Definitions

1. **adage**
   (ad'ij) (n.) a proverb, wise saying
   One way to begin an informal speech or an oral report is to quote an old _______________________.
   **SYNONYMS:** maxim, saw, aphorism

2. **bonanza**
   (ba nan'za) (n.) a rich mass of ore in a mine; something very valuable, profitable, or rewarding; a source of wealth or prosperity; a very large amount; sudden profit or gain
   The thrilling adventure movie set in Alaska proved to be a box-office _______________________.
   **SYNONYMS:** windfall

3. **churlish**
   (char'lish) (adj.) lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to work with or deal with; rude
   The store manager instructed all the salesclerks to avoid ______________________ replies to customers' questions.
   **SYNONYMS:** surly, ill-tempered
   **ANTONYMS:** courteous, civil, well-mannered

4. **citadel**
   (sit' a del) (n.) a fortress that overlooks and protects a city; any strong or commanding place
   A medieval ______________________ once guarded the capital city of the Greek island of Rhodes.
   **SYNONYMS:** fort, stronghold, bulwark, bastion

5. **collaborate**
   (kə la bə rät) (v.) to work with, work together
   Several students plan to ______________________ on a geology project for the annual science fair.
   **SYNONYMS:** team up, join forces
   **ANTONYM:** work alone

6. **decree**
   (di krē) (n.) an order having the force of law; (v.) to issue such an order; to command firmly or forcefully
   "There went forth a ______________________ from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1).
   Why does nature always seem to ______________________ nasty weather for our annual family picnic?
   **SYNONYMS:** (n.) proclamation, edict; (v.) proclaim
Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

7. discordant (dis kôr' dant): (adj.) disagreeable in sound, jarring; lacking in harmony, conflicting
   Their little spat struck a ________________ note
   in our otherwise happy family get-together.
   SYNONYMS: grating, shrill, different, divergent
   ANTONYMS: harmonious, in agreement

8. evolve (ë vâl'v')
   (v.) to develop gradually; to rise to a higher level
   Authors hope that their notes, descriptions, and character
   sketches will ________________ into a book.
   SYNONYMS: unfold, emerge
   ANTONYMS: wither, shrivel up, atrophy

9. excerpt (ek' sa rpt)
   (n.) a passage taken from a book, article, etc.; (v.) to take such a
   passage; to quote
   My essay includes a long ________________ from
   a speech by Sojourner Truth.
   If you ________________ some material from a
   reference book, be sure to enclose it in quotation marks.
   SYNONYMS: (n.) portion, section, extract

10. grope (gröp)
    (v.) to feel about hesitantly with the hands; to search blindly and
    uncertainly
    When the power failed, we had to ________________
    in the dark to find a working flashlight.
    SYNONYMS: fumble for, cast about for

11. hover (hav' ar)
    (v.) to float or hang suspended over; to move back and forth
    uncertainly over or around
    A large group of vultures ________________ in
    the air above the wounded animal.
    SYNONYMS: linger, waver, seesaw
    ANTONYMS: soar

12. jostle (jôst' ol)
    (v.) to make or force one’s way by pushing or elbowing; to bump,
    shove, brush against; to compete for
    I tried not to ________________ other riders as I
    exited the crowded bus.
    SYNONYMS: push

13. laggard (lag' ard)
    (n.) a person who moves slowly or falls behind; (adj.) falling
    behind; slow to move, act, or respond
    Tour guides often have to urge
    to keep up with the rest of the group.
    Tenants who are ________________ in paying
    rent run the risk of being forced to move.

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in harmony, conflicting

SYNONYMS: (n.) slowpoke, straggler; (adj.) sluggish
ANTONYMS: (n.) early bird; (adj.) swift, speedy, prompt

SYNONYMS: cheers, acclaim
ANTONYMS: boos, disapprove, ridicule

(v.) to make impossible, prevent, shut out

Three wrong answers will ________________ any contestant from entering the quiz show's final round.

SYNONYMS: hinder, check, stop
ANTONYMS: help, promote, facilitate

(v.) to return, go back

Control of a property usually ________________ to the legal owner when a lease is up.

SYNONYMS: relapse, regress
ANTONYMS: progress, advance

(n.) broken stone or bricks; ruins

Bulldozers and wrecking balls soon reduced the damaged ________________ building to a heap of smoking ________________.

SYNONYMS: wreckage, debris

(adj.) of or relating to a slave; behaving like or suitable for a slave or a servant, menial; lacking spirit or independence, abjectly submissive

Most serious performers prefer constructive criticism to ________________ flattery.

SYNONYMS: slavish, groveling, fawning
ANTONYMS: masterly, overbearing

(n.) a watch, especially at night; any period of watchful attention

Thousands attended the solemn ________________ at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

(v.) to quarrel or argue in a noisy, angry way; to obtain by argument; to herd; (n.) a noisy quarrel

My brother and sister always ________________ over whose turn it is to take out the trash,

The customer got into a nasty ________________ with the shopkeeper.

SYNONYMS: (v.) squabble, bicker
ANTONYMS: (v.) agree, concur
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.

1. The swiftest members of the herd escaped the trappers' nets, but the ______ lagged behind were caught.

2. Your silly pride about doing everything on your own ______ precludes your getting the help you need so badly.

3. On the ground, teams of paramedics administered first aid to the victims of the accident, while police helicopters ______ hovered overhead.

4. They had such a long ______ wrangle ______ over the use of the bicycle that their mother finally wouldn't allow either of them to use it.

5. As we discussed our coming vacation, we gradually ______ evolved ______ a plan for a bicycle trip through New England.

6. With tireless devotion, the ailing child's parents kept an anxious ______ vigil ______ at her bedside.

7. Let me read aloud a few ______ excerpts ______ from the newspaper review of the new movie.

8. The cafeteria line was so crowded that I was ______ jostled ______ past the desserts before I could take one.

9. During his eleven years of "personal rule," King Charles I of England bypassed Parliament and ruled the country by royal ______ decree ______.

10. For two nights, he did his homework faithfully; then he ______ reverted ______ to his usual lazy ways.

11. After the walls of their city fell to the enemy, the inhabitants withdrew to the ______ citadel ______ and continued the struggle from there.

12. When the lights suddenly went out, I ______ groped ______ my way into the kitchen to find a candle and matches.

13. Our teacher gave the two of us permission to ______ collaborate ______ on our reports because we were investigating related problems.

14. The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was the first step in releasing African Americans from their ______ servile ______ bonds.

15. Suddenly the ______ discordant ______ voices of two people engaged in a quarrel burst upon my ears and jarred me out of my daydream.

16. What is the exact wording of the ______ adage ______ about early birds and worm-catching?

17. If you will only show a little patience, that business investment may grow into a(n) ______ bonanza ______ for you.
Definitions

1. antics (an' tiks) (n. pl.) ridiculous and unpredictable behavior or actions.
   - The __________________________ of the chimpanzees amused the crowds at the zoo.
   - SYNONYMS: pranks, shenanigans

2. avowed (ə-vōd') (adj., part.) declared openly and without shame, acknowledged.
   - The governor was an __________________________ supporter of the plan to aid public libraries throughout the state.
   - SYNONYMS: admitted, sworn
   - ANTONYMS: unacknowledged, undisclosed

3. banter (ban' tar) (v.) to exchange playful remarks, tease; (n.) talk that is playful and teasing.
   - There is nothing my friends and I enjoy more than to __________________________ good-naturedly for hours.
   - Casual __________________________ helps to pass the time during a long journey.
   - SYNONYMS: (n.) joking, raffery
   - ANTONYM: (n.) serious talk

4. bountiful (bā'unt' ī fel) (adj.) giving freely, generous; plentiful, given abundantly.
   - On Thanksgiving Day, people all over America celebrate the __________________________ gifts of nature.
   - SYNONYMS: liberal, abundant, copious
   - ANTONYMS: scarce, scanty, in short supply

5. congested (ken jest' ɪd) (adj., part.) overcrowded, filled or occupied to excess.
   - The doctor grew very concerned when the patient's lungs became __________________________ with fluid.
   - SYNONYMS: jammed, packed, choked
   - ANTONYMS: uncluttered, unimpeded

6. detriment (det' ra mant) (n.) harm or loss; injury, damage; a disadvantage; a cause of harm; injury, loss, or damage.
   - The home team survived a six-game losing streak with almost no __________________________ to its standing in the league.
   - SYNONYMS: hindrance, liability
   - ANTONYMS: advantage, help, plus
7. **durable** (dūrˈə bəl) *(adj.)* sturdy; not easily worn out or destroyed; lasting for a long time; *(n. pl.)* consumer goods used repeatedly over a series of years

Denim is a very __________________ kind of fabric.

