
(tôt)

(adj.) tightly drawn, tense; neat, in good order

A _____ chain kept the curious dog away from the swimming pool.

SYNONYMS: tight, strained, orderly, shipshape
ANTONYMS: loose, slack, drooping, messy, sloppy

20. **template**
(tem' plit)

(n.) a pattern, typically in the form of metal, wood, or plastic; something that is used as a model to imitate

The carpenter created a wooden _____ for a stair step so that he could easily construct the staircase.

SYNONYMS: mock-up, stencil, guide, shape, mold

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 98–99 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- Robin Hood's faithful merry men were not only (**crotchety, jovial**) companions, but brave and clever fighters as well.
- Some hikers are surprised when they get a poison ivy rash, as its (**cringe, onset**) can sometimes be several days after the encounter with the vine.
- Although we all recognize that there must be changes, it is a mistake to think that every (**arrears, innovation**) is necessarily an improvement.
- Instead of acting as though you were permanently (**manacled, retrieved**) to your small circle of friends, you should try to meet new people.
- More than once, our skillful running backs managed to find a way through our opponents' supposedly (**impassable, affluent**) line.
- Normally, I'm very even tempered, but I can become a little (**martial, crotchety**) when I'm tired or hungry.
- We learned in our history class that the ancient Romans were very fine soldiers and excelled in all the (**martial, perishable**) arts.
- Everyone in the auditorium (**retrieved, cringed**) when the singer hit a sour note while performing his most famous song.
- I felt that there was something thoroughly (**sinister, immobile**) about the way he kept trying to duck questions on that subject.
- With the (**affluence, onset**) of the heat wave, vast numbers of city dwellers began to stream toward the beaches and mountains.
- Of all the different types of writing, humor may be the most (**perishable, jovial**), since each generation has its own idea of what is funny.
- To keep a (**nimble, sinister**) mind, doctors advise working on crossword puzzles or learning a foreign language.
- In the moment of danger, my nerves were so (**taut, sinister**) that I would have screamed if someone had touched me.
- Although we are proud of our high standard of living, we should not forget that there are those who do not share in this (**affluence, minimum**).
- Her blond hair fell upon her shoulders like a shimmering (**onset, cascade**) of gold.



Howard Pyle, an American illustrator and writer, arranged all the Robin Hood tales into a unified story.

16. Thanks to my brother's (**templates, innovations**) to a classic recipe, we won first prize at the fair for best hot sauce.
17. Her mind is so (**impassable, nimble**) that she always seems to be one step ahead of us in any matter under discussion.
18. The self-styled "tough guy" (**cringed, manacled**) in terror and begged the police not to shoot.
19. The first thing the bankrupt firm must do with its funds is pay the (**arrears, templates**) due on the employees' wages.
20. A high school student looking for a vacation job usually can't expect to earn more than the (**perishable, minimum**) wage.
21. Despite all his efforts, he was never able to (**retrieve, partition**) the fine reputation he had lost by that crooked deal.
22. In the eighteenth century, Russia, Prussia, and Austria made a series of deals to (**partition, cringe**) and annex Poland right out of existence.
23. The speed with which the boxer darted about the ring made his lumbering opponent seem utterly (**nimble, immobile**) by comparison.
24. Did you know that most computer software provides several different (**templates, onsets**) for letter writing?
25. This facial cream claims that it will help keep your skin (**taut, jovial**) and youthful.



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 phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. **recover** data from my computer _____
2. in the **clogged** section of the pipe _____
3. under strict **military** law _____
4. a **menacing** look in his eyes _____
5. installed to make it remain **stationary** _____
6. begged not to be **shackled** _____
7. to **cower** when the storm approaches _____
8. avoid eating food that can become **rotten** _____
9. as confetti **spilled** onto the stage _____
10. resisting the latest **improvement** _____



Antonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. using a **transportable** device _____
2. materials that are strong and **durable** _____
3. water **dripping** from the spout _____
4. living among **peaceable** people _____
5. looking for an **open** lane _____



Completing the Sentence

From the words in this Unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word form in the space provided.

