

## 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. addendum**  
(ə den' dəm)

(*n.*) a thing that is added; an appendix or addition to a book or written document

The woman amended her will with an \_\_\_\_\_ when her husband suddenly died.

SYNONYMS: attachment, rider, extension

**2. aghast**  
(ə gəst')

(*adj.*) filled with amazement, disgust, fear, or terror

People were \_\_\_\_\_ at the senseless brutality of the crime.

SYNONYMS: shocked, horrified, stupefied  
ANTONYMS: delighted, overjoyed, unmoved

**3. ample**  
(əm' pəl)

(*adj.*) more than enough, large, spacious

Thanks to the wet spring weather, birds and other animals will have an \_\_\_\_\_ food supply for the rest of the year.

SYNONYMS: sufficient, adequate, considerable  
ANTONYMS: insufficient, inadequate

**4. apparition**  
(əp ə rish' ən)

(*n.*) a ghost or ghostly figure; an unexplained or unusual appearance

The vivid \_\_\_\_\_ seemed so real that it completely unnerved me.

SYNONYMS: phantom, specter

**5. assert**  
(ə sɜrt')

(*v.*) to declare or state as truth, maintain or defend, put forward forcefully

Throughout the trial and the lengthy appeal process that followed, the defendant \_\_\_\_\_ her innocence.

SYNONYMS: affirm, avow

**6. cower**  
(kaü' ər)

(*v.*) to crouch or shrink away in fear or shame

The kittens \_\_\_\_\_ in the corner, frightened by the huge, growling dog.

SYNONYMS: wince, flinch  
ANTONYM: stand up to

**7. disdain**  
(dis dān')

(*v.*) to look upon with scorn; to refuse scornfully; (*n.*) a feeling of contempt

I \_\_\_\_\_ their cowardly behavior.

Fair-minded people feel \_\_\_\_\_ for racism.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) spurn, reject

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) revere, venerate, esteem, respect

**8. epitaph**  
(ep' ə taf)

(*n.*) a brief statement written on a tomb or gravestone

Most people never stop to consider the words that might one day appear as their own \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYM: tombstone inscription

**9. ethical**  
(eth' ə kəl)

(*adj.*) having to do with morals, values, right and wrong; in accordance with standards of right conduct; requiring a prescription for purchase

New developments in medicine often lead to discussions of important \_\_\_\_\_ questions.

SYNONYMS: upright, virtuous, honorable

ANTONYMS: immoral, unscrupulous, dishonest

**10. facetious**  
(fə sē' shəs)

(*adj.*) humorous, not meant seriously

We had to laugh at her \_\_\_\_\_ remarks.

SYNONYMS: comical, witty, tongue-in-cheek

ANTONYMS: serious, humorless

**11. inaudible**  
(in ə' də bəl)

(*adj.*) not able to be heard

Some high-frequency sounds are \_\_\_\_\_ to even the keenest human ear.

SYNONYMS: faint, indistinct

ANTONYMS: audible, perceptible

**12. indiscriminate**  
(in dis krim' ə nət)

(*adj.*) without restraint or control; unselective

The \_\_\_\_\_ slaughter of white whales brought that species to the brink of extinction.

SYNONYMS: haphazard, random, uncritical

ANTONYMS: selective, discriminating, judicious

**13. intrigue**  
(*n.*, in' trēg;  
*v.*, in trēg')

(*n.*) crafty dealings, underhanded plotting; (*v.*) to form and carry out plots; to puzzle or excite the curiosity

Investigators uncovered a shocking network of lies and international \_\_\_\_\_.

The old album full of faded family pictures and postcards from exotic places \_\_\_\_\_ me.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) scheme, plot, conspiracy

ANTONYM: (*n.*) fair play

- 14. jurisdiction**  
(jūr is dik' shən)  
(*n.*) an area of authority or control; the right to administer justice  
Cases involving robbery and assault are usually tried under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the state courts.  
SYNONYMS: purview, supervision
- 15. plausible**  
(plô' zə bəl)  
(*adj.*) appearing true, reasonable, or fair  
Their story didn't sound \_\_\_\_\_ to me.  
SYNONYMS: believable, probable  
ANTONYMS: improbable, unbelievable, unlikely
- 16. plebeian**  
(plə bē' ən)  
(*adj.*) common, vulgar; belonging to the lower class; (*n.*) a common person, member of the lower class  
The couple's taste in cars is quite \_\_\_\_\_.  
At one time, the \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient Rome were excluded from holding public office of any kind.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) lowborn, proletarian, coarse, unrefined  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) aristocratic, refined, cultivated
- 17. prodigal**  
(präd' ə gəl)  
(*adj.*) wastefully extravagant; lavishly or generously abundant; (*n.*) one who is wasteful and self-indulgent  
We have a tight budget, but we make an exception for \_\_\_\_\_ celebrations of family birthdays.  
The elderly man told us that he greatly regretted the years he spent living the life of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) improvident; (*n.*) spendthrift, wastrel  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) frugal, economical, stingy, miserly
- 18. proximity**  
(präk sim' ə tē)  
(*n.*) nearness, closeness  
The house's \_\_\_\_\_ to schools is an asset.  
ANTONYMS: distance, remoteness
- 19. pulverize**  
(pəl' və rīz)  
(*v.*) to grind or pound to a powder or dust; to destroy or overcome (as though by smashing into fragments)  
At many old mills in Vermont, granite stones were used to \_\_\_\_\_ the grain.  
SYNONYMS: compress, demolish
- 20. volatile**  
(väl' ə təl)  
(*adj.*) highly changeable, fickle; tending to become violent or explosive; changing readily from the liquid to the gaseous state  
A person who is usually calm and collected may nevertheless sometimes behave in a \_\_\_\_\_ manner.  
SYNONYMS: unstable, erratic  
ANTONYMS: stable, steady, static, inert, dormant