

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. agenda
(ə jen' də)

(n.) the program for a meeting; a list, outline, or plan of things to be considered or done

The _____ for today's assembly includes a plan for recycling in the classroom.
SYNONYMS: schedule, docket

2. amiable
(ā' mē ə bəl)

(adj.) friendly, good-natured

Marty, whose sense of humor and good spirits never fail, is an _____ companion.
SYNONYMS: pleasant, agreeable
ANTONYMS: unfriendly, ill-humored, hostile

3. befuddle
(bi fəd' əl)

(v.) to confuse, make stupid

A difficult scientific experiment with many steps is likely to _____ most beginners.
SYNONYMS: bewilder, boggle, stupefy
ANTONYMS: enlighten, set straight

4. blight
(blīt)

(n.) a disease that causes plants to wither and die; a condition of disease or ruin; (v.) to destroy, ruin

Dutch elm disease was a _____ that forever changed the look of my neighborhood. Though she received several letters of rejection, she determined not to let them _____ her hopes of going to college.

SYNONYMS: (n.) eyesore; (v.) spoil, nip
ANTONYMS: (v.) foster, promote, nourish, encourage

5. boisterous
(boi' strəs)

(adj.) rough and noisy in a cheerful way; high-spirited

The _____ schoolchildren made it clear to their teacher how much they enjoyed the class trip.
SYNONYMS: loud, unruly, disorderly
ANTONYMS: quiet, calm, peaceful, well-behaved

6. clarity
(klar' ə tē)

(n.) clearness, accuracy

The vet explained with great _____ how best to housebreak our new puppy.
SYNONYMS: lucidity, precision
ANTONYMS: confusion, murkiness, ambiguity

7. compliant
(kəm pli' ənt)

(adj.) willing to do what someone else wants; obedient

A _____ child is easy to discipline, even when in an unfamiliar environment.
SYNONYMS: meek, docile, submissive
ANTONYMS: disobedient, obstinate, rebellious, perverse

8. conserve
(kən sər' v)

(v.) to preserve; to keep from being damaged, lost, or wasted; to save

Responsible citizens try to _____ our precious natural resources.
SYNONYMS: guard, care for; ANTONYMS: waste, squander, dissipate

9. debut
(dā' byü)

(n.) a first public appearance; a formal entrance into society; (v.) to make a first appearance

The talented flute player in the marching band finally made her _____ as a soloist today.
Many theaters will _____ the film tonight.
SYNONYM: (n.) coming-out; ANTONYMS: (n.) retirement, departure

10. gory
(gôr' ē)

(adj.) marked by bloodshed, slaughter, or violence

The Civil War battle of Antietam is, to this day, the most _____ one-day fight in our history.
SYNONYMS: bloody, gruesome; ANTONYM: bloodless

11. gross
(grôs)

(adj.) coarse, vulgar; very noticeable; total; overweight; (n.) an overall total (without deductions); twelve dozen; (v.) to earn

They responded to the _____ injustice in an unsatisfactory manner.
A _____ of pencils lasts all year.
She expects to _____ \$3,000 in tips.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) sheer, utter, flagrant, fat
ANTONYMS: (adj.) delicate, fine, partial, slender, thin; (n., v.) net

12. induce
(in düs')

(v.) to cause, bring about; to persuade

Can drinking warm milk _____ sleep?
SYNONYMS: prevail upon, influence
ANTONYMS: prevent, deter, hinder

13. leeway
(lē' wā)

(n.) extra space for moving along a certain route; allowance for mistakes or inaccuracies; margin of error

Experienced planners allow _____ of a week or so in case a project runs into snags or delays.
SYNONYMS: latitude, elbow room

14. limber
(lim' bər)

(*adj.*) flexible; (*v.*) to cause to become flexible

Serious dancers develop _____ bodies.

Runners _____ up before a race.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) supple, pliable; (*v.*) stretch

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) stiff, wooden; (*v.*) stiffen

15. maze
(māz)

(*n.*) a network of paths through which it is hard to find one's way; something very mixed-up and confusing

Ancient Rome was a _____ of narrow streets and winding alleys.

SYNONYMS: labyrinth, puzzle, tangle

16. oracle
(ôr' ə kəl)

(*n.*) someone or something that can predict the future; someone who gives astute answers or advice that seems authoritative

According to Greek legend, people sought prophecy at the great _____ at Delphi.

SYNONYMS: prophet, seer, sibyl

17. partisan
(pärt' ə zən)

(*n.*) a strong supporter of a person, party, or cause; one whose support is unreasoning; a resistance fighter, guerrilla; (*adj.*) strongly supporting one side only

That candidate is a _____ of term limits.