Most people own household __________________ such as furniture and appliances.

**SYNONYMS:** *(adj.)* long-lasting, enduring

**ANTONYMS:** *(adj.)* fragile, perishable, fleeting, ephemeral

8. **enterprising** *(entˈər prə zînf)* *(adj.)* energetic, willing and able to start something new; showing boldness and imagination

A __________________ young person may turn a hobby into a way of earning money to pay for college.

**SYNONYMS:** vigorous, ambitious, aggressive, audacious

**ANTONYMS:** lazy, indolent, timid, diffident

9. **frugal** *(frə gəl)* *(adj.)* economical, avoiding waste and luxury; scanty, poor, meager

At home, we usually prepare __________________ but nourishing and delicious meals.

**SYNONYMS:** thrifty, skimpy

**ANTONYMS:** wasteful, improvident, lavish, extravagant

10. **gingerly** *(jə nər lē)* *(adj., adv.)* with extreme care or caution

Difficult and demanding customers should be handled in a __________________ and courteous manner.

Pedestrians made their way __________________ along the slippery, snow-covered streets.

**SYNONYMS:** *(adv.)* cautiously, warily, circumspectly

**ANTONYMS:** *(adv.)* firmly, confidently, aggressively

11. **glut** *(glut)* *(v.)* to provide more than is needed or wanted; to feed or fill to the point of overstuffing; *(n.)* an oversupply

Hollywood studios __________________ theaters with big-budget action movies during the summer season.

When there is a __________________ of gasoline on the market, prices at the pump may drop dramatically.

**SYNONYMS:** *(v.)* flood, inundate; *(n.)* surplus, plethora

**ANTONYMS:** *(n.)* shortage, scarcity, dearth, paucity

12. **incognito** *(in kəg nəˈtō) *(adj., adv.)* in a disguised state, under an assumed name or identity; *(n.)* the state of being disguised; a person in disguise

Just before the battle of Agincourt, Shakespeare's King Henry V prowls through his camp __________________

In a way, makeup artists are practitioners of the fine art of __________________

**ANTONYM:** *(adj.)* undisguised
13. invalidate (in val’ a dät) (v.) to make valueless, take away all force or effect

Lawyers will try to __________________ the contract.

SYNONYMS: cancel, annul, disapprove, discredit

ANTONYMS: support, confirm, back up, legalize

14. legendary (lej’ an der ™) (adj.) described in well-known stories, existing in old stories (legends) rather than in real life

Ajax was one of the __________________ Greek heroes who fought before the walls of Troy.

SYNONYMS: mythical, fabulous, famous, celebrated

15. maim (mám) (v.) to cripple, disable, injure, mar, disfigure, mutilate

Each year, falls __________________ thousands of people, some of them for life.

16. minimize (min’ a mîz) (v.) to make as small as possible, make the least of; to make smaller than before

• Whenever you are in a car, you should wear your seatbelt to __________________ the risk of injury in an accident.

SYNONYMS: belittle, downplay, underrate

ANTONYMS: magnify, enlarge, exaggerate

17. oblique (ö blék’) (adj.) slanting or sloping; not straightforward or direct

The boxer’s __________________ blow left his opponent unscathed.

SYNONYMS: diagonal, indirect

ANTONYMS: direct, straight to the point

18. veer (vër) (v.) to change direction or course suddenly, turn aside, shift, swerve

The huge storm finally __________________ out to sea, leaving much destruction in its wake.

19. venerate (ven’ a rät) (v.) to regard with reverence, look up to with great respect

In a number of religions, it is customary for people to __________________ saints and martyrs to the faith.

SYNONYMS: worship, revere, idolize

ANTONYMS: despise, detest, ridicule, deride

20. wanton (wënt’ an) (adj.) reckless; heartless, unjustifiable; loose in morals;

(n.) a spoiled, pampered person; one with low morals

The gas chambers at Auschwitz are a grim testimony to the __________________ cruelty of the Nazis.

The main character in the popular miniseries was a charming but heartless __________________

SYNONYMS: (adj.) rash, malicious, spiteful, unprovoked

ANTONYMS: (adj.) justified, morally strict, responsible
1. An inability to get along smoothly and effectively with other people will be a great detriment to you in any career you may choose.

2. Even the most durable materials will in time be worn away by flowing water.

3. Although he had been severely maimed in the automobile accident, he was determined to return to his job and lead a normal life.

4. Instead of walking straight from the farmhouse to the road, we set off in a(n) oblique direction across the field.

5. I would never have expected members of the senior class to take part in such childish antics!

6. We admired the enterprising immigrant who set up a small shop and developed it into a large and prosperous business.

7. We desperately needed every bit of help we could find, but what we got was a(n) glut of advice and a scarcity of cold cash.

8. We should be willing to share our bountiful food supplies with less fortunate people in other parts of the world.

9. In American law, the fact that the person accused of a crime is poor does not invalidate his or her right to adequate legal representation.

10. To avoid the children in the street, the truck veered sharply to the right and sideswiped several parked cars.

11. Isn't it strange for a(n) avowed music lover to show no interest in our school orchestra?

12. The vandals broke windows, overturned desks, and left the school a scene of wanton destruction.

13. Although she tried to cover it up with lively banter, I could see that her feelings had been deeply hurt.

14. Since I was afraid of banging my bare feet against the furniture, I walked through the darkened room very gingerly.

15. What a change from the congested streets of the inner city to the wide-open spaces of the Great Plains!

16. Although his income was small, his frugal living habits enabled him to save a large sum of money over the years.

17. The film star traveled incognito in order to avoid the attentions of her adoring fans.

18. As Americans, we venerate the great ideals of human freedom expressed in the Bill of Rights.

19. While I do not wish to alarm you, I will not minimize the danger if you refuse to have the children vaccinated.

20. Davy Crockett was a real person, but so many tall stories have been told about him as to have become legendary.
Definitions

1. **allot**
   (ə lāt′)
   (v.) to assign or distribute in shares or portions
   The teacher _______________________ books and supplies to each student on the first day of school.
   SYNONYMS: apportion, parcel out, allocate

2. **amass**
   (ə mas′)
   (v.) to bring together, collect, gather, especially for oneself; to come together, assemble
   A prudent investor can _______________________ a fortune in the stock market over the long run.
   SYNONYMS: accumulate, pile up, garner
   ANTONYMS: scatter, dissipate, squander, waste

3. **audacious**
   (ō dā′ shas)
   (adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring
   The audience cheered the _______________________ feats of the trapeze artists.
   SYNONYMS: enterprising, brave
   ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly

4. **comply**
   (kəm plī′)
   (v.) to yield to a request or command
   Employees who fail to _______________________ with a company’s rules may lose their jobs.
   SYNONYMS: submit to, consent to, acquiesce in
   ANTONYMS: reject, refuse, decline

5. **devoid**
   (di void′)
   (adj.) not having or using, lacking
   The old well on my grandparents’ property has long been _______________________ of water.
   SYNONYMS: wanting, bereft
   ANTONYMS: full, teeming, abounding

6. **elite**
   (ā lēt′)
   (n.) the choice part of a group of people or things; (adj.) superior
   Each year, the social _______________________ of the community sponsors several events to benefit local charities.
   You can get a fine education regardless of whether or not you attend an _______________________ school.
   SYNONYMS: (n.) cream of the crop, upper crust
   ANTONYMS: (n.) rank and file, dregs of society

7. **grapple**
   (grap′ əl)
   (n.) an iron hook used to grab and hold; (v.) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with
8. incapacitate
(in kap' a tät)

(v.) to deprive of strength or ability; to make legally ineligible

In the 1940s and 1950s, polio ________________
many thousands of people each year all over the world.
SYNONYMS: disable, debilitate, paralyze, cripple
ANTONYMS: rehabilitate, restore

9. instigate
(in' stë gät)

(v.) to urge on; to stir up, provoke, start, incite

Several demonstrators in the angry crowd did their best to
______________ a riot.
ANTONYMS: stop, quell, squelch, quash

10. longevity
(län' jëv' a té)

(n.) long life, long duration, length of life

The sea turtle is known for its ________________
ANTONYMS: brevity, transience

11. myriad
(mir' è ad)

(adj.) in very great numbers; (n.) a very great number

Scientists continue to make new discoveries in their studies
of the ________________ life-forms of the jungle.
You will find information on a ________________ of subjects on the Internet.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) innumerable, countless
ANTONYMS: (adj.) few, scant, sparse

12. perspective
(par spek' tiv)

(n.) a point of view or general standpoint from which different
things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance to the
eye of various objects at a given time, place, or distance

