

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. alliance
(ə lī' əns)

(n.) a joining together for some common purpose

The two nations formed an _____ to defend each other in case of attack.

SYNONYMS: pact, league, coalition

ANTONYMS: rift, split

2. bewilder
(bi wil' dər)

(v.) to puzzle completely, confuse

The captain continues to _____ his troops by giving contradictory orders.

SYNONYMS: perplex, confound; ANTONYMS: set straight, enlighten

3. buffoon
(bə fūn')

(n.) a clown; a coarse, stupid person

Some students think that they need to play the _____ in order to entertain their classmates and charm their teachers.

SYNONYMS: jester, dunce

4. controversial
(kən trə vər' shəl)

(adj.) arousing argument, dispute, or disagreement

The school board waited until all members were present before issuing the _____ proposal to ban after-school programs.

SYNONYMS: arguable, at issue

5. dishearten
(dis härt' ən)

(v.) to discourage

Do not let your low score on the math test _____ you.

SYNONYMS: demoralize, dispirit; ANTONYMS: encourage, hearten

6. fruitless
(früt' ləs)

(adj.) not producing the desired results, unsuccessful

When their efforts to fight the infection with penicillin proved _____, the doctors tried a new antibiotic.

SYNONYMS: useless, vain, unproductive

ANTONYMS: productive, effective

7. hostile
(häs' təl)

(adj.) unfriendly; unfavorable; warlike, aggressive

Relations between the two nations have been _____ for decades.

ANTONYMS: friendly, cordial

8. inflammable
(in flam' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) easily set on fire; easily angered or aroused

Always be cautious when using _____
cleaning solvents.

SYNONYMS: flammable, excitable

ANTONYMS: fire-resistant, calm

9. inflict
(in flikt')

(*v.*) to give or cause something unpleasant, impose

Despite all the jokes, doctors do not like to
_____ pain on their patients.

SYNONYMS: deal out, visit upon

ANTONYMS: suffer, undergo, sustain

10. malignant
(mə lig' nənt)

(*adj.*) deadly, extremely harmful, evil; spiteful, malicious

Much to the patient's relief, the x-ray revealed no
_____ growth.

SYNONYMS: wicked, malevolent

ANTONYMS: wholesome, beneficial

11. mortify
(môrt' ə fi)

(*v.*) to hurt someone's feelings deeply; to cause
embarrassment or humiliation; to subdue or discipline by
self-denial or suffering

The teacher was _____ by the students'
childish behavior on the field trip.

SYNONYMS: embarrass, abash

12. orthodox
(ôr' thə dāks)

(*adj.*) in agreement with established or generally accepted
beliefs or ways of doing things

Our principal, who believes in proven teaching methods,
takes an _____ approach to education.

SYNONYMS: traditional, standard, customary

ANTONYMS: unusual, unconventional, heretical

13. procure
(prə kyūr')

(*v.*) to obtain through special effort; to bring about

The hospital held a raffle to _____ the
necessary funds for the new children's wing.

SYNONYMS: gain, achieve

14. scurry
(skər' ē)

(*v.*) to run quickly, scamper, hurry

The reappearance of the teacher caused the students in
the class to _____ back to their seats.

SYNONYMS: rush, dash, scramble

ANTONYMS: trudge, plod, creep, crawl

15. sodden
(säd' ən)

(*adj.*) soaked with liquid or moisture; expressionless, dull; spiritless, listless

All at once, and with much loud honking, the flock of geese rose from the _____ marshlands.

SYNONYMS: waterlogged, saturated

ANTONYMS: parched, arid

16. spirited
(spir' ə tid)

(*adj.*) full of life and vigor; courageous

The royal soldiers put up a _____ defense against the invading army.

SYNONYMS: lively, animated, gallant

ANTONYMS: lifeless, dull

17. virtual
(vər' chü əl)

(*adj.*) having a certain force or effect in fact but not in name; so close as to be equivalent to the real thing

To those who worked in the office, the bossy new manager was a _____ dictator.

SYNONYM: functioning as

18. void
(void)

(*adj.*) completely empty; having no legal force or effect; (*n.*) empty or unfilled space; (*v.*) to cancel or nullify

I thought that poem was completely _____ of sense.

Grandmother's death left a great _____ in my grandfather's life.

Do you know how to _____ a check?

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) invalid, vacant, bare

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) in effect, teeming with; (*v.*) confirm

19. wayward
(wā' wərd)

(*adj.*) disobedient, willful; unpredictable, capricious

Tracking the _____ path of a comet is no easy matter.

SYNONYMS: insubordinate; rebellious; perverse

ANTONYMS: docile, well-behaved, predictable

20. wince
(wins)

(*v.*) to draw back suddenly, as though in pain or fear; (*n.*) the act of drawing back in this way

The animal's bite made the child _____ in pain.

The patient's _____ told the doctor to press more gently.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) flinch, shudder