_____ hometown fans can be hostile to those from out of town.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) fan, booster; (*adj.*) partial, biased

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) critic, foe; (*adj.*) impartial, neutral

18. reimburse
(rē im bərs')

(*v.*) to pay back; to give payment for

When you go on business trips, the company will _____

_____ all your traveling expenses.

SYNONYMS: repay, refund, compensate

19. vacate
(vā' kāt)

(*v.*) to go away from; leave empty; to make empty; to void, annul

We have a lot of cleaning up to do before we _____

_____ the apartment for good.

SYNONYMS: depart, abandon; ANTONYMS: occupy, keep, hold

20. vagabond
(vag' ə bənd)

(*n.*) an idle wanderer; a tramp; (*adj.*) wandering; irresponsible

The _____ carried his few belongings in a shabby cardboard suitcase.

The _____ life interests some people, but it doesn't appeal to me.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) vagrant; (*adj.*) unsettled, footloose

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) homebody, resident; (*adj.*) settled

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 70–71 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. My sister made her (**agenda, debut**) in the Broadway production of *Les Misérables*, a musical based on Victor Hugo's novel.
2. Over the years, so many of the columnist's predictions have come true that he is now looked on as something of a(n) (**debut, oracle**).
3. One of the biggest problems facing the United States today is how to stop the (**blight, agenda**) that is creeping over large parts of our great cities.
4. Until we were in (**compliance, conservation**) with the neighborhood regulations, we could not build a tree house.
5. An experienced backpacker can give you many useful suggestions for (**befuddling, conserving**) energy on a long, tough hike.
6. After all the deductions had been made from my (**gross, limber**) salary, the sum that remained seemed pitifully small.
7. Students must take many required courses, but they also have a little (**oracle, leeway**) to choose courses that they find especially interesting.
8. What I thought was going to be a(n) (**amiable, vagabond**) little chat with my boss soon turned into a real argument.
9. Don't let the (**clarity, leeway**) of the water fool you into supposing that it's safe for drinking.
10. To become a good all-around athlete, you not only need a strong and (**induce, limber**) body, but also a quick, disciplined mind.
11. Because she is usually so (**compliant, partisan**), we were all surprised when she said that she didn't like our plans and wouldn't accept them.
12. Poland was at the top of Adolf Hitler's (**maze, agenda**) of military conquests in the fall of 1939.
13. If you want to get a clear picture of just what went wrong, you must not (**befuddle, induce**) your mind with all kinds of wild rumors.
14. As we moved higher up the mountain, I was overcome by dizziness and fatigue (**induced, grossed**) by the thin air.
15. This video game is not appropriate for children or minors due to its violent and (**amiable, gory**) content.



Victor Hugo, the French Romantic author, wrote plays, poems, and novels.

- 16. Because he is an expert gymnast and works out every day, his body has remained as (**limber, gory**) as that of a boy.
- 17. Many a student dreams about spending a (**vagabond, partisan**) year idly hiking through Europe.
- 18. In her graphic description of the most gruesome scenes in the horror film, Maria left out none of the (**amiable, gory**) details.
- 19. At the end of the long series of discussions and arguments, we felt that we were trapped in a (**maze, blight**) of conflicting ideas and plans.
- 20. The landlord ordered all tenants to (**vacate, reimburse**) the premises by noon.
- 21. This matter is so important to all the people of the community that we must forget (**boisterous, partisan**) politics and work together.
- 22. I will feel fully (**reimbursed, conserved**) for all that I have done for her if I can see her in good health again.
- 23. The disc jockey promised to (**vacate, debut**) the band's long-awaited new song as soon as it was released by the recording company.
- 24. Mr. Roth, our school librarian, may seem mild and easygoing, but he cracks down hard on (**compliant, boisterous**) students.
- 25. One of the items on the council's (**agenda, partisan**) is the proposal of a curfew.