The designs for the children's playhouse were drawn to scale
and in the right ________________
SYNONYMS: viewpoint, sense of proportion

13. perturb
(par tərb'")

(v.) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into
confusion

The rude and disruptive behavior of several party guests
______________ the host and hostess.
SYNONYMS: upset, agitate, anger, irritate
ANTONYMS: delight, gladden, please

14. prodigious
(prə dij' əs)

(adj.) immense; extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree

Few intellects have rivaled the ________________
mind of Albert Einstein.
SYNONYMS: gigantic, tremendous, astounding
ANTONYMS: puny, minuscule, insignificant

relevant
(rel' a vant)
(adj.) connected with or related to the matter at hand.
I found several Web sites that provided information
________________________ to the topic of my research paper.
SYNONYMS: pertinent, germane, applicable
ANTONYMS: unconnected, extraneous

16. skittish
(skit' ish)
(adj.) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid;
extremely cautious; unstable, undependable
Only an experienced and confident rider should mount
a ____________________ horse.
SYNONYMS: jumpy, restive, capricious, fickle
ANTONYMS: bold, daring, reckless, cool, unflappable

17. tether
(teth' er)
(n.) a rope or chain used to fasten something to a fixed object;
the outer limit of strength or resources; (v.) to fasten with a rope
or chain
Some young people find it difficult to break the emotional
and financial ____________________ that bind them
to their parents.
Before the storm, I ____________________ the
boat securely to the dock.
SYNONYMS: (v.) tie up, chain up, leash
ANTONYMS: (v.) untie, let loose

18. unison
(yü' nə san)
(n.) a sounding together; agreement or accord
The members of our new student orchestra need to practice
playing in ____________________
SYNONYMS: harmony, concord, assent

19. vie
(vi)
(v.) to compete; to strive for victory or superiority
Many actors ____________________ for the
leading role in the famous director’s new film.
SYNONYMS: contend, rival

20. willful
(wil' fel)
(adj.) stubbornly self-willed; done on purpose, deliberate
After lengthy deliberations, the jury found the defendant
guilty of ____________________ murder.
SYNONYMS: headstrong, obstinate, premeditated
ANTONYMS: docile, obedient, tractable
Definitions

1. annul (ə nəl)
   (v.) to reduce to nothing; to make ineffective or inoperative; to declare legally invalid or void
   The state legislators voted by an overwhelming majority to _____________________ the out-of-date law.
   SYNONYMS: cancel, abolish, invalidate, nullify
   ANTONYMS: validate, authorize, ratify

2. blasé (blā zā)
   (adj.) indifferent, bored as a result of having enjoyed many pleasures; apathetic
   Battle-hardened soldiers may tend to become a bit _____________________ about the dangers they face.
   ANTONYMS: enthusiastic, passionate, fervent

3. bolster (bōl' stər)
   (v.) to support, give a boost to; (n.) a long pillow or cushion; a supporting post
   When you write a research paper, you should always use appropriate facts to _____________________ your case.
   The sofa has four comfortable _____________________.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) strengthen, reinforce, buttress, validate
   ANTONYMS: (v.) undermine, weaken, impair

4. deplore (di plôr)
   (v.) to feel or express regret or disapproval
   Social critics _____________________ what they believe is a widespread decline in good manners.
   SYNONYMS: lament, bemoan, bewail
   ANTONYMS: approve, commend, extol

5. frivolous (friv' ə ləs)
   (adj.) of little importance, not worthy of serious attention; not meant seriously
   I'll ignore your _____________________ suggestion.
   SYNONYMS: silly, foolish, inane, petty, trifling
   ANTONYMS: serious, important, significant

6. muster (mas' tər)
   (v.) to bring together for service or battle; to gather or summon; to amount to, comprise, include; (n.) a list of men for military service; a gathering, accumulation
   You will need to _____________________ up your courage to face the bully who has been tormenting you.
   The sleepy new recruits assembled on the parade ground for the early morning _____________________.
7. nonentity
   (nən' en'tə tē')
   (n.) a person or thing of no importance
   We may not be movie stars, but we did not deserve to be
treated as ______________________ by the
presumptuous headwaiter.
SYNONYM: nobody
ANTONYM: celebrity, superstar

8. obsess
   (āb ses')
   (v.) to trouble, haunt, or fill the mind
   If you allow fear of failure to ________________________
you, you will find it difficult or even impossible to achieve
your goals in life.
SYNONYM: preoccupy

9. ornate
   (ôr nāt')
   (adj.) elaborately decorated; showily splendid
   If you ask me, an _____________________________ gilded
frame distracts the viewer's eye from a simple drawing.
SYNONYMS: fancy, elaborate, flashy, flamboyant
ANTONYMS: simple, plain, stark, austere

10. oust
    (ao̅st)
    (v.) to remove, drive out of a position or place
    Military leaders _____________________________ the duly
elected president and took over the government.
SYNONYMS: expel, eject
ANTONYMS: admit, welcome

11. peruse
    (pa rūz')
    (v.) to read thoroughly and carefully
    It is wise to have a lawyer __________________________ an
agreement before you sign it.
SYNONYMS: study, pore over, scrutinize

12. porous
    (pôr' as)
    (adj.) full of tiny holes; able to be penetrated by air or water
    Some synthetic materials are as ____________________________
and strong as natural sponges.
SYNONYMS: leaky, permeable
ANTONYMS: airtight, waterproof, impermeable

13. promontory
    (präm' an tōr ē)
    (n.) a high point of land extending into water
    We chose a high ___________________________ overlooking
the sea as the perfect spot for our picnic lunch.
SYNONYMS: cliff, headland

14. prone
    (prōn)
    (adj.) lying face down; inclined, likely
    Unfortunately, I am ___________________________ to earaches
and sinus infections.
SYNONYMS: prostrate, liable, apt
ANTONYMS: standing upright, unlikely

15. qualm
(kwām)

(n.) a pang of conscience, uneasiness, misgiving, or doubt; a feeling of faintness or nausea

Don't you have serious ______________________ about voting for such a relatively unknown and inexperienced candidate?

SYNONYMS: regret, second thought, scruple

16. recourse
(rē' kôrs)

(n.) a person or thing turned to for help or advice; the act of seeking help or protection

If my letter of complaint fails to get results, I will still have ______________________ to a higher authority.

SYNONYMS: redress, remedy, resort

17. residue
(rez' a dú)

(n.) a remainder, that which remains when a part has been used up or removed

A ______________________ of sticky taffy made the pan difficult to clean.

SYNONYMS: remnant, remains, leavings

18. solicitous
(sə lis' at as)

(adj.) showing concern or care; fearful or anxious about someone or something

Neighbors made ______________________ inquiries about the state of the elderly couple's health.

SYNONYM: concerned
ANTONYMS: unconcerned, indifferent, apathetic

19. staid
(stād)

(adj.) serious and dignified; quiet or subdued in character or conduct

Many companies have a dress code which requires that all employees wear ______________________ colors such as navy or gray.

SYNONYMS: sedate, sober, prim
ANTONYMS: gaudy, jaunty, unconventional

20. sustain
(sə stān’)

(v.) to support, nourish, keep up; to suffer, undergo; to bear up under, withstand; to affirm the validity of

You may ______________________ a serious eye injury if you forget to wear your safety goggles when you work with chemicals or power tools.

SYNONYMS: foster, maintain
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.

1. Some people seem to have no __qualms____ about manipulating others to gain their own ends.

2. I do not criticize people for trying to get ahead, but I __deplor____ any attempt to take unfair advantage of others.

3. A lighthouse was built on the tip of the __promontory____, where it served as a beacon for ships many miles away.

4. "In that barren wasteland," the explorer said, "we had great difficulty finding enough food to __sustain____ life."

5. It is now time for you to take your work seriously and to give up some of the __frivolous____ activities of your earlier years.

6. Her public statements became so embarrassing that club members tried to __oust____ her from the presidency.

7. When we heard about our teacher's serious illness, we visited him daily in the hospital to __bolster____ his low morale.

8. The two sisters are very different—one lively and fun loving, the other quiet and rather __staid____.

9. If you feel that you have been cheated, your only __reourse____ is to make a complaint to the department of consumer affairs in your city.

10. I will not allow a single act of carelessness to __annul____ the results of years of hard work.

11. When we tried to carry water from the well, we found to our dismay that the bottom of the old bucket was __porous____.

12. Every able-bodied citizen will be __mustered____ into active military service to fight off the invading force.

13. People who constantly __obsess____ about their weight or figure may develop serious eating disorders.

14. The furnishings in their house are so __ornate____ that the place looks more like a museum than a family home.

15. There I was—an utter __nonentity____ in a group of famous and accomplished persons!

16. Certain saltlike chemicals may effectively prevent the streets from icing up in winter, but the powdery __residue____ they leave behind can damage footwear.

