

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. apt
(apt)

(*adj.*) suitable, fitting, likely; quick to learn

The appropriate greeting card for a particular occasion is one that expresses _____ sentiments.

SYNONYMS: appropriate, fit, liable

ANTONYMS: inappropriate, slow

2. awry
(ə ri')

(*adj., adv.*) in a turned or twisted position or direction; wrong, out of the right or hoped-for course

After running to catch the bus, I realized that my clothing was all _____.

If something went _____ during a countdown, NASA officials would cancel a shuttle launch.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) crooked, askew, amiss

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) straight, symmetrical

3. bludgeon
(bləj' ən)

(*n.*) a short club used as a weapon; (*v.*) to strike with a heavy club; to use force or strong arguments to gain some point

Early humans fashioned _____ from the thick limbs of trees.

Heavy-handed writers tend to _____ readers with explanations of their characters' motives.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) cudgel; (*v.*) clobber, clout

4. capitulate
(kə pich' ə lāt)

(*v.*) to end resistance, give up, throw in the towel

When I saw that I had been outmaneuvered by my opponent, I had no choice but to _____.

ANTONYMS: hold out, persist

5. chafe
(chāf)

(*v.*) to warm by rubbing; to wear sore by rubbing; to feel annoyance or dissatisfaction, annoy, irk; to strain or press against; (*n.*) a sore or injury caused by rubbing

The American colonists _____ under the many unjust laws imposed on them by King George III.

To keep that raw _____ from becoming infected, you should put a clean bandage on it.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) irritate, scrape, abrade

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) soothe, mollify, please, elate

6. defile
(di fil')

(*v., trans.*) to make unclean or dirty, destroy the purity of;
(*v., intrans.*) to march in a single line or in columns; (*n.*) a narrow passage; gorge, canyon

Those who _____ a house of worship will be punished to the full extent of the law.

The victorious troops _____ for review.

We hiked through the rocky _____.

SYNONYMS: (*v., trans.*) pollute, contaminate

ANTONYMS: (*v., trans.*) cleanse, purify

7. dire
(dir)

(*adj.*) dreadful, causing fear or suffering; warning of trouble to come; demanding immediate action to avoid disaster

Environmentalists warn of the _____ consequences of the destruction of the world's rain forests.

SYNONYMS: disastrous, ominous, sinister, urgent

ANTONYMS: favorable, auspicious, beneficial

8. disarming
(dis ärm' in)

(*adj.*) charming, tending to soften unfriendliness or suspicion

My best friend has a most _____ smile.

SYNONYMS: endearing, winning

ANTONYMS: alarming, troubling, disquieting

9. disgruntled
(dis grant' əld)

(*adj., part*) in bad humor, discontented, annoyed

When flights are delayed because of bad weather, airline passengers may become extremely _____.

SYNONYMS: displeased, grumpy, surly

ANTONYMS: pleased, satisfied, content

10. encroach
(en kröch')

(*v.*) to advance beyond the usual or proper limits, trespass

Where suburbs _____ on unspoiled forests or wetlands, delicate ecosystems may be disrupted.

SYNONYMS: intrude, infringe

11. endow
(en dau')

(*v.*) to furnish, equip, provide with funds or some other desirable thing or quality

Wealthy individuals often make provisions in their wills to _____ their favorite charities.

SYNONYMS: grant, bestow, present, bequeath

ANTONYMS: take away, deprive

12. fend
(fend)

(*v.*) to ward off, resist; to get along, manage

The picnic was enjoyable, but we spent quite a bit of time _____ off ants and mosquitos.

SYNONYMS: stave off, cope

- 13. impunity**
(im pyü' nə tē)
(*n.*) freedom from punishment
Bullies must be made to realize that they cannot push other people around with _____.
SYNONYMS: exemption from penalty, immunity
- 14. mien**
(mēn)
(*n.*) air, manner; appearance; expression
A person may adopt a cheerful _____ in an attempt to conceal sorrow or anger.
SYNONYMS: look, bearing
- 15. penal**
(pē' nəl)
(*adj.*) having to do with punishment
Devil's Island, off the coast of French Guiana, was once the site of an infamous _____ colony.
SYNONYM: disciplinary
- 16. pertinent**
(pər' tə nənt)
(*adj.*) related to the matter at hand, to the point
The joke you told was very amusing, but I fail to see how it was _____ to the conversation.
SYNONYMS: germane, apropos
ANTONYMS: unrelated, irrelevant, immaterial
- 17. predominant**
(pri däm' ə nənt)
(*adj.*) the greatest in strength or power; most common
Cy Young, for whom the coveted pitching award is named, was once the _____ pitcher in baseball.
SYNONYMS: chief, major, paramount, prevalent
ANTONYMS: secondary, minor, subsidiary, rare
- 18. prodigy**
(präd' ə jē)
(*n.*) something wonderful or marvelous; an unusual feat; a child or young person with extraordinary ability or talent
The careers of some musical _____ have turned out to be short-lived.
SYNONYMS: marvel, wonder, genius
ANTONYMS: dumbbell, dunce, dullard
- 19. recluse**
(re' klüs)
(*n.*) a person who leads a life shut up or withdrawn from the world
An individual who has suffered a great emotional loss may become something of a _____.
SYNONYM: hermit
- 20. renown**
(ri naün')
(*n.*) fame, glory
Some writers earn acclaim during their lifetime, but others win _____ only after their death.
SYNONYMS: reputation, celebrity, prestige
ANTONYMS: obscurity, infamy, notoriety