

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. abnormal
(ab nôr' mæl)

(adj.) not usual, not typical, strange

For my sister, who is always late, being early for class would be an _____ situation.

SYNONYMS: freakish, unnatural, irregular, anomalous

ANTONYMS: normal, usual, regular, typical

2. capsize
(kap' sîz)

(v.) to turn bottom side up, upset

Anyone watching could see that it was our inexperience that caused us to _____ the canoe.

SYNONYMS: upend, tip over

3. catastrophe
(kə tas' trə fē)

(n.) a large-scale disaster, misfortune, or failure

During the Cold War, the United States did everything possible to avoid a nuclear _____.

SYNONYMS: tragedy, cataclysm

ANTONYMS: triumph, victory, success

4. decrease
(v., di krēs';
n., dē' krēs)

(v.) to become or make less; (n.) a lessening

The manager hopes that theft will _____ once the new security system is installed.

Because of a sharp _____ in sales, the company had to lay off two-thirds of its workers.

SYNONYMS: (v.) lessen, reduce, dwindle, diminish

ANTONYMS: (v.) increase, grow, develop, wax

5. disputatious
(dis pyū ta' shəs)

(adj.) inclined to argue or debate; provoking debate

The _____ senator had engaged in filibusters to block the passage of many a bill.

SYNONYMS: argumentative, quarrelsome, contentious

ANTONYMS: nonargumentative, peaceable, pacific

6. evict
(i vikt')

(v.) to force out from a property, eject

The landlord reluctantly decided to _____ the tenants who fell on hard times and had not paid their rent in six months.

SYNONYMS: oust, expel, kick out

ANTONYMS: admit, insert

7. **flourish**
(flər' ish)

(v.) to grow, thrive, be prosperous; to wave in the air;
(n.) a dramatic gesture; a fanfare of horns

It is fortunate for lovers of the arts that painting and opera
still _____ in Italy.

Actors often enter the stage with a _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) prosper, burgeon, increase

ANTONYMS: (v.) wither, die, fade, shrivel up

8. **incentive**
(in sen' tiv)

(n.) a reason for doing something; something that
stimulates action

Because career advancement is such a strong
_____, adults are usually eager and
hard-working students.

SYNONYMS: stimulus, spur, motive, inducement

ANTONYMS: curb, check, restraint, hindrance

9. **insubordinate**
(in sə bōrd' ən ət)

(adj.) disobedient, rebellious

The _____ soldier repeatedly interrupted
his commanding officer.

SYNONYMS: defiant, unruly, mutinous

ANTONYMS: obedient, submissive, docile, tractable

10. **legible**
(lej' ə bəl)

(adj.) easily read

In keeping with the jokes, pharmacists will tell you that most
doctors' handwriting is barely _____.

SYNONYMS: clear, decipherable

ANTONYMS: unreadable, indecipherable

11. **nub**
(nəb)

(n.) the central point or heart of a matter; a knob

After seemingly endless digressions, the speaker finally
got to the _____ of his argument.

SYNONYMS: kernel, nucleus, crux

ANTONYMS: fringe, periphery, edge

12. **onslaught**
(ən' slōt)

(n.) a violent attack; a sudden rush of something

To prepare for the _____ of winter, we
replenished our supply of firewood and rock salt.

SYNONYMS: assault, charge, foray, onset

13. **ordain**
(ôr dān')

(v.) to establish by law; to order or command; to appoint as a
priest or minister; to destine

Ancient astrologers believed that the stars could
_____ one's future.

SYNONYMS: anoint, consecrate, enact, decree

ANTONYMS: forbid, veto, cancel

14. outstrip
(aüt strip')

(v.) to get ahead of, do better than, exceed

By offering customers low prices and good terms, the new store hopes to _____ the competition.

SYNONYMS: outdo, outperform, outdistance, surpass

ANTONYMS: trail, lag behind

15. pervade
(pär vād')

(v.) to spread throughout

Pollutants _____ the atmosphere of many of our nation's large cities.

SYNONYMS: permeate, diffuse, imbue

16. prudent
(prüd' ənt)

(adj.) cautious, careful, showing good sense

It pays to make _____ investments.

SYNONYMS: wary, judicious

ANTONYMS: foolish, unwise, rash

17. quench
(kwench)

(v.) to put out, extinguish, end

The firefighters will _____ the flames with water.

SYNONYMS: douse, stifle

ANTONYMS: ignite, kindle

18. remnant
(rem' nənt)

(n.) a small part remaining behind

By the end of the war, the rebels had but a _____ of their former strength.

SYNONYMS: remainder, residue, leftover

19. simultaneous
(si mäl tā' nē əs)

(adj.) happening or existing at the same time

The diplomats put on headphones so that they could listen to a _____ translation of the speech.

SYNONYMS: occurring at the same time, concurrent

ANTONYM: occurring at different times

20. swerve
(swərv)

(v.) to turn aside sharply; (n.) a sharp or sudden turn

Be aware that if you _____ too sharply, you may lose control of the car.

The sudden _____ of the bus caused some passengers to fall out of their seats.

SYNONYMS: (v.) digress, sheer off