17. You should __peruse____ the instructions with great care before you fill out your application for admission.
Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

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. aghast
   (ə gast’)
   (adj.) filled with amazement, disgust, fear, or terror
   People were __________________________ at the senseless brutality of the crime.
   SYNONYMS: shocked, horrified, stupefied
   ANTonym: delighted, overjoyed, unmoved

2. ample
   (am’ pəl)
   (adj.) more than enough, large, spacious
   Thanks to the wet spring weather, birds and other animals will have an __________________________ supply of food for the rest of the year.
   SYNONYMS: sufficient, adequate, considerable
   ANTonym: insufficient, inadequate

3. apparition
   (ap ə rish’ ōn)
   (n.) a ghost or ghostly figure; an unexplained or unusual appearance
   The vivid __________________________ seemed so real that it completely unnerved me.
   SYNONYMS: phantom, specter

4. assert
   (ə sərt’)
   (v.) to declare or state as truth, maintain or defend, put forward forcefully
   Throughout the trial and the lengthy appeal process that followed, the defendant firmly __________________________ her innocence.
   SYNONYMS: affirm, avow

5. cower
   (kau’ ar)
   (v.) to crouch or shrink away from in fear or shame
   The tiny kittens __________________________ in the corner, obviously frightened by the huge, growling dog.
   SYNONYMS: cringe, flinch
   ANTonym: stand up to

6. disdain
   (dis dān’)
   (v.) to look upon with scorn; to refuse scornfully; (n.) a feeling of contempt
   I emphatically __________________________ their cowardly behavior.
   Fair-minded people have only __________________________ for racism in all its forms.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) spurn, reject
   ANTonyms: (v.) revere, venerate, esteem, respect
7. epitaph
   (epˈə taf)
   (n.) a brief statement written on a tomb or gravestone
   Most people never stop to consider the words that might one day appear as their own ________________.
   SYNONYM: tombstone inscription

8. ethical
   (ethˈə kəl)
   (adj.) having to do with morals, values, right and wrong; in accordance with standards of right conduct; requiring a prescription for purchase
   New developments in medicine often lead to discussions of important ________________ questions.
   SYNONYMS: upright, virtuous, honorable
   ANTONYMS: immoral, unscrupulous, dishonest

9. facetious
   (faˈsē ʃəs)
   (adj.) humorous, not meant seriously
   We had to laugh at her ________________ remarks.
   SYNONYMS: comical, witty, tongue-in-cheek
   ANTONYMS: serious, humorless

10. inaudible
    (ɪn ˈə da bəl)
    (adj.) not able to be heard
    Some high-frequency sounds are ________________ to even the keenest human ear.
    SYNONYMS: faint, indistinct
    ANTONYMS: audible, easily heard

11. indiscriminate
    (ɪn ˈdɪskrɪmənɪt)
    (adj.) without restraint or control; unselective
    The ________________ slaughter of right whales brought that species to the brink of extinction.
    SYNONYMS: haphazard, random, uncritical
    ANTONYMS: selective, discriminating, judicious

12. intrigue
    (ɪnˈtrɪɡ; v, inˈtrɪg aɪ)
    (n.) crafty dealings, underhanded plotting; (v.) to form and carry out plots; to puzzle or excite the curiosity
    Investigators uncovered a shocking network of lies and international ________________
    The old album full of faded family pictures and postcards from exotic places ________________ me.
    SYNONYMS: (n.) scheme, plot, conspiracy
    ANTONYM: (n.) fair play

13. jurisdiction
    (jʊr ɪs dɪkˈʃən)
    (n.) an area of authority or control; the right to administer justice
    Cases involving robbery and assault are usually tried under the ________________ of the state courts.
    SYNONYM: purview

14. plausible
    (pləˈzə bəl)
    (adj.) appearing true, reasonable, or fair
    Their story didn’t sound ________________ to me.
SYNONYMS: believable, probable
ANTONYMS: improbable, far-fetched

15. plebeian (pla bĕ' an)

(adj.) common, vulgar; belonging to the lower class; (n.) a common person, member of the lower class
Despite the couple's enormous wealth, their taste in cars and houses is surprisingly ____________________.
At one time, the ____________________ of ancient Rome were excluded from holding public office of any kind.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) lowborn, proletarian, coarse, unrefined
ANTONYMS: (adj.) aristocratic, refined, cultivated

16. prodigal (präd' a gal)

(adj.) wastefully extravagant; lavishly or generously abundant; (n.) one who is wasteful and self-indulgent
We have a tight budget, but we make an exception for ____________________ celebrations on family birthdays.
The elderly man told us that he greatly regretted the years he spent living the life of a ____________________
SYNONYMS: (adj.) improvident; (n.) spendthrift, wastrel
ANTONYMS: (adj.) frugal, economical, stingy, miserly

17. proximity (präk sim' a tē)

(n.) nearness, closeness
People with children often choose a house because of its ____________________ to schools.
ANTONYMS: distance, remoteness

18. pulverize (pal' və rız)

(v.) to grind or pound to a powder or dust; to destroy or overcome (as though by smashing into fragments)
At many old mills in Vermont, granite stones were used to ____________________ the grain.
SYNONYMS: crush, demolish

19. sequel (sē' kwal)

(n.) that which follows, a result; a literary work or film continuing the story of one written or made earlier
Readers are eagerly awaiting a ____________________ to the author's best-selling mystery novel.
SYNONYMS: follow-up, continuation
ANTONYMS: prelude, overture, curtain-raiser

20. volatile (väl' a tal)

(adj.) highly changeable, fickle; tending to become violent or explosive; changing readily from the liquid to the gaseous state
A person who is usually calm and collected may nevertheless sometimes behave in a ____________________ manner.
SYNONYMS: unstable, erratic
ANTONYMS: stable, steady, static, inert, dormant
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.

1. Observers on the ground were ______ to see the rocket explode and plunge back to earth seconds after launch.
2. Although they did not dare to attack the emperor's favorite publicly, they ______ in secret to bring about his downfall.
3. Since you were given ______ time to prepare your report, I can see no excuse for your failure to complete it.
4. The giant crushers lifted the boulders and quickly ______ them into a uniform gray powder.
5. In answer to unfair criticisms, we ______ proudly that Americans have been most generous in giving aid to the needy.
6. The way the child ______ in fear whenever an adult spoke to him gave me the impression that he had been mistreated from infancy.
7. A(n) ______ viewer, who watches any program, good or bad, is bound to waste a lot of time.
8. Because the public-address system was not working, the voice of the speaker was completely ______ to most of the people in the hall.
9. The planning board refused to allow the construction of a factory in close ______ to our school building.
10. Who would be so proud or so foolish as to ______ a helping hand in time of real need?
11. The writer of the mystery story set up an interesting situation, but in my opinion the ending was not ______
12. Regulation of radio and TV stations falls within the ______ of the federal government.
13. People of all religions strive to live up to the ______ standards summarized in the Ten Commandments.
14. Although nature has been far from ______ with its gifts to Japan, that nation has become highly productive and prosperous.
15. Did Ben Jonson write the ______ that is engraved on Shakespeare's tombstone?
16. I hope he was just being ______ when he said that my dancing reminded him of a trained bear.
17. In that elegant French restaurant, which serves all kinds of fancy foods, she ordered a(n) ______ ham and cheese on rye.
Definitions

1. abashed
   (ə basht′)
   (adj., part.) embarrassed, ashamed, or nonplussed
   I was thoroughly __________________ by the foolish mistake that I made at the dinner party.
   ANTONYMS: unembarrassed, unashamed

2. aloof
   (ə lůf′)
   (adj.) withdrawn, standing apart from others (usually as a matter of choice)
   In almost every office or business, there are some people who keep decidedly __________________ from their coworkers.
   SYNONYMS: distant, cold, standoffish
   ANTONYMS: involved, sociable

3. anguish
   (an′j gwish)
   (n.) great mental suffering, distress, or pain; (v.) to be deeply tormented by pain or sorrow
   Survivors of a natural disaster often suffer great mental __________________ long after their terrible ordeal is over.
   The child's disappearance __________________ every member of the community.
   SYNONYMS: (n.) misery, woe, torment
   ANTONYMS: (n.) joy, delight, peace of mind

4. articulate
   (v., är tik′ yu lät; adj., är tik′ ya-lit)
   (v.) to pronounce distinctly; to express well in words; to fit together into a system; (adj.) able to use language effectively; expressed clearly and forcefully
   A successful candidate can __________________ ideas in a way that makes them acceptable to voters.
   To be successful as a professional lecturer, a person must, of necessity, be __________________.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) enunciate, expound; (adj.) glib, eloquent
   ANTONYMS: (adj.) tongue-tied, mumbled, incoherent

5. bask
   (bask)
   (v.) to be in, or expose oneself to, pleasant warmth; to take pleasure in or derive enjoyment from
   Because they are cold-blooded creatures, lizards and other reptiles must __________________ in the sun to regulate their body temperature.
   SYNONYMS: wallow, revel
6. defect
(n., dē' fekt; v., dī fekt')
(n.) an imperfection, flaw, or blemish of some kind; (v.) to desert a cause or organization

There is no one who does not have at least one serious character ________________________.

