

## 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. animated**  
(an' ə māt id)

(adj.) full of life, lively, alive; (part.) moved to action

After the game the sportscaster found the winning team to be in an \_\_\_\_\_ mood.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) energetic, vigorous  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) lifeless, dead, flat
- 2. brood**  
(brüd)

(n.) a family of young animals, especially birds; any group having the same nature and origin; (v.) to think over in a worried, unhappy way

The mother bird fed her \_\_\_\_\_.

The pioneers did not \_\_\_\_\_ over the hardships they suffered on the long journey.

SYNONYMS: (v.) ponder, meditate, worry, agonize
- 3. constituent**  
(kən stich' ə wənt)

(n.) an essential part; a voter who elects a representative

In our district, almost every \_\_\_\_\_ is dedicated to participating in the voting process.

SYNONYMS: element, component
- 4. culminate**  
(kəl' mə nāt)