

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. bellow
(bel' ō)

(v.) to make a sound similar to that of a bull, roar; (n.) a loud, angry roar

The wounded buffalo began to _____ in pain.

The troop commander's _____ could be heard a mile away.

SYNONYMS: (v.) yell, bawl, holler; (n.) howl

ANTONYMS: (v.) whisper; (n.) murmur

2. beneficiary
(ben ə fish' ē er ē)

(n.) one who benefits from something; a person who is left money or other property in a will or the like

The _____ of the dead man's will was the main suspect in the murder case.

SYNONYMS: recipient, heir

3. botch
(bäch)

(v.) to repair or patch poorly; make a mess of; (n.) a hopelessly bungled job

The unsupervised laborers proceeded to _____ the job badly.

SYNONYMS: (v.) foul up, mangle

4. clutter
(klät' ə)

(v.) to fill or cover in a disorderly way; (n.) a state of disorder, mess

When we moved into our new house, we unloaded the truck and began to _____ up the dining room with boxes.

Attics are often filled with _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) litter; (n.) confusion

ANTONYMS: (n.) order, tidiness, neatness

5. dilapidated
(də lap' ə dā tid)

(adj.) falling apart or ruined, run-down

The old house had become so _____ that no one could live in it anymore.

SYNONYMS: in disrepair, deteriorated, gone to seed

ANTONYMS: shipshape, trim

6. dismantle
(dis man' tə)

(v.) to take apart; to strip of something

After the final performance, all the actors worked with the stagehands to _____ the set.

SYNONYM: disassemble

ANTONYMS: put together, assemble, construct

7. farce
(färs)

(*n.*) a play filled with ridiculous or absurd happenings; broad or far-fetched humor; a ridiculous sham

The humor in the play was so broad and the plot so ridiculous that the critic termed the play

a _____.

SYNONYMS: buffoonery, travesty; ANTONYMS: tragedy, melodrama

8. futile
(fyüt' əl)

(*adj.*) not successful, failing to have any result; useless; unimportant, frivolous

After several _____ attempts to save it, the captain ordered the ship abandoned.

SYNONYMS: fruitless, vain, ineffective

ANTONYMS: successful, effective

9. grueling
(grü' lī)

(*adj.*) very tiring, calling for an extreme effort

After the _____ climb, two of the mountaineers collapsed from exhaustion.

SYNONYMS: exhausting, punishing, taxing

ANTONYMS: easy, effortless

10. hospitable
(häs pit' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) offering friendly or generous treatment to guests; open to anything new or strange

Known for their generosity to strangers, the local inhabitants offered a _____ welcome to our tour group.

SYNONYMS: gracious, cordial, courteous

ANTONYMS: unfriendly, cold, icy, chilly

11. lair
(lâr)

(*n.*) the home or den of a wild animal; any hideout

The police were making careful preparations to trap the smugglers in their _____.

SYNONYMS: nest, burrow, hideaway

12. lavish
(lav' ish)

(*adj.*) overly generous, extravagant; abundant; (*v.*) to spend or give freely or without limit

The couple received _____ wedding gifts from their closest friends.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) excessive, profuse

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) stingy, meager; (*v.*) begrudge, stint, deny

13. morbid
(môr' bid)

(*adj.*) in an unhealthy mental state, extremely gloomy; caused by or related to disease, unwholesome

The police captain was afraid that the officer was taking a _____ interest in the crime.

SYNONYMS: depressed, unsound, "sick"

ANTONYMS: wholesome, healthy, cheerful, blithe

14. notorious
(nō tōr' ē əs)

(*adj.*) widely known because of bad conduct

Chicago had its share of _____ gangsters in the 1930s.

SYNONYMS: disgraceful, infamous, disreputable

ANTONYMS: unknown, obscure, respectable

15. pamper
(pam' pər)

(*v.*) to allow too many privileges, be too generous and easygoing toward

If my aunt continues to _____ that child, he may grow into an irresponsible adult.

SYNONYMS: cater to, indulge

ANTONYMS: abuse, maltreat, mistreat, discipline

16. parasite
(par' ə sīt)

(*n.*) an organism that lives in or on another organism; one who lives off another person

Uninvited, he hung around with the players so much that the team considered him a real _____.

SYNONYMS: sponger, freeloader

17. shirk
(shərk)

(*v.*) to avoid or get out of doing work, neglect a duty; to sneak, slink

People who tend to _____ their responsibilities are not to be relied upon.

SYNONYMS: duck, dodge; ANTONYMS: fulfill, perform, shoulder

18. surplus
(sər' pləs)

(*n.*) an amount beyond what is required, excess; (*adj.*) more than what is needed or expected

Dad was relieved to find that his business had a _____ at the end of the year.

The Army decided to sell its _____ goods to a group of manufacturers.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) glut, surfeit, overage

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

19. timidity
(tə mid' ə tē)

(*n.*) the state of being easily frightened

The shy child's natural _____ had made her afraid to try out for the team.

SYNONYMS: faintheartedness, shyness

ANTONYMS: fearlessness, boldness, intrepidity

20. veto
(vē' tō)

(*n.*) the power to forbid or prevent; (*v.*) to prohibit, reject

The president decided to _____ the bill presented to him by Congress.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) turn down, nix

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) approve, endorse, ratify