1. The _____ mood of our cheerful little gathering changed abruptly to sorrow when news of the tragedy came over the radio.
2. It's a pleasure to watch the expert typist's _____ fingers move swiftly over the keyboard.
3. The patients will have a much better chance to recover quickly if they receive treatment at the _____ of the fever.
4. Sherlock Holmes detected in the wicked scheme the _____ hand of the evil Professor Moriarty.
5. Can you explain why there is not only a maximum speed limit but also a(n) _____ speed limit on many modern highways?
6. We plan to update the _____ of our school brochure to make it more attractive and readable.
7. I know that my payments on the car are in _____, but I will catch up as soon as I get my next paycheck.
8. Today _____ foods are transported in refrigerated trucks to prevent spoilage.
9. Unless you pull the ropes _____, the tennis net will sag.
10. Although we are sure that the prisoners will make no attempt to escape, the law requires us to place _____ on them.

11. Frank Lloyd Wright was a great American architect who was responsible for many _____ in the design of buildings.
12. The sunlight caught the waters of the stream as they _____ over the steep cliff and formed a brilliant rainbow.
13. I was able to _____ my baggage promptly after leaving the plane.
14. The more we tried to humor the _____ crossing guard, the more irritable and demanding he seemed to become.
15. His back injury was so severe that he has been placed in a cast and will have to remain _____ for months.
16. I don't expect you to be a hero, but do you have to _____ in that cowardly fashion whenever anyone so much as disagrees with you?
17. During the war years, the government tried all kinds of propaganda to arouse the _____ spirit of the people.
18. All roads throughout the area became _____ as a result of the record-breaking snowstorm.
19. The feeling of _____ I had when I was paid lasted only until I had finished taking care of my bills.
20. We made use of a(n) _____ to break up the floor space into a large number of small offices.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "From Big Dream to Big Top" (pages 98–99). Suppose that you are a circus performer, and you want others to consider a career with the circus. Write a letter to young people to persuade them that the circus offers challenging and interesting career paths. Use at least two details from the passage and three Unit words.
2. Some people feel that animals should not be trained to perform in circuses. Others feel that circuses are educational, allowing people to see how intelligent animals are and marvel at the amazing feats they can perform. Write a brief essay in which you state your position on this topic. Support your opinion with your observations, specific examples, the reading (refer to pages 98–99), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

Vocabulary in Context

Literary Text

The following excerpts are from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. "Get back into your chair!" said Holmes sternly. "It is very well to **cringe** and crawl now, but you thought little enough of this poor Horner in the dock for a crime of which he knew nothing." ("The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle")

To **cringe** is to

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. change | c. cower |
| b. escape | d. mumble |

2. The trees and wayside hedges were just throwing out their first green shoots, and the air was full of the pleasant smell of the moist earth. To me at least there was a strange contrast between the sweet promise of the spring and this **sinister** quest upon which we were engaged. ("The Adventure of the Speckled Band")

Something that is **sinister** is definitely NOT

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. terrifying | c. startling |
| b. comforting | d. chilling |

3. . . . I met Mr. Rucastle coming out through this door, his keys in his hand, and a look on his face which made him a very different person to the round, **jovial** man to whom I was accustomed. His cheeks were red, his brow was all crinkled with anger, and the veins stood out at his temples with passion. ("The Adventure of the Copper Beeches")

A person who is **jovial** is

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. joyful | c. crabby |
| b. thoughtful | d. dangerous |

4. "Yet if the lady is correct in saying that the flooring and walls are sound, and that the door, window, and chimney are **impassable**, then her sister must have been undoubtedly alone when she met her mysterious end." ("The Adventure of the Speckled Band")

If something is **impassable**, it is

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| a. stubborn | c. stiff |
| b. old-fashioned | d. blocked |

5. . . . [W]ith a cry, she sprang at a small deal box which lay upon the table and tore the lid from it. Out there fell a **cascade** of children's bricks. ("The Man with the Twisted Lip")

A **cascade** is something that

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| a. fails | c. crumbles |
| b. streams | d. cries |



Basil Rathbone played Sherlock Holmes in this 1939 film adaptation of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

Interactive Quiz



Snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com