

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. **acme**
(ak' mē)

(n.) the highest point

A perfect game is the _____ of any pitcher's career in baseball.

SYNONYMS: summit, top, peak, pinnacle
ANTONYMS: low point, bottom, nadir

2. **attribute**
(n., at' trə byüt;
v., ə trib' yət)

(n.) a quality or characteristic belonging to or associated with someone or something; (v.) to assign to, credit with; to regard as caused by or resulting from

The _____ I most admire in you is your willingness to give everyone's opinions a fair hearing.

The doctor _____ my runny nose and itchy eyes to multiple allergies.

SYNONYMS: (n.) trait; (v.) ascribe

3. **belittle**
(bi lit' əl)

(v.) to make something appear smaller than it is; to refer to in a way that suggests lack of importance or value

Candidates for public office may resort to negative ads that _____ their opponents' records.

SYNONYMS: minimize, underrate, disparage
ANTONYMS: exaggerate, magnify, overestimate

4. **convey**
(kən vā')

(v.) to transport; to transmit; to communicate, make known; to transfer ownership or title to

Please _____ our best wishes to your parents on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

SYNONYMS: carry, send, impart

5. **doctrine**
(däk' trin)

(n.) a belief, principle, or teaching; a system of such beliefs or principles; a formulation of such beliefs or principles

No two religions see eye to eye on every fine detail of _____.

6. **excise**
(v., ek siz';
n., ek' siz)

(v.) to remove by cutting; (n.) an indirect tax on the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a commodity or service

If you _____ that irrelevant remark, you will improve your essay.

The _____ imposed on products such as tobacco and alcohol have skyrocketed.

SYNONYMS: (v.) cut out, expunge
ANTONYMS: (v.) put in, interpolate

7. exotic
(ig zät' ik)

(*adj.*) foreign; charmingly unfamiliar or strikingly unusual
A recipe may call for _____ herbs and spices that are difficult to obtain.

SYNONYMS: strange, alien, picturesque, colorful
ANTONYMS: native, indigenous, familiar, commonplace

8. haggard
(hag' ard)

(*adj.*) thin, pale, and careworn as a result of worry or suffering; wild-looking

The _____ refugees were given food, clothing, and temporary shelter.

SYNONYMS: drawn, gaunt, wasted
ANTONYMS: healthy, glowing, hale and hearty

9. jaunty
(jôn' tē)

(*adj.*) lively, easy, and carefree in manner; smart or trim in appearance

I bought a _____ straw hat.

SYNONYMS: unconcerned, lighthearted
ANTONYMS: downcast, dejected, glum

10. juncture
(jungk' chər)

(*n.*) a joining together; the point at which two things are joined; any important point in time

Our property ends at the _____ of the two stone walls.

SYNONYMS: union, seam, joint, turning point

11. menial
(mē' nē əl)

(*adj.*) lowly, humble, lacking importance or dignity; (*n.*) a person who does the humble and unpleasant tasks

During the Great Depression, people were thankful to have work of any kind, no matter how _____.

Teenagers in need of work can often find jobs as _____ in grocery stores and restaurants.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) underling, scullion, servant
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) lofty, elevated; (*n.*) boss, master

12. parry
(par' ē)

(*v.*) to ward off, fend off, evade, avoid; (*n.*) a defensive movement in fencing and other sports

An effective press secretary can _____ almost any question a reporter asks.

The challenger's swift _____ caught the champion completely off guard.

13. predatory
(pred' ə tōr ē)

(*adj.*) preying on, plundering, or piratical

Owls and other _____ birds play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature.

SYNONYMS: looting, pillaging, ravenous, rapacious

14. ravage
(rav' ij)

(v.) to destroy, lay waste, ruin; (n.) ruinous damage, destruction
Swarms of locusts _____ the farmer's fields and orchards.
No one can escape the _____ of time.

SYNONYMS: (v.) wreck, devastate
ANTONYM: (v.) spare

15. stance
(stans)

(n.) a way of holding the body; an attitude or position on an issue
A fashion model's _____ is calculated to show off a designer's clothing to best advantage.

SYNONYMS: posture, bearing

16. tawdry
(tô' drê)

(adj.) showy and flashy but lacking in good taste
An excess of gold braid and glittery beads gave the costumes a _____ look.

SYNONYMS: loud, gaudy, tacky, vulgar
ANTONYMS: refined, tasteful, subdued, muted

17. turncoat
(tərn' kôt)

(n.) a person who switches to an opposing side or party
Strikers generally consider those workers who cross the picket lines to be _____.

SYNONYMS: quisling, deserter, renegade
ANTONYMS: loyalist, diehard

18. unassuming
(ən ə sü' mīn)

(adj.) not putting on airs, unpretentious; modest
Many celebrities remain _____ despite their fame and wealth.

ANTONYMS: conceited, pretentious, self-important

19. wallow
(wāl' ô)

(v.) to roll about in a lazy, clumsy, or helpless way; to overindulge in; to have in abundance; (n.) a wet, muddy, or dusty area used by animals as a sort of bath; a state of moral or physical collapse

After a strenuous hike, I was too tired to do anything but _____ blissfully in a hot bath.

On the Serengeti Plain, _____ offer animals much-needed relief from the sun's scorching rays.

SYNONYMS: (v.) delight in, bask in

20. waver
(wā' vər)

(v.) to move to and fro, become unsteady; to show lack of firmness or decision

The committee _____ for several days before choosing the winner of the essay contest.

SYNONYM: hesitate

ANTONYMS: stand firm, be resolute