

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. available
(ə vā' lə bəl)

(adj.) ready for use, at hand

Bean sprouts and bean curd are _____ in the Chinese market on Main Street.

SYNONYMS: obtainable, on hand

ANTONYMS: unobtainable, not to be had

2. cater
(kā' tər)

(v.) to satisfy the needs of, try to make things easy and pleasant; to supply food and service

Our grandmother cared for the twins all summer, but she refused to _____ to their every whim.

SYNONYMS: pamper, indulge, gratify

ANTONYMS: frustrate, deny, refuse

3. customary
(kəs' tə mer ē)

(adj.) usual, expected, routine

The _____ tip given to a waiter for service is 15–20 percent of the bill.

SYNONYMS: regular, normal, traditional

ANTONYMS: strange, odd, untraditional

4. dissuade
(dis wād')

(v.) to persuade not to do something

Despite offering big raises and bonuses, the boss was unable to _____ workers from quitting.

SYNONYM: talk out of

ANTONYMS: persuade, talk into

5. entrepreneur
(än trə prə nər')

(n.) a person who starts up and takes on the risk of a business

In the first year of business, an _____ often assumes losses for the sake of future profits.

SYNONYM: businessperson

6. firebrand
(fi' ər brand)

(n.) a piece of burning wood; a troublemaker; an extremely energetic or emotional person

A rash young _____, the new editor of the newspaper strove to expose corruption in the mayor's office.

SYNONYMS: hothead, agitator

ANTONYMS: peacemaker, pacifier, conciliator

7. hazard
(haz' ərd)

(*n.*) risk, peril; (*v.*) to expose to danger or harm; to gamble

Snow tires can help eliminate the _____ of driving on icy roads.

When asked to predict when the long drought would end, the meteorologist would not _____ a guess.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) danger; (*v.*) venture

8. hinder
(hin' dər)

(*v.*) to delay; to stop or prevent from happening

The all-day rain predicted for tomorrow will definitely _____ our plans for a picnic at the lake.

SYNONYMS: interrupt, impede, block, thwart

ANTONYMS: encourage, further

9. homicide
(hom' ə sīd)

(*n.*) the killing of one person by another

It did not take the jury members too long to find the drifter guilty of _____.

SYNONYM: manslaughter

10. indifference
(in dif' rəns)

(*n.*) a lack of interest or concern

The outcome of the rugby match between the two teams is a matter of complete _____ to me.

SYNONYMS: apathy, unconcern

ANTONYMS: interest, concern, enthusiasm

11. indignant
(in dig' nənt)

(*adj.*) filled with resentment or anger over something unjust, unworthy, or mean

Angered by the editorial in the newspaper, my mother wrote an _____ letter to the editor.

SYNONYMS: offended, resentful, outraged, exasperated

ANTONYMS: pleased, delighted, elated

12. indispensable
(in di spen' sə bəl)

(*adj.*) absolutely necessary, not to be neglected

Oxygen is a gas that is _____ to life processes on this planet.

SYNONYMS: essential, crucial

ANTONYMS: unnecessary, nonessential

13. lubricate
(lū' brə kāt)

(*v.*) to apply oil or grease; to make smooth, slippery, or easier to use

The workers had to _____ the equipment regularly so that production would not suffer.

SYNONYM: oil

14. mutual
(myü' chü əl)

(*adj.*) shared, felt, or shown equally by two or more

During the course of the summer, the adoring couple formed a _____ admiration society.

SYNONYMS: two-sided, joint, shared, reciprocal

ANTONYMS: one-sided, unilateral

15. pelt
(pelt)

(*v.*) to throw a stream of things; to strike successively; to hurry

The children resisted the urge to _____ the cars with snowballs.

SYNONYMS: bombard, shower

16. plague
(plāg)

(*n.*) an easily spread disease causing a large number of deaths; a widespread evil; (*v.*) to annoy or bother

In the 14th century, a _____ spread by infected rats wiped out about one-fourth of the population of Europe.

Mosquitoes will _____ the campers if they forget to wear insect repellent on the hike.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) epidemic, pestilence; (*v.*) pester, vex

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) boon, blessing

17. poised
(poizd)

(*adj., part.*) balanced, suspended; calm, controlled; ready for action

The captain and other members of the crew were _____ for takeoff.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) collected, self-confident, ready

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) nervous, tense

18. regime
(rā zhēm')

(*n.*) a government in power; a form or system of rule or management; a period of rule

The present _____ in that country came to power through democratic elections.

SYNONYM: rule

19. transparent
(trans par' ənt)

(*adj.*) allowing light to pass through; easily recognized or understood; easily seen through or detected

The students could see the other class through the _____ glass door.

SYNONYMS: clear, translucent, obvious

ANTONYMS: frosted, sooty, smoky, unclear, indistinct

20. unscathed
(ən skathd')

(*adj.*) wholly unharmed, not injured

Remarkably, the captain and the entire crew emerged from the wreck _____.

SYNONYMS: unhurt, sound, intact

ANTONYMS: injured, damaged, hurt