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. acrobats who are quite **agile** _____
- 2. **encourage** them to speak softly _____
- 3. an **affliction** hidden from society's view _____
- 4. when he saw the **horrific** spectacle _____
- 5. can't rely on their **one-sided** viewpoint _____
- 6. had never consulted the **visionary** before _____
- 7. seemed like a **delightful** fellow _____
- 8. enough **breathing space** for a beginner to succeed _____
- 9. no choice but to **desert** the cabin _____
- 10. a **hobo** who hopped freight trains _____

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. rains that will **restore** the vegetation _____
- 2. a long-term **occupant** of this apartment _____
- 3. the guitar player's **rigid** fingers _____
- 4. try to avoid an **uninformed fool** _____
- 5. socializing with our **gruff** neighbors _____

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. Before the game starts, the players _____ up by doing a few deep knee bends, sit-ups, and other exercises.
- 2. How can a mind _____ by alcohol make the type of snap decisions needed to drive safely in heavy traffic?
- 3. We cannot allow the lives of millions of people to be _____ by poverty.
- 4. You certainly have a right to cheer for your team, but try not to become too _____ and unruly.
- 5. Because of her outgoing and _____ personality, she is liked by nearly everyone at school.
- 6. The crowd is so _____ that the umpire is booed every time he makes a decision against the home team.
- 7. The high standard of excellence that the woman had set for herself left her no _____ for mistakes.
- 8. For years, his restless spirit led him to wander the highways and byways of this great land like any other footloose _____.
- 9. Because you are working with older and more experienced people, you should be _____ with their requests and advice.
- 10. None of us could possibly overlook the _____ error that the waiter had made in adding up our check.

11. If you would be kind enough to buy a loose-leaf notebook for me while you are in the stationery store, I'll _____ you immediately.
12. If the Superintendent of Schools should _____ his position by resigning, the Mayor has the right to name someone else to the job.
13. Trying to untangle a badly snarled fishing line is like trying to find one's way through a(n) _____.
14. Ms. Fillmer explained with such _____ how to go about changing a tire that I felt that even someone as clumsy as I could do it.
15. Because our energy resources are limited, the American people must try to do everything possible to _____ fuel.
16. No matter what you may say, you cannot _____ me to do something that I know is wrong.
17. The high point of the social season was the formal _____ of young ladies at the annual Society Ball.
18. Each of the items on the _____ for our meeting today will probably require a good deal of discussion.
19. I was not prepared for the _____ sight that met my eyes at the scene of that horrible massacre.
20. Why do you always ask me what's going to happen? I'm no _____!

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "The Fine Art of War: WWI Propaganda Images" (pages 70–71). Study the posters that became popular during World War I. Using the passage and posters, write a short essay that explains why these images were so effective in persuading Americans to support the war effort. Use at least two details from the passage and three Unit words to support your claim.
2. Advertisements are all around us, from billboards and television commercials to newspaper ads and pop-ups on the Internet. The messages and images of a clever advertising campaign can be powerful and persuasive. Would it ever be appropriate today for the government to use slick advertising tactics to get the American public to support a particular cause, such as a war? At some point might such "advertising" become propaganda—one-sided and even false support of a cause? Write a brief essay in which you support your opinion with specific examples, your studies, and the reading (refer to pages 70–71). 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 novel *The Prince and The Pauper* and the short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," both by Mark Twain. 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. The houseless prince, the homeless heir to the throne of England, still moved on, drifting deeper into the **maze** of squalid alleys where the swarming hives of poverty and misery were massed together. (*The Prince and the Pauper*)

Alleys that are like a **maze** are

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| a. intertwined | c. dirty |
| b. amazing | d. orderly |

2. With **boisterous** mirth they dropped upon their knees in a body and did mock homage to their prey. The prince spurned the nearest boy with his foot, and said fiercely—

"Take thou that, till the morrow come and I build thee a gibbet!" (*The Prince and the Pauper*)

Something that is **boisterous** is NOT

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| a. rowdy and noisy | c. calm and controlled |
| b. silly and pointless | d. windy and wild |

3. He was in a fine fury when he found himself described as a "sturdy **vagabond**" and sentenced to sit two hours in the stocks for bearing that character. . . . (*The Prince and the Pauper*)

A **vagabond** is someone who is a(n)

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| a. student | c. witness |
| b. drifter | d. official |

4. In **compliance** with the request of a friend of mine, who wrote me from the East, I called on good-natured, garrulous old Simon Wheeler, and inquired after my friend's friend. . . . ("The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County")

People who are in **compliance** are

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| a. curious | c. stubborn |
| b. demanding | d. accommodating |

5. They used to give [the horse] two or three hundred yards start . . . but always at the [end] of the race she'd get excited and desperate-like, and come cavorting and straddling up, and scattering her legs around **limber**, sometimes in the air, and sometimes out to one side amongst the fences. . . . ("The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County")

A **limber** horse is one that is

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| a. hostile | c. stocky |
| b. mature | d. nimble |



In one film adaptation of *The Prince and the Pauper*, twins Billy and Bobby Mauch played the roles of Tom and the Prince.

Interactive Quiz



Snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com