

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. abut**
(ə bət')
(v.) to join at one end or be next to; to support, prop up
Land that _____ a river or lake is considered a highly desirable location on which to build a summer home.
SYNONYMS: border on, bolster
- 2. attire**
(ə tīr')
(n.) clothes, apparel, garb; (v.) to dress, adorn, or bedeck
The special _____ that firefighters wear helps to protect them from flames and smoke.
The children happily _____ their stuffed animals in holiday outfits and accessories.
SYNONYM: (n.) clothing
- 3. avail**
(ə vāl')
(v.) to be of use or benefit to; to make use of; to take advantage of; to profit or benefit; (n.) use, benefit, or value
Be sure to _____ yourself of all the services that the school library has to offer.
I tried repeatedly to contact my neighbor by phone, but to absolutely no _____.
- 4. crony**
(krō' nē)
(n.) a very close friend, chum, buddy
We have been _____ ever since we met in the second grade.
ANTONYMS: adversary, rival
- 5. cryptic**
(krip' tik)
(adj.) puzzling, mystifying, or enigmatic
The letter to the editor was so _____ that I couldn't be certain what the writer had actually intended to say.
ANTONYMS: crystal clear, unambiguous
- 6. divergent**
(də vēr' jənt)
(adj.) going in different directions; different from each other; departing from convention, deviant
Two people may be close friends despite their having very _____ interests and beliefs.
SYNONYMS: not in agreement, differing, unorthodox, unconventional
ANTONYMS: merging, intersecting, converging, orthodox, conventional

- 7. enmity**
(en' mə tē)
(*n.*) hatred, ill-will
Despite a long, close, and tense match, the defeated player felt no _____ toward the new champion.
SYNONYMS: hostility, animosity
ANTONYMS: friendship, amity
- 8. fervent**
(fər' vənt)
(*adj.*) very earnest, emotional, passionate; extremely hot
The president delivered a _____ plea for tolerance and unity.
SYNONYMS: enthusiastic, burning, blazing, scorching
ANTONYMS: blasé, apathetic, restrained, emotionless
- 9. gaunt**
(gônt)
(*adj.*) thin and bony, starved looking; bare, barren
We left food and water for the _____ alley cat.
SYNONYMS: lean, lanky, all skin and bones
ANTONYMS: plump, stout, corpulent
- 10. infiltrate**
(in' fil trāt)
(*v.*) to pass through or gain entrance to gradually or stealthily
Some of our men _____ the enemy's camp and captured their leader.
SYNONYMS: slip into, creep into, penetrate
- 11. nullify**
(nəl' ə fi)
(*v.*) to make of no value or consequence, cancel, wipe out
After seven days, you cannot _____ the contract without being charged a penalty.
SYNONYMS: invalidate, annul
ANTONYMS: confirm, endorse, ratify, sanction
- 12. perceptible**
(pər sep' tə bəl)
(*adj.*) capable of being grasped by the senses or mind
There was no _____ improvement in the patient's condition despite the doctors' best efforts to treat the infection.
SYNONYMS: noticeable, discernible, observable
ANTONYMS: invisible, unnoticeable, indiscernible
- 13. plummet**
(pləm' ət)
(*v.*) to plunge straight down; (*n.*) a weight fastened to a line
Gannets and other seabirds _____ headfirst into the ocean to catch small fish and squid.
Experts think the pierced round stones found at the site served as _____ to weight fishing nets.
SYNONYM: (*v.*) take a nosedive
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) soar, skyrocket

14. proclaim
(prō klām')

(v.) to declare publicly or officially

We _____ loyalty to our country when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

SYNONYMS: announce, promulgate
ANTONYMS: conceal, cover up

15. proxy
(prāk' sē)

(n.) an agent, substitute; a written permission allowing one person to act in another's place

The vice president may be called upon to be the president's _____ at the funeral of a foreign leader.

SYNONYM: deputy

16. rankle
(raŋ' kəl)

(v.) to cause anger, irritation, or bitterness (with the suggestion that the pain grows worse with time)

Insults may _____ a person for many years.

SYNONYMS: irritate, vex, nettle, irk
ANTONYMS: please, gratify

17. scavenger
(skav' ən jər)

(n.) a person who collects or removes usable items from waste materials; an animal that feeds on refuse or dead bodies

A few _____ such as catfish and other bottom feeders will help to keep a fish tank clean.

SYNONYM: rummager

18. stint
(stint)

(v.) to limit, be sparing or frugal; (n.) a limit or restriction; a fixed share of work or duty; a period of activity

Good hosts never _____ on food and drink for the guests who attend their parties.

A _____ as the guest host of a popular talk show may be a big career break for a young comedian.

SYNONYMS: (v.) restrict, scrimp, economize
ANTONYMS: (v.) splurge, squander, lavish

19. stoical
(stō' i kəl)

(adj.) self-controlled, not showing feeling in response to pleasure or pain

The refugees' _____ acceptance of their plight was deeply moving.

SYNONYMS: unresponsive, impassive
ANTONYMS: excitable, emotional, hotheaded

20. unflagging
(ən flag' in)

(adj.) tireless, continuing with vigor

After the votes were counted, the candidates paid tribute to the _____ loyalty of their supporters.

SYNONYMS: steady, undiminished, unremitting
ANTONYMS: diminishing, drooping, sagging