

Definitions

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

- 1. animosity** (an ə mäs' ə tē) (n.) strong dislike; bitter hostility
The deep _____ between the Montagues and Capulets could not prevent Romeo and Juliet from falling in love.
SYNONYMS: enmity, rancor, antipathy
ANTONYMS: affection, fondness, rapport, amity
- 2. apathy** (ap' ə thē) (n.) a lack of feeling, emotion, or interest
I was horrified when the sales force greeted my great idea for an ad campaign with total _____.
SYNONYMS: indifference, disinterest, detachment
ANTONYMS: enthusiasm, fervor, ardor, concern
- 3. apprehensive** (ap rē hen' sīv) (adj.) fearful or anxious, especially about the future
As the hurricane approached, _____ residents all along the coast prepared for the worst.
SYNONYMS: worried, nervous, fretful, jittery
ANTONYMS: unworried, assured, confident, certain
- 4. commend** (kə mend') (v.) to praise, express approval; to present as worthy of attention; to commit to the care of
The mayor _____ the young people for their volunteer work at local hospitals and soup kitchens.
SYNONYMS: applaud, entrust
ANTONYMS: abhor, loathe
- 5. compatible** (kəm pat' ə bəl) (adj.) able to get along or work well together; capable of use with some other model or system
Eyewitness accounts of an accident rarely are totally _____.
SYNONYMS: harmonious, in agreement
ANTONYMS: mismatched, incongruous, antagonistic
- 6. condolence** (kən dō' ləns) (n.) an expression of sympathy
A few well-chosen words of _____ can be a great comfort to someone who has lost a loved one.
SYNONYMS: commiseration, solace, sympathy
- 7. consecrate** (kən' sə krāt) (v.) to make sacred, hallow; to set apart for a special purpose
Traditionally most religious denominations hold special ceremonies to _____ a new house of worship.
SYNONYMS: devote, sanctify
ANTONYMS: desecrate, profane, dishonor
- 8. decrepit** (di krep' it) (adj.) old and feeble; worn-out, ruined
"I may be aging," the famous movie star replied, "but I am hardly _____."
SYNONYMS: infirm, broken-down, rickety
ANTONYMS: vigorous, robust, sturdy
- 9. deride** (de rīd') (v.) to ridicule, laugh at with contempt
Most people find jokes that _____ somebody's national origin or social background extremely offensive.
SYNONYMS: mock, scorn, disparage
ANTONYMS: praise, extol, acclaim, applaud
- 10. ingenuous** (in jen' yū əs) (adj.) innocent, simple; frank, sincere
In his novels, Dickens has harsh words for those who take cruel advantage of _____ young people.
SYNONYMS: naive, artless, guileless, candid
ANTONYMS: artful, crafty, worldly, sophisticated
- 11. multifarious** (məl tə far' ē əs) (adj.) having great variety; numerous and diverse
Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks reveal that he was a man of _____ interests.
SYNONYMS: varied, manifold, heterogeneous
ANTONYMS: unvaried, uniform, homogeneous
- 12. obsolete** (əb sə lēt') (adj.) out-of-date, no longer in use
In order to remain competitive, manufacturing companies periodically replace _____ machinery.
SYNONYMS: outmoded, passé, old hat
ANTONYMS: current, up-to-date, brand-new
- 13. omnivorous** (əm niv' ə rəs) (adj.) eating every kind of food; eagerly taking in everything, having a wide variety of tastes
An _____ animal has a greater chance of survival than one that depends on a single food source.
SYNONYMS: all-devouring, voracious

- 14. parsimonious** (pär sə mö' nē əs) (*adj.*) stingy, miserly; meager, poor, small
Many people who lost money in the Great Depression later adhered to a _____ lifestyle, even during more prosperous times.
SYNONYMS: frugal, niggardly, penny-pinching, cheap
ANTONYMS: generous, openhanded
- 15. quandary** (kwän' drē) (*n.*) a state of perplexity or doubt
Try as I might, I could see no way out of the ethical _____ in which I found myself.
SYNONYMS: confusion, dilemma, predicament
- 16. recalcitrant** (ri kal' sə trənt) (*adj.*) stubbornly disobedient, resisting authority
A _____ individual may have great difficulty adjusting to a job that requires a good deal of teamwork.
SYNONYMS: unruly, obstinate, contrary, ornery
ANTONYMS: obedient, docile, compliant
- 17. reprisal** (ri pri' zəl) (*n.*) an injury done in return for injury
The Highland clans of Scotland engaged in cattle rustling in _____ for real or imagined injuries.
SYNONYMS: retaliation, revenge
- 18. revel** (rev' əl) (*v.*) to take great pleasure in; (*n.*) a wild celebration
Some movie stars do not _____ in the attention that their fans and the media pay them.
All around the world, the new millennium was ushered in with positive thoughts and _____.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) relish, savor, bask in, carouse
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) abhor, loathe
- 19. stultify** (stəl' tə fi) (*v.*) to make ineffective or useless, cripple; to have a dulling effect on
Oppressive heat may _____ the mind and spirit as well as the body.
SYNONYMS: smother, stifle, neutralize, negate
ANTONYMS: arouse, excite, inspire, stimulate
- 20. suave** (swäv) (*adj.*) smoothly agreeable or polite; pleasing to the senses
Nick Charles, the clever detective in the *Thin Man* movies, is a _____ man-about-town.
SYNONYMS: sophisticated, urbane, polished
ANTONYMS: crude, clumsy, oafish, loutish

Choosing the Right Word

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



Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein*, popular even during its first publication in 1818.

- Mary Shelley is often (**commended, stultified**) for having written one of the earliest examples of science fiction: the classic novel *Frankenstein*.
- The woman looked (**parsimonious, apprehensive**) when her guide announced that the group was going whitewater rafting in the afternoon.
- In this new century of our nation's life, let us (**stultify, consecrate**) ourselves anew to the ideals of human freedom.
- Your unwillingness to study foreign languages is in no way (**compatible, omnivorous**) with your ambition to get a job in the foreign service.
- Although our society must punish criminals, I don't think we should do so simply as a (**reprisal, quandary**) for the wrongs they have committed.
- Many stand-up comedians regularly (**revel, deride**) popular fads and fashions.
- I must give you the sad news that correct spelling and good grammar are not, and never will be, (**obsolete, decrepit**).
- Can you be so (**apprehensive, ingenuous**) that you don't realize she is paying us all those phony compliments to get something out of us?
- The handful of (**compatible, recalcitrant**) students who refuse to obey study hall regulations are violating the rights of the majority.
- The address was so dull and long-winded that it seemed to (**consecrate, stultify**) rather than inspire the audience.
- Yes, there is some (**apathy, animosity**) between different racial and ethnic groups, but it can be overcome by education and experience.
- The owner of the used car dealership showed poor judgment when he decided to publicly (**deride, revel**) his employees' suggestions for improved customer service.
- Two of the chief strengths of modern American society are the variety and vitality that arise from its (**multifarious, obsolete**) cultures.
- Clark Gable was a(n) (**obsolete, suave**) leading man who attracted women with his charm and good looks and impressed men with his strength and confidence.
- Her moods seem to go from one extreme to the other—from deepest (**apathy, animosity**) to unlimited enthusiasm.

16. He is so absorbed in himself that he has become (**parsimonious, suave**) in the normal expression of human sympathy and affection.
17. So we are faced with that old (**quandary, reprisal**)—an income that simply can't be stretched to cover the things that we simply must have.
18. The headwaiter was so (**suave, ingenuous**) and self-assured in his manner that we took him for a diplomat.
19. If you can't (**deride, commend**) me for my efforts to help you, at least don't criticize me for not doing everything you want.
20. Those students who have been doing their work all term need not feel (**apprehensive, recalcitrant**) about the final examination.
21. When my friends appeared with an MP3 player and a docking station with amazing sound, I realized that our crash study session might become an all-day (**reprisal, revel**).
22. I think we should offer congratulations rather than (**revels, condolences**) for the disappearance of that battered old heap you called a car.
23. Some people are (**omnivorous, parsimonious**) readers, with a lively appetite for all types of fiction and nonfiction.
24. Our Constitution is more than 200 years old; but far from being (**suave, decrepit**), it is still a vital, dynamic, and highly practical plan of government.
25. I am looking for a printer that is (**compatible, ingenuous**) with my computer.

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. **dedicated** themselves to healing the sick _____
2. cruel acts of **retribution** _____
3. **delegated** to the care of friends _____
4. sent a sincere message of **empathy** _____
5. courting the most **debonair** bachelor _____
6. **jeered at** by the protesters _____
7. surrounded by **like-minded** friends _____
8. babysitting a **cantankerous** child _____
9. rejected the author's **antiquated** theories _____
10. an old house with a **dilapidated** porch _____

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. a person with **unpolished** manners _____
2. to **defile** a national memorial _____
3. an **energetic** contender _____
4. a thoroughly **cooperative** individual _____
5. **callousness** in response to your loss _____

Completing the Sentence

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

1. "Today," said the speaker, "we _____ this monument to the memory of all those who fought and died in defense of their country."
2. If you think of all the different kinds of food that human beings are able to consume, you will realize that we are truly a(n) _____ species.
3. From all his growling and snapping, you would think our beagle felt a personal _____ toward every other dog on the block.
4. So there I was, having accepted invitations to two different parties on the same evening. What a(n) _____ to be in!
5. It is surprising how often people with very different personalities turn out to be _____ when they get to know one another.
6. Although I was unable to visit my old friend's widow in person, I offered my _____ in a heartfelt letter.
7. Political candidates who do nothing but _____ their opponents' character and abilities may alienate voters.
8. In totalitarian regimes, censorship and violence are often employed to suppress criticism and _____ dissent.
9. The _____ problems that will face America's presidents in the twenty-first century will make their job one of the most demanding in the world.
10. Technology changes so rapidly that a particular computer may be state-of-the-art one day and _____ the next.

11. Throughout the hot, dusty journey, we _____ in the thought that soon we would be swimming in the cool lake.
12. I think that the phrase "on its last legs" is an apt description of that _____ old house down the block.
13. It was difficult for us to believe that such a _____ and cultured gentleman was a member of a gang of international jewel thieves.
14. Simple _____ seems to be the main reason that such a large percentage of those eligible to vote fail to cast ballots in any election.
15. Struggling to overcome her _____ inclinations, she finally reached into her pocket and handed me one thin dime!
16. I trust you will never have the experience of trying to cross the desert with a(n) _____ mule that wants to remain where it is.
17. The board of directors voted to _____ him for the skill and enthusiasm with which he had managed the charity drive.
18. In spite of all the elaborate safety precautions, I couldn't help feeling a little _____ as I set out for my first skydiving lesson.
19. If we increase our tariff rates on the goods of other countries, we can be sure that they will raise their own rates in _____.
20. Now that I am a senior, it is hard to believe that I was ever as innocent and _____ as the members of the new freshman class.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at the interview with Anita Stockton (pages 98–99). Write your own financial advice column for teens in which you explain the pros and cons of investing in the stock market. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words.
2. "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." —Benjamin Franklin
Do you agree with Franklin's statement? In what ways can you "invest" in knowledge, and how can you gain "interest" from that investment? Write a brief essay in which you explain what Franklin means and demonstrate how his observation applies to your own life. Use examples from the reading (pages 98–99) as well as from your own observations and personal knowledge. 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 Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas. 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. "On guard, then!" cried Athos.
Immediately eight swords glittered in the rays of the setting sun, and the combat began with an **animosity** very natural between men twice enemies.
A fight provoked by **animosity** is rooted in
a. kindness c. hostility
b. familiarity d. respect
2. "As to the other, he knows me, he fears me, and knows what he has to expect of me if ever I escape from his hands. It is useless, then, to attempt anything with him. But Felton—that's another thing. He is a young, **ingenuous**, pure man who seems virtuous; him there are means of destroying."
Someone who is **ingenuous** is NOT
a. devious c. honorable
b. naive d. trusting
3. The result of these reflections was that d'Artagnan, without asking information of any kind, alighted, **commended** the horses to the care of his lackey, [and] entered a small room destined to receive those who wished to be alone...
When something is **commended** to the care of another, it is
a. recommended c. sent into exile
b. handed over d. fussed over
4. "...[I]t is fit you should know, Monsieur d'Artagnan, that I have received heavy and serious complaints against you. You do not **consecrate** your days and nights wholly to the king's service."
To **consecrate** means to
a. acclaim c. violate
b. adjust d. dedicate
5. "There only remains, then, the question of the five shillings to be settled. You think me rather **parsimonious**, don't you? That's because I don't care to leave you the means of corrupting your jailers."
Someone who is **parsimonious** is
a. wicked c. thrifty
b. wasteful d. arrogant



Frank Finlay, Oliver Reed, Michael York, and Richard Chamberlain portray the talented swordsmen in the 1973 film *The Three Musketeers*.

Interactive Quiz



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