

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. amiss
(ə mis')

(adj.) faulty, imperfect, not as it should be; (adv.) in a mistaken or improper way, wrongly

Under the circumstances it would not be _____ to offer our congratulations.

SYNONYM: (adj., adv.) awry

ANTONYM: (adv.) properly

2. brawl
(brôl)

(n.) a noisy quarrel or fight; (v.) to quarrel or fight noisily

The noise coming from the classroom sounded more like a _____ than a debate.

SYNONYMS: (n.) scuffle, donnybrook; (v.) spar, scrap

3. detest
(di test')

(v.) to hate, dislike very much, loathe

Children who dislike green vegetables often _____ spinach.

SYNONYMS: despise, abhor

ANTONYMS: relish, love, admire, esteem

4. domestic
(də mes' tik)

(adj.) native to a country, not foreign; relating to the life or affairs of a household; (n.) a household servant

The newspaper is filled with information about our country's _____ affairs.

When my grandmother first came to this country, she took a job as a _____.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) native; (n.) servant

ANTONYMS: (adj.) foreign, alien

5. flagrant
(flā' grənt)

(adj.) extremely bad, glaring; scandalous, notorious

Crossing against the light shows a _____ disregard for the law.

SYNONYMS: blatant, gross, outrageous

ANTONYMS: petty, piddling, trifling, inconsequential

6. flaw
(flô)

(n.) a slight fault, defect, crack

We noticed a _____ in the plan to start building the house before the spring rains.

SYNONYMS: imperfection, blemish

ANTONYMS: faultlessness, perfection

7. fledgling
(flej' lɪŋ)

(*n.*) an inexperienced person, beginner; a young bird about to leave the nest; (*adj.*) inexperienced, budding

We placed the _____ back in its nest.

A _____ police officer appeared on the scene and wisely called for assistance.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) novice, tyro, neophyte

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) pro, expert, veteran

8. fluster
(fləs' tər)

(*v.*) to make or become confused, agitated, or nervous; (*n.*) a state of confusion or agitation

During the trial, the judge told the attorney not to _____ the witness.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) agitate, disconcert

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) reassure, soothe, quiet

9. foremost
(fôr' mōst)

(*adj.*) chief, most important, primary; (*adv.*) in the first place

Among my interests, music is _____.

First and _____, you must call home to let your family know you'll be late.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) leading, principal, paramount

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) hindmost, last, secondary

10. momentum
(mō ment' əm)

(*n.*) the force or speed with which something moves

The presidential campaign gained _____ once the first primary was over.

SYNONYMS: drive, thrust, impetus

11. notable
(nōt' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) striking, remarkable; (*n.*) a person who is well known, distinguished, or outstanding in some way

Being chosen for the team was a _____ event in our lives.

The party was attended by _____ from the film world.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) noteworthy, exceptional

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) undistinguished, unremarkable; (*n.*) unknown

12. nurture
(nər' chər)

(*v.*) to bring up, care for, train, nourish; (*n.*) rearing, training, upbringing

It is wonderful to watch chimpanzees _____ their young.

The _____ they received as children served them well as they grew into adulthood.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) raise, rear, foster

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) neglect, ignore, discourage, hinder

13. paradox
(par' ə dāks)

(*n.*) a self-contradictory statement that on closer examination proves true; a person or thing with seemingly contradictory qualities

It is a _____ to say that youth is wasted on the young.

SYNONYMS: riddle, enigma, anomaly, absurdity

14. perjury
(pər' jə rē)

(*n.*) the act of swearing to a lie

The witness was convicted of _____ and was sentenced to serve two years in prison.

SYNONYM: false witness

15. presume
(pri zūm')

(*v.*) to take for granted, assume or suppose; to dare, take upon oneself, take liberties

The counselors _____ that the jobs they had last summer will be theirs this summer as well.

SYNONYMS: surmise, trespass, infringe

16. prior
(prī' ə r)

(*adj.*) earlier, former

Unfortunately, the governor had a _____ appointment and could not meet with the class.

SYNONYMS: anterior, preceding; ANTONYMS: later, ensuing, following

17. proficient
(prə fish' ənt)

(*adj.*) skilled, expert, or capable in any field or activity

Dad knows his way around the kitchen and is quite a _____ cook.

SYNONYMS: competent, adept

ANTONYMS: incompetent, inept, unskilled, ignorant

18. salvo
(sal' vō)

(*n.*) a burst of gunfire or cannon shot, often as a tribute or salute; a sudden burst of anything; a spirited verbal attack

The audience erupted in a _____ of laughter.

SYNONYMS: barrage, volley

19. vigilant
(vij' ə lənt)

(*adj.*) wide-awake, alert, watchful

The _____ guards paced back and forth in front of the barracks.

SYNONYM: attentive; ANTONYMS: sleepy, inattentive, unobservant

20. wrath
(rath)

(*n.*) intense anger

In Greek and Roman myths, characters fear the _____ of the gods.

SYNONYMS: rage, ire, choler, indignation

ANTONYMS: favor, approval, pleasure, blessing