In 1948 the Dixiecrats ________________________ from the Democratic Party and held their own presidential nominating convention.

7. finesse
(fī nes')
(n.) delicate skill; tact and cleverness; (v.) to accomplish something by cleverness, good judgment, or skillful evasion

To become a champion, a tennis player needs to combine power with ________________________

Skilled politicians know how to ________________________ their answers to embarrassing questions from reporters.
SYNONYMS: (n.) delicacy, subtlety
ANTONYMS: (n.) clumsiness, awkwardness

8. flaunt
(flōnt)
(v.) to wave or flutter showily; to display in a conceited, offensive way

Some people seem to need to ________________________ their wealth and good fortune in life.
SYNONYMS: show off, parade
ANTONYMS: hide, downplay

9. forthright
(fōrth' rīt)
(adj.) frank, direct, straightforward

I appreciate the ________________________ way in which you express your opinions, even when they do not agree with my own.
SYNONYMS: candid, blunt
ANTONYMS: indirect, evasive, deceitful, two-faced

10. genial
(jēn' yəl)
(adj.) cordial, pleasantly cheerful or warm

The ________________________ host and hostess made each party guest feel especially welcome.
SYNONYMS: friendly, amiable
ANTONYMS: cold, unfriendly, unsociable

11. instill
(in stil')
(v.) to add gradually; to introduce or cause to be taken in

How can parents best ________________________ in their children a love for reading?
SYNONYMS: implant, infuse, inculcate
ANTONYMS: root out, eradicate, extirpate

12. ostracize
(ās' trā sīz)
(v.) to exclude from a group, banish, send away

Society ________________________ those who commit acts of treason.
SYNONYMS: cast out, expel, blackball, snub
ANTONYMS: fraternize with, associate with
14. pseudonym
(sũ' da nim)

(n.) a pen name, name assumed by a writer

It is wise to use a ____________________________ to protect your privacy when you chat on the Internet.
SYNONYM: nom de plume

15. purge
(parj)

(v.) to wash away impurities, clean up; (n.) the process of getting rid of something or someone decisively

A soaking rainstorm will usually ____________________________ the air of pollutants.
The change of government was achieved through a peaceful election rather than a brutal ____________________________.
SYNONYMS: (v) cleanse, purify
ANTONYMS: (v) pollute, contaminate, defile

16. rehabilitate
(rẽ hə bıl' ə tät)

(v.) to make over in good form; to restore to good condition or to a former position

Over the years government agencies have spent a good deal of money trying to ____________________________ run-down inner-city neighborhoods.
SYNONYMS: reclaim, rebuild, reform

17. repercussion
(rã par kash' an)

(n.) an effect or consequence of some action or event, result; an echo or reverberation

The ____________________________ of the 1929 stock market crash were felt all over the world.
ANTONYMS: cause, source

18. resolute
(rez' ə lút)

(adj.) bold, determined; firm

Commencement-day speakers generally urge new graduates to be ____________________________ in pursuit of their dreams.
SYNONYMS: steadfast, unflinching
ANTONYMS: weak, spineless, indecisive

19. retentive
(rí tent' iv)

(adj.) able to hold, keep, or recall; retaining knowledge easily

A ____________________________ memory is a great asset for any actor, especially one who performs on stage.
ANTONYMS: porous, forgetful

0. scapegoat
(skáp' gōt)

(n.) a person or thing carrying the blame for others

In ancient times, a messenger who brought bad news was often made the ____________________________ for it and killed.
SYNONYMS: fall guy, whipping boy
From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. Good citizens don't try to remain _______ from the problems and troubles in their communities.

2. Although every form of government has its _______ , democracy has more pluses and fewer minuses than any other.

3. I criticize him not because he makes mistakes but because he constantly looks for a(n) _______ to take the blame for them.

4. The defendant was found not guilty at his trial, but his punishment came when he was _______ by all his friends.

5. We learned that beneath the old man's quiet and withdrawn manner, there was a charming and _______ personality.

6. Although Hal was the only boy at the party wearing sneakers and an old sweatshirt, he did not seem at all _______.

7. Instead of a(n) _______ answer, all we got from her was, "In one sense, yes, but on the other hand, perhaps no."

8. It took four years of civil war to _______ this nation of the curse of slavery.

9. Since we all know that you sing and play the piano beautifully, what need is there for you to _______ your musical talents?

10. I have learned over the years that it is often possible to accomplish more by _______ than by brute force.

11. Even though I assured my dying grandfather that I would visit him soon, I had a strange _______ that I would never see him again.

12. I think you will know who William S. Porter was if I tell you that he used the _______ O. Henry.

13. The star basketball player _______ in the admiration of every small child in the neighborhood.

14. She has such a(n) _______ mind that she seems able to master complicated details without even taking notes.

15. The speaker could not be understood easily because he swallowed his words instead of _______ them clearly.

16. By the example of their own conduct, our parents _______ in us a deep respect for people of all races, nationalities, and religions.

17. In recent years, pollution of our waterways has had serious and sometimes fatal _______ on the wildlife that inhabits them.
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. acme
   (n.) the highest point
   A perfect game is the ____________________________ of any pitcher's career in baseball.
SYNONYMS: summit, top, peak, pinnacle
ANTONYMS: low point, bottom, nadir

2. attribute
   (n., at' trë byút; v., a trib' yät)
   (n.) a quality or characteristic belonging to or associated with someone or something; (v.) to assign to, credit with; to regard as caused by or resulting from
   The ____________________________ I most admire in you is your willingness to give everyone's opinions a fair hearing.
   The doctor ____________________________ my runny nose and itchy eyes to multiple allergies.
SYNONYMS: (n.) trait; (v.) ascribe

3. belittle
   (bi lit' al)
   (v.) to make something appear smaller than it is; to refer to in a way that suggests lack of importance or value
   Candidates for public office may resort to negative ads that ____________________________ their opponents' records.
SYNONYMS: minimize, underrate, disparage
ANTONYMS: exaggerate, magnify, overestimate

4. convey
   (ken vä’)
   (v.) to transport; to transmit; to communicate, make known; to transfer ownership or title to
   Please ____________________________ our best wishes to your parents on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.
SYNONYMS: carry, send, impart

5. doctrine
   (däk’ trin)
   (n.) a belief, principle, or teaching; a system of such beliefs or principles; a formulation of such beliefs or principles
   No two religions see eye to eye on every fine detail of ____________________________.

6. excise
   (v., ek siz’; n., ek’ siz)
   (v.) to remove by cutting; (n.) an indirect tax on the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a commodity or service
   If you ____________________________ that irrelevant remark, you will improve your essay.
   The ____________________________ imposed on such potentially dangerous products as tobacco and alcohol have skyrocketed.
7. exotic  
(adj.) foreign; charmingly unfamiliar or strikingly unusual  
A recipe may call for ________________ herbs and spices that are difficult to obtain.  
SYNONYMS: strange, alien, picturesque, colorful  
ANTONYMS: native, indigenous, familiar, commonplace

8. haggard  
(adj.) thin, pale, and careworn as a result of worry or suffering; wild-looking  
The ________________ refugees were given food, clothing, and temporary shelter.  
SYNONYMS: drawn, gaunt, wasted  
ANTONYMS: healthy, glowing, radiant, hale and hearty

9. jaunty  
(adj.) lively, easy, and carefree in manner; smart or trim in appearance  
I bought a ________________ straw hat.  
SYNONYMS: unconcerned, lighthearted  
ANTONYMS: downcast, dejected, glum

10. juncture  
(n.) a joining together; the point at which two things are joined; any important point in time  
Our property ends at the ________________ of the two stone walls.  
SYNONYMS: union, seam, joint, turning point

11. menial  
(adj.) lowly, humble, lacking importance or dignity; (n.) a person who does the humble and unpleasant tasks  
During the Great Depression, people were thankful to have work of any kind, no matter how _________________.  
New immigrants may find jobs as ________________ in hotels and restaurants.  
SYNONYMS: (n.) underling, scullion, servant  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) lofty, elevated; (n.) boss, master

12. parry  
(v.) to ward off, fend off, deflect, evade, avoid; (n.) a defensive movement in fencing and other sports  
An effective press secretary can ________________ almost any question a reporter asks.  
The challenger's swift ________________ caught the champion completely off guard.

