

## 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. abashed**  
(ə basht')

(*adj., part.*) embarrassed, ashamed, or nonplussed

I was thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ by the foolish mistake I made at the dinner party.

ANTONYMS: unembarrassed, unashamed

**2. aloof**  
(ə lūf')

(*adj.*) withdrawn, standing apart from others by choice

In almost every office or business, there are some people who keep decidedly \_\_\_\_\_ from their coworkers.

SYNONYMS: distant, cold; ANTONYMS: involved, sociable

**3. anguish**  
(ənj' gwish)

(*n.*) great mental suffering, distress, or pain; (*v.*) to cause deep pain or sorrow

Survivors of a natural disaster often suffer great mental \_\_\_\_\_ long after their terrible ordeal is over.

The child's disappearance \_\_\_\_\_ every member of the community.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) misery, woe, torment

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) joy, delight, peace of mind

**4. articulate**  
(*v.,* är tik' yü lät;  
*adj.,* är tik' yə lit)

(*v.*) to pronounce distinctly; to express well in words; to fit together into a system; (*adj.*) able to use language effectively; expressed clearly and forcefully

A successful candidate can \_\_\_\_\_ ideas in a way that makes them acceptable to voters.

To be successful as a professional lecturer, a person must, of necessity, be \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) expound; (*adj.*) eloquent

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) tongue-tied, mumbled

**5. bask**  
(bask)

(*v.*) to be in, or expose oneself to, pleasant warmth; to take pleasure in or derive enjoyment from

Because they are cold-blooded, lizards and other reptiles must \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun to regulate their body temperature.

SYNONYMS: wallow, revel

**6. defect**  
(*n.,* dē' fekt;  
*v.,* di fekt')

(*n.*) an imperfection, flaw, or blemish of some kind; (*v.*) to desert a cause or organization

There is no one who does not have at least one serious character \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1948 the Dixiecrats, a group of Southern Democrats, \_\_\_\_\_ from the Democratic Party and held their own presidential nominating convention.

**7. finesse**  
(fi nes')

(*n.*) delicate skill; tact and cleverness; (*v.*) to accomplish something by cleverness, good judgment, or skillful evasion

To become a champion, a tennis player needs to combine power with \_\_\_\_\_.

Skilled politicians know how to \_\_\_\_\_ their answers to embarrassing questions from reporters.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) delicacy, subtlety

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) clumsiness, awkwardness

**8. flaunt**  
(flônt)

(*v.*) to wave or flutter showily; to display in a conceited, offensive way

Some people seem to need to \_\_\_\_\_ their wealth and good fortune in life.

SYNONYMS: show off, parade; ANTONYMS: hide, downplay

**9. forthright**  
(fôrh' rit)

(*adj.*) frank, direct, straightforward

I appreciate the \_\_\_\_\_ way in which you express your opinions, even when they do not agree with my own.

SYNONYMS: candid, blunt

ANTONYMS: indirect, evasive, deceitful, two-faced

**10. genial**  
(jên' yəl)

(*adj.*) cordial, pleasantly cheerful or warm

The \_\_\_\_\_ host and hostess made each party guest feel especially welcome.

SYNONYMS: friendly, amiable

ANTONYMS: cold, unfriendly, unsociable

**11. instill**  
(in stil')

(*v.*) to add gradually; to introduce or cause to be taken in

How can parents best \_\_\_\_\_ in their children a love for reading?

SYNONYMS: implant, infuse, inculcate

ANTONYMS: root out, eradicate, extirpate

**12. ostracize**  
(äs' trə siz)

(*v.*) to exclude from a group, banish, send away

Society \_\_\_\_\_ those who commit acts of treason.

SYNONYMS: cast out, expel, blackball

ANTONYMS: fraternize with, associate with

- 13. premonition**  
(prē mə nish' ən)  
(*n.*) forewarning or foreboding of a future event  
I felt a vague \_\_\_\_\_ of danger as I entered the abandoned building.  
SYNONYM: presentiment
- 14. pseudonym**  
(sü' də nim)  
(*n.*) a pen name, name assumed by a writer  
It is wise to use a \_\_\_\_\_ to protect your privacy when you chat on the Internet.  
SYNONYM: nom de plume
- 15. purge**  
(pərj)  
(*v.*) to wash away impurities, clean up; (*n.*) the process of getting rid of something or someone decisively  
A soaking rainstorm will usually \_\_\_\_\_ the air of pollutants.  
The change of government was achieved through an election, not through a brutal \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) cleanse, purify  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) pollute, contaminate, defile
- 16. rehabilitate**  
(rē hə bil' ə tāt)  
(*v.*) to make over in good form; to restore to good condition or to a former position  
Government agencies have spent sums of money trying to \_\_\_\_\_ run-down inner-city neighborhoods.  
SYNONYMS: reclaim, rebuild, reform
- 17. repercussion**  
(rē pər kash' ən)  
(*n.*) an effect or consequence of some action or event, result; an echo or reverberation  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of the 1929 stock market crash were felt all over the world.  
ANTONYMS: cause, source
- 18. resolute**  
(rez' ə lüt)  
(*adj.*) bold, determined; firm  
Commencement-day speakers generally urge graduates to be \_\_\_\_\_ in pursuit of their dreams.  
SYNONYMS: steadfast, unflinching; ANTONYMS: weak, spineless
- 19. retentive**  
(ri tent' iv)  
(*adj.*) able to hold, keep, or recall; retaining knowledge easily  
A \_\_\_\_\_ memory is a great asset for any actor.  
ANTONYMS: porous, forgetful
- 20. scapegoat**  
(skāp' gōt)  
(*n.*) a person or thing carrying the blame for others  
In ancient times, a messenger who brought bad news was often made the \_\_\_\_\_ for it and killed.  
SYNONYM: whipping boy