

# UNIT 1

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## Definitions

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

**1. adjacent**  
(ə jās' ənt)

(adj.) near, next to, adjoining

Boston and its adjacent suburbs were severely flooded after three days of heavy rain.

SYNONYMS: alongside, nearby, neighboring

ANTONYMS: faraway, distant

**2. alight**  
(ə lit')

(v.) to get down from, step down from; to come down from the air, land; (adj.) lighted up

The passengers hurried to alight from the small airplane.

The sky was alight with a red glow as the fire raged in the distance.

SYNONYMS: (v.) dismount, land, touch down

ANTONYMS: (v.) mount, board, take off

**3. barren**  
(bar' ən)

(adj.) not productive, bare

In contrast to the rich land we left behind, the plains appeared to be a barren landscape.

SYNONYMS: unproductive, sterile, desolate, arid

ANTONYMS: fertile, fruitful

**4. disrupt**  
(dis rəpt')

(v.) to break up, disturb

Even the loud demonstration on the street below was not enough to disrupt the meeting.

SYNONYMS: upset, displace, disorder

ANTONYMS: organize, arrange

**5. dynasty**  
(dī' nə stē)

(n.) a powerful family or group of rulers that maintains its position or power for some time

The Han dynasty of China was in power for about 400 years.

SYNONYMS: ruling house, regime

**6. foretaste**  
(fôr' tāst)

(n.) an advance indication, sample, or warning

The eye-opening first scene of the new play gave the audience a foretaste of things to come.

SYNONYMS: preview, anticipation

**7. germinate**  
(jər' mə nāt)

(v.) to begin to grow, come into being

After he interrogated the suspect, suspicion began to germinate in the inspector's mind.

SYNONYMS: sprout, shoot up, burgeon

ANTONYMS: wither, die, stagnate, shrivel up

**8. humdrum**  
(həm' drəm)

(adj.) ordinary, dull, routine, without variation

All household tasks are humdrum, according to my brother, who never helps with them.

SYNONYMS: monotonous, prosaic, boring

ANTONYMS: exciting, thrilling, exhilarating

**9. hurtle**  
(hər' təl)

(v.) to rush violently, dash headlong; to fling or hurl forcefully

After separating from its booster rocket, the capsule began to hurtle through space.

SYNONYMS: speed, fly, catapult, fling

ANTONYMS: crawl, creep

**10. insinuate**  
(in sin' yū āt)

(v.) to suggest or hint slyly; to edge into something indirectly

The attorney attempted to insinuate that the witness's testimony was false.

SYNONYM: imply

ANTONYMS: barge in, broadcast

**11. interminable**  
(in tər' mə nə bəl)

(adj.) endless, so long as to seem endless

We had an interminable wait in the hot, crowded train station.

SYNONYM: never-ending

ANTONYMS: brief, short, fleeting

**12. interrogate**  
(in tər' ə gāt)

(v.) to ask questions, examine by questioning

Two detectives helped the young, inexperienced officer to interrogate the suspect.

SYNONYMS: question, query

**13. recompense**  
(rek' əm pens)

(v.) to pay back; to give a reward; (n.) a payment for loss, service, or injury

My grandparents were happy to recompense the little girl who found their lost puppy.

As recompense, the landlord offered all tenants a month free of rent.

SYNONYMS: (v.) repay; (n.) compensation



**14. renovate**  
(ren' ə vāt)

(v.) to repair, restore to good condition, make new again

The young couple brought in an architect and a contractor to help them renovate the old house.

SYNONYMS: repair, recondition

**15. résumé**  
(rez' ə mā)

(n.) a brief summary; a short written account of one's education, working experience, or qualifications for a job

The job applicant gave a copy of her résumé to the person in charge of the employment agency.

SYNONYM: synopsis

**16. sullen**  
(səl' ən)

(adj.) silent or brooding because of ill humor, anger, or resentment; slow moving, sluggish

The sullen student sat down in the back of the classroom.

SYNONYMS: grumpy, surly, peevish, morose

ANTONYMS: cheerful, blithe, vivacious

**17. trickle**  
(trik' əl)

(v.) to flow or fall by drops or in a small stream; (n.) a small, irregular quantity of anything

The water began to trickle from the rusty old pipe.

The runoff, which is quite heavy in the spring, dwindles to a trickle by late summer.

SYNONYMS: (v.) dribble, drizzle, drip; (n.) small amount

ANTONYMS: (v.) gush, pour, flood; (n.) deluge

**18. trivial**  
(triv' ē əl)

(adj.) not important, minor; ordinary, commonplace

The general left all trivial details to subordinate officers.

SYNONYMS: insignificant, trifling

ANTONYMS: important, weighty

**19. truce**  
(trūs)

(n.) a pause in fighting, temporary peace

After tense negotiations, the warring nations reluctantly agreed to a five-day truce.

SYNONYM: cease-fire; ANTONYMS: war, warfare

**20. vicious**  
(vish' əs)

(adj.) evil, bad; spiteful; having bad habits or an ugly disposition; painfully severe or extreme

The vicious rumor was damaging to their budding friendship.

SYNONYMS: wicked, malicious

ANTONYMS: good, kind, kindly, mild