13. predatory  
(adj.) preying on, plundering, or piratical  
Owls and other ________________ birds play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature.
14. **ravage** *(ravˈ īj)*

*(v.)* to destroy, lay waste, ruin; *(n.)* ruinous damage, destruction

Swarms of locusts __________________________ the farmer’s fields and orchards.

No one can escape the __________________________ of time.

**SYNONYMS:** *(v.)* wreck, devastate
**ANTONYM:** *(v.)* spare

15. **stance** *(stans)*

*(n.)* a way of holding the body; an attitude or position on an issue

A fashion model’s __________________________ is calculated to show off a designer’s clothing to best advantage.

**SYNONYMS:** posture, bearing

16. **tawdry** *(tōˈ dra̱)*

*(adj.)* showy and flashy but lacking in good taste

An excess of gold braid and glitzy beads gave the costumes a __________________________ look.

**SYNONYMS:** loud, garish, gaudy, tacky, vulgar
**ANTONYMS:** refined, tasteful, subdued, muted

17. **turncoat** *(tarnˈ kōt)*

*(n.)* a person who switches to an opposing side or party

Strikers generally consider those workers who cross the picket lines to be __________________________

**SYNONYMS:** traitor, quisling, deserter, renegade
**ANTONYMS:** loyalist, diehard

18. **unassuming** *(an ə sūˈ min)*

*(adj.)* not putting on airs, unpretentious; modest

Many celebrities remain __________________________ despite their fame and wealth.

**SYNONYMS:** conceited, pretentious, self-important

19. **wallow** *(wälˈ ə̱)*

*(v.)* to roll about in a lazy, clumsy, or helpless way; to overindulge in; to have in abundance; *(n.)* a wet, muddy, or dusty area used by animals as a sort of bath; a state of moral or physical collapse

After a strenuous hike, I was too tired to do anything but __________________________ blissfully in a hot bath.

On the Serengeti Plain, __________________________ offer animals much-needed relief from the sun’s scorching rays.

**SYNONYMS:** *(v.)* delight in, bask in

20. **waver** *(wāˈ var)*

*(v.)* to move to and fro, become unsteady; to show lack of firmness or decision

The committee __________________________ for several days before choosing the winner of the essay contest.

**SYNONYMS:** hesitate, falter
**ANTONYM:** stand firm, be resolute
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.

1. Her happy expression and the jaunty way she walked down the street gave the impression of someone "on top of the world."

2. Two of our divisions were marching rapidly toward each other and hoped to effect a(n) junction before the enemy attacked.

3. Since my boss has, as they say, "a short fuse," patience cannot be considered one of her outstanding attributes.

4. Most Americans think of Australia as a strange and wonderful continent full of exotic plants and animals.

5. Because of his ability to parry his opponents' blows, he was rarely hurt in his many fights in the ring.

6. Disease had so ravaged his once-handsome face that I could scarcely recognize him.

7. In her most celebrated novels, such as Pride and Prejudice and Emma, Jane Austen reached the acme of her literary art.

8. A baseball player who improves his stance at the plate usually also improves his batting average.

9. In the early nineteenth century, Thomas Bowdler attempted to "clean up" the works of Shakespeare by excising all words and phrases that he felt were coarse or offensive.

10. She sat there staring at the menu, wavering between the steak sandwich and the chef's salad.

11. When he switched parties, people called him a(n) turncoat, but he said that he had just had an honest change of opinion.

12. The room was so overcrowded with gaudy furnishings that the overall effect was cheap and tawdry.

13. I agree that we should not exaggerate her achievements, but we should not be little them either.

14. Though many predatory creatures prefer to hunt at night, lions and leopards are active during the daytime.

15. The author's first published work was a rather unassuming little pamphlet on the joys of fly fishing.

16. The Monroe Doctrine sought to prevent the colonization of the American continents by European powers.

17. During our trip through Kenya, we took many pictures of hippos as they wallow in a mudhole.
Definitions

1. abut
   (ə batˈ)
   (v.) to join at one end or be next to; to support, prop up
   Land that ____________________________ a river or lake is
   considered a highly desirable location on which to build a
   summer home.
   SYNONYMS: border on, bolster

2. attire
   (ə t̬ rˈ)
   (n.) clothes, apparel, garb; (v.) to dress, adorn, or bedeck
   The special ____________________________ that firefighters
   wear helps to protect them from flames and smoke.
   The children happily ____________________________ their
   stuffed animals in holiday outfits and accessories.
   SYNONYM: (n.) clothing

3. avail
   (ə vālˈ)
   (v.) to be of use or benefit to; to make use of; to take advantage
   of; to profit or benefit; (n.) use, benefit, or value
   Be sure to ____________________________ yourself of all
   the services that the school library has to offer.
   I tried repeatedly to contact my neighbor by phone, but to
   absolutely no ____________________________.

4. crony
   (krōˈ nē)
   (n.) a very close friend, pal, chum, buddy
   We have been ____________________________ ever since
   we met in the second grade.
   ANTONYMS: enemy, rival

5. cryptic
   (krɪpˈ tɪk)
   (adj.) puzzling, mystifying, or enigmatic
   The letter to the editor was so ____________________________
   that I couldn’t be certain what the writer had actually
   intended to say.
   ANTONYMS: crystal clear, unambiguous

6. divergent
   (də vərˈ jənt)
   (adj.) going in different directions; different from each other;
   departing from convention, deviant
   Two people may be close friends despite their having very
   ____________________________ interests and beliefs.
   SYNONYMS: not in agreement, differing, unorthodox, unconventional
   ANTONYMS: merging, intersecting, converging, orthodox, conventional
7. enmity
   (en′ mə tē)  (n.) hatred, ill-will
   Despite a long, close, and tense match, the defeated player felt no __________ toward the new champion.
   SYNONYMS: hostility, animosity, antagonism
   ANTONYMS: friendship, amity

8. fervent
   (far′ vent)  (adj.) very earnest, emotional, passionate; extremely hot
   The president delivered a ________________ plea for tolerance and unity.
   SYNONYMS: enthusiastic, ardent, burning, blazing, scorching
   ANTONYMS: blasé, apathetic, restrained, emotionless

9. gaunt
   (gōnt)  (adj.) thin and bony, starved looking; bare, barren
   We left food and water for the ________________ alley cat.
   SYNONYMS: lean, scrawny, lanky, all skin and bones
   ANTONYMS: plump, chubby, stout, corpulent

10. infiltrate
    (in′ fil trāt)  (v.) to pass through or gain entrance to gradually or stealthily
    Some of our men ________________ the enemy's camp and captured their leader.
    SYNONYMS: slip into, creep into, penetrate

11. nullify
    (nal′ a fī)  (v.) to make of no value or consequence, cancel, wipe out
    After seven days, you cannot ________________ the contract without being charged a penalty.
    SYNONYMS: invalidate, annul
    ANTONYMS: confirm, endorse, ratify, sanction

12. perceptible
    (par sep′ tə bal)  (adj.) capable of being grasped by the senses or mind
    There was no ________________ improvement in the patient's condition despite the doctors' best efforts to treat the infection.
    SYNONYMS: noticeable, discernible, observable
    ANTONYMS: invisible, unnoticeable, indiscernible

13. plummet
    (plem′ at)  (v.) to plunge straight down; (n.) a weight fastened to a line
    Gannets and other seabirds ________________ headfirst into the ocean to catch small fish and squid.
    Experts think the pierced round stones found at the site served as ________________ to weight fishing nets.
    SYNONYMS: (v.) take a nosedive
    ANTONYMS: (v.) soar, skyrocket
14. proclaim (prə klām’)

(v.) to declare publicly or officially

We __________________ our loyalty to our country when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
SYNONYMS: announce, promulgate
ANTONYMS: conceal, cover up

15. proxy (präk’ sē)

(n.) an agent, substitute; a written permission allowing one person to act in another’s place

The vice president may be called upon to be the president’s __________________ at the funeral of a foreign leader.
SYNONYMS: deputy, representative

16. rankle (ran’ kāl)

(v.) to cause anger, irritation, or bitterness (with the suggestion that the pain grows worse with time)

Insults may __________________ a person for many years.
SYNONYMS: irritate, vex, nettle, irk, gall
ANTONYMS: please, delight, gratify

17. scavenger (skav’ ān jār)

(n.) a person who collects or removes usable items from waste materials; an animal that feeds on refuse or dead bodies

A few __________________ such as catfish and other bottom feeders will help to keep a fish tank clean.
SYNONYM: rummager

18. stint (stint)

(v.) to limit, be sparing or frugal; (n.) a limit or restriction; a fixed share of work or duty; a period of activity

Good hosts never __________________ on food and drink for the guests who attend their parties.

A __________________ as the guest host of a popular talk show may be a big career break for a young comedian.
SYNONYMS: (v.) restrict, scrimp, economize
ANTONYMS: (v.) splurge, squander, lavish

19. stoical (stō’ ī kāl)

(adj.) self-controlled, not showing feeling in response to pleasure or pain

The refugees’ __________________ acceptance of their plight was deeply moving.
SYNONYMS: unresponsive, impassive
ANTONYMS: excitable, emotional, hotheaded

20. unflagging (ən flag’ ĭn)

(v.) tireless, continuing with vigor

After the votes were counted, the candidates paid tribute to the __________________ loyalty of their supporters.
SYNONYMS: steady, undiminished, unremitting
ANTONYMS: diminishing, drooping, sagging
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.

1. The statements by witnesses are so ___________ that it's hard to know how the accident actually happened.
2. All her efforts to get more business for her troubled company proved to be of no ___________, and the store had to close down.
3. Even after he retired and we expected him to slow down, his efforts in support of his beloved school remained ___________.
4. Each year the president ___________ the last Thursday in the month of November as a day of national thanksgiving.
5. As a teenager, she developed a(n) ___________ interest in biology that led to a lifelong career.
6. Shakespeare said that Cassius had a "lean and hungry look," but I would describe him by the single word ___________.
7. Over a period of years, words and phrases used in the field of computer science ___________ everyday speech.
8. Although the vulture has a decidedly poor reputation, it does a useful job as a(n) ___________.
9. Their parents had ___________ for many years to save the money needed to send the children to college.
10. In our community, people of many ethnic backgrounds work together without jealousy or ___________.
11. Instead of giving us a clear answer, the speaker confined himself to the ___________ prophecy that "time will tell."
12. His failure to win the election ___________ in his mind until it caused a complete emotional breakdown.
13. To prepare for the job interview, she ___________ herself in a neat, simple navy blue suit.
14. We watched in dismay as our new model airplane suddenly went out of control and ___________ to the ground.
15. We decided not to buy the house, mainly because the property it stands on unfortunately ___________ the noisy main highway.
16. Since I will not be able to attend the meeting, I hereby appoint Ms. Brown to act as my ___________.
17. My father has three ___________ who go with him each year on a camping trip in the High Sierras.
UNIT 9

Definitions

1. apt
   (adj.) suitable, fitting, likely; quick to learn
   The appropriate greeting card for a particular occasion is one that expresses ________________ sentiments.
   SYNONYMS: appropriate, fit, proper, liable
   ANTONYMS: inappropriate, unlikely, slow

2. awry
   (adj., adv.) in a turned or twisted position or direction; wrong, out of the right or hoped-for course
   After running to catch the bus, I realized that my clothing was all ________________.
   When something goes ________________ during a countdown, NASA officials will cancel a shuttle launch.
   SYNONYMS: (adj.) crooked, askew, amiss
   ANTONYMS: (adj.) straight, symmetrical

3. bludgeon
   (n.) a short club used as a weapon; (v.) to strike with a heavy club; to use force or strong arguments to gain some point
   Early humans fashioned ________________ from the thick limbs of trees.
   Heavy-handed writers tend to ________________ readers with explanations of their characters' motives.
   SYNONYMS: (n.) cudgel; (v.) clobber, clout

4. capitulate
   (v.) to end resistance, give up, surrender, throw in the towel
   When I saw that I had been outmaneuvered by my opponent, I had no choice but to ________________.
   ANTONYMS: hold out, persist

5. chafe
   (v.) to warm by rubbing; to wear sore by rubbing; to feel annoyance or dissatisfaction, annoy, irk; to strain or press against; (n.) a sore or injury caused by rubbing
   The American colonists ________________ under the many unjust laws imposed on them by King George II.
   To keep that raw ________________ from becoming infected, you should put a clean bandage on it.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) irritate, scrape, abrade
   ANTONYMS: (v.) soothe, mollify, please, elate
6. defile
(difil')

(v., trans.) to make unclean or dirty, destroy the purity of;
(v., intrans.) to march in a single line or in columns; (n.) a narrow passage; gorge, canyon

Those who ______________________ a house of worship will be punished to the full extent of the law.

The victorious troops ______________________ past the reviewing stand.

The weary hikers paused to rest before proceeding through the steep and rocky ______________________.

SYNONYMS: (v., trans.) pollute, contaminate, desecrate
ANTONYMS: (v., trans.) cleanse, purify

7. dire
(dīr)

(adj.) dreadful, causing fear or suffering; warning of trouble to come; demanding immediate action to avoid disaster

Environmentalists warn of the ______________________ consequences of the destruction of the world's rain forests.

SYNONYMS: disastrous, ominous, sinister, urgent
ANTONYMS: favorable, auspicious, beneficial

8. disarming
(dis är'm' in)

(adj.) charming, tending to get rid of unfriendliness or suspicion

My best friend has a most ______________________ smile.

SYNONYMS: endearing, winning
ANTONYMS: alarming, troubling, disquieting

9. disgruntled
(dis grant' ald)

(adj., part) in bad humor, discontented, annoyed

When flights are delayed because of bad weather, airline passengers may become extremely ______________________.

SYNONYMS: displeased, grumpy, surly
ANTONYMS: pleased, satisfied, content

10. encroach
(en krōch')

(v.) to advance beyond the usual or proper limits, trespass

Where suburbs ______________________ on unspoiled forests or wetlands, delicate ecosystems may be disrupted.

SYNONYMS: intrude, infringe

11. endow
(en dau')

(v.) to furnish, equip, provide with funds or some other desirable thing or quality

Wealthy individuals often make provisions in their wills to ______________________ their favorite charities.

SYNONYMS: grant, bestow, present, bequeath
ANTONYMS: take away, deprive

12. fend
(fend)

(v.) to ward off, resist; to get along, manage

A novel's heroine may have to ______________________ off the proposals of unappealing suitors.

SYNONYMS: stave off, cope
13. impunity
(im pyl' na tə)
(n.) freedom from punishment
Bullies must be made to realize that they cannot push other people around with _____________.
SYNONYMS: exemption from penalty, immunity

✓ 14. mien
(mên)
(n.) air, manner; appearance; expression
A person may adopt a cheerful _____________.
in an attempt to conceal sorrow or anger.
SYNONYMS: look, bearing, demeanor

✓ 15. penal
(pē' nel)
(adj.) having to do with punishment
Devil's Island, off the coast of French Guiana, was once the site of an infamous _____________.
SYNONYMS: correctional, disciplinary

✓ 16. pertinent
(par' tä nənt)
(adj.) related to the matter at hand, to the point
The joke you told was very amusing, but I fail to see how it was _____________.
to the conversation.
SYNONYMS: relevant, germane, apropos
ANTONYMS: unrelated, irrelevant, immaterial

✓ 17. predominant
(pri däm' ə nənt)
(adj.) the greatest in strength or power; most common
Cy Young, for whom the coveted pitching award is named,
was once the _____________.
SYNONYMS: chief, major, paramount, prevalent
ANTONYMS: secondary, minor, subsidiary, rare

✓ 18. prodigy
(präd' a jē)
(n.) something wonderful or marvelous; something monstrous or abnormal; an unusual feat; a child or young person with extraordinary ability or talent
The careers of some musical _____________.
have turned out to be short-lived.
SYNONYMS: marvel, wonder, freak, genius
ANTONYMS: dumbbell, dunce, dullard

✓ 19. recluse
(re' klüs)
(n.) a person who leads a life shut up or withdrawn from the world
An individual who has suffered a great emotional loss may become something of a _____________.
SYNONYMS: loner, hermit

✓ 20. renown
(nə nən')
(n.) fame, glory
Some writers earn acclaim during their lifetime, but others win _____________.
only after their death.
SYNONYMS: reputation, celebrity, prestige
ANTONYMS: obscurity, infamy, notoriety
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.

1. Even before Martin Luther King, Jr., won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, his **renown** had spread throughout most of the world.

2. The Scottish poet Robert Burns reminds us that no matter how carefully we plan, things may still go **awry**.

3. As the jurors filed back into the courtroom, their stern **mien** alarmed the defendants.

4. Shoes that will not **chafe** your feet are the most important part of the equipment you will need for a hike.

5. The couple's parents promised that they would not be the kind of meddling in-laws who **encroach** on the privacy of their married children.

6. When his efforts to **fend** off the angry bill collectors proved unsuccessful, my uncle was forced to declare bankruptcy.

7. It is up to you to make good use of the talents with which nature has seen fit to **endow** you.

8. The brave soldiers defending the fort **capitulated** only when they realized that further resistance was useless.

9. Even though you are **disgruntled** because the candidate you favored did not win the nomination, you should still vote in the election.

10. In your answers, try to limit yourself to giving us only the details that you know are **pertinent** to this investigation.

11. Do you believe that the crime rate will go down if the **penal** code is made more severe?

12. We were amazed that the large, fierce-looking dog allowed the child to pull its tail with **impunity**.

13. Some people have a decidedly unpleasant habit of using facts and figures like a(n) **bludgeon** to beat down their opponents in an argument.

14. To carry out his great work, he chose to separate himself from society and live the solitary life of a(n) **recluse**.

15. Let us hope that scientists are wrong in their **dire** predictions that there will be a major earthquake in our region.

16. True, I wanted to make some money, but my **predominant** reason for taking the job was that I needed practical work experience.

17. Sideshow exhibits at the circus usually include mermaids, wolf-men, and other so-called **prodigies** of nature.
Definitions

1. accord
   (ə kôrd′)
   (n.) agreement, harmony; (v.) to agree, be in harmony or bring into harmony; to grant, bestow on
   The labor union reached an ____________________________
   with management before the midnight deadline.
   The Nobel Committee ____________________________ the Peace Prize to the Red Cross in 1917, 1944, and 1963.
   SYNONYM: (n.) mutual understanding
   ANTONYMS: (n.) disagreement, conflict, friction

2. barter
   (bär′ tar)
   (n.) an exchange in trade; (v.) to exchange goods
   By definition, ____________________________ does not involve the exchange of money in any form.
   According to the Bible, Esau ____________________________ away his birthright for a hot meal.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) trade, swap
   ANTONYMS: (v.) sell, buy, purchase

3. curt
   (kərt)
   (adj.) short, rudely brief
   Tour guides are trained to give complete and polite answers to questions, not ____________________________ responses.
   SYNONYMS: rude, brusque, terse, summary
   ANTONYMS: civil, courteous, lengthy, detailed

4. devise
   (di vîz′)
   (v.) to think out, plan, figure out, invent, create
   The advertising agency ____________________________ clever television commercials promoting the new car.
   SYNONYMS: concoct, contrive, work out, design

5. dexterous
   (dek′ sträs)
   (adj.) skillful in the use of hands or body; clever
   The ____________________________ movements of those master chefs we see on TV took years of practice to perfect.
   SYNONYMS: agile, handy, deft
   ANTONYMS: clumsy, awkward, ungainly

6. engross
   (en grōs′)
   (v.) to occupy the complete attention, absorb fully
   The exciting new film ____________________________ every member of the audience.
   SYNONYMS: immerse, preoccupy
   ANTONYMS: bore, stultify, put to sleep
7. entail
   (v., en tāl';
   n., en' tāl)
   (v.) to put a burden on, impose, require, involve; to restrict
   ownership of property by limiting inheritance; (n.) such a restriction
   Reaching your goals will ____________________________
   both hard work and sacrifice.
   By tradition, an ____________________________ requires that
   our family home must pass to the eldest child.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) necessitate
   ANTONYMS: (v.) exclude, rule out, preclude

8. ferret
   (fer' st)
   (n.) a kind of weasel; (v.) to search or hunt out; to torment, badger
   ____________________________ were once used to chase
   rabbits and other pests from their burrows.
   No matter how long it takes, we'll keep asking questions
   until we ____________________________ out the true story.
   SYNONYMS: (v.) track down, sniff out

9. habituate
   (ha bich' ü ät)
   (v.) to become used to; to cause to become used to
   Rookies who quickly ____________________________ themselves
   to discipline can make important contributions to a team.
   SYNONYMS: acclimate, inure, get used to
   ANTONYMS: deprogram, brainwash

10. impending
    (im pen' din)
    (adj., part.) about to happen, hanging over in a menacing way.
    If you have studied hard, you will have no reason to worry
    about your ____________________________ final exams.
    SYNONYMS: imminent, upcoming
    ANTONYMS: distant, remote

11. personable
    (pars' nà bal)
    (adj.) pleasing in appearance or personality, attractive.
    A group of very ____________________________ and enthusiastic
    teens volunteered to help senior citizens with daily chores.
    SYNONYMS: charming, agreeable, likable
    ANTONYMS: unpleasant, disagreeable, obnoxious

12. rue
    (rū)
    (v.) to regret, be sorry for; (n.) a feeling of regret
    It is only natural to ____________________________ mistakes
    and missed opportunities.
    My heart was filled with ____________________________ when
    I realized how thoughtlessly I had behaved.
    SYNONYMS: (v.) lament, repent
    ANTONYMS: (v.) cherish

13. scoff
    (skāf)
    (v.) to make fun of; to show contempt for
    People once ____________________________ at the notion,
    the use of personal computers would become widespread.
SYNONYMS: ridicule, laugh at, jeer at
ANTONYMS: take seriously, admire, revere

14. transition (tran zish' an) (n.) a change from one state or condition to another
Because of a change in leadership, the country is undergoing a period of political ____________________.
SYNONYMS: changeover, conversion, switch, passage

15. trepidation (trep a dâ' shan) (n.) fear, fright, trembling
Even veteran actors experience ____________________ just before they go on stage.
SYNONYMS: dread, anxiety, apprehension
ANTONYMS: confidence, self-assurance, poise

16. upbraid (ap brâ'd) (v.) to blame, scold, find fault with
The police officer ____________________ the driver for blocking the crosswalk.
SYNONYMS: bawl out, reprimand
ANTONYMS: praise, pat on the back

17. veritable (ver' a ta bal) (adj.) actual, true, real
Those dusty old boxes in my grandparents' attic contained a ____________________ treasure trove of rare books and antiques.
ANTONYMS: false, specious

18. vex (veks) (v.) to annoy, anger, exasperate; to confuse, baffle
The annual task of filling out federal and state income tax returns ____________________ many people.
SYNONYMS: irritate, irk, puzzle, distress
ANTONYMS: please, delight, soothe, mollify

19. vitality (vî tal' a tê) (n.) strength, energy, liveliness; the capacity to live and develop; the power to endure or survive
To win a marathon, a runner must have patience, speed, and exceptional ____________________.
SYNONYMS: vigor, stamina
ANTONYMS: lifelessness, torpor, lethargy

20. whimsical (whim' za kal) (adj.) subject to odd ideas, notions, or fancies; playful; unpredictable
P. T. Barnum was famous for ____________________ drawings of wildly impractical contraptions.
SYNONYMS: odd, peculiar, quaint, fanciful
ANTONYMS: serious, sober, matter-of-fact, realistic

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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.

1. Although the salesclerk didn't seem to know the stock very well, he was so pleasant and **personable** that we were very glad to have him serving us.

2. I don't expect long explanations, but why must his answers to my questions be so **curt**?

3. Every time I go to the dentist, she **upbraids** me for eating things that are bad for my teeth.

4. Before you make fun of my new automatic back scratcher, remember how people **scoffed** at Edison and the Wright brothers.

5. It is the job of a gossip columnist to **ferret** out the "secrets of the stars."

6. Although I have read *Peter Pan* many times, the **whimsical** characters and imaginative story never fail to amuse me.

7. The project I am working on **engrossed** me so thoroughly that I forgot to stop for lunch.

8. During the twentieth century, many countries in Africa and Asia made the **transition** from colonial status to national independence.

9. Her early years on her family's farm **habituated** her to long hours and hard manual labor.

10. The **dexterous** fingers of the great violinist were guided by his deep understanding of the music.

11. Before applying for that job, you should know that it **entails** the use of a computer.

12. At a well-known theater in Virginia, playgoers could **barter** various kinds of food for the price of admission.

13. The purpose of this meeting is to **devise** a plan for encouraging recycling in our community.

14. You should try not to allow petty annoyances to **vex** you so much.

15. One doesn't have to be a weather specialist to know that a darkening sky is a sign of a(n) **impending** storm.

16. When I think of all the things that could go wrong, I view the task ahead with great **trepidation**.

17. I assure you that you will **rue** the day you challenged us to a jogging contest.

18. Since the artist seems to have known everyone of importance in her time, her diaries read like a(n) **veritable** Who's Who of the period.

19. During those difficult years, the state was in the hands of a do-nothing administration completely lacking in **vitality** and direction.

20. The firefighters who made that daring rescue from a burning building fully deserve all the honors **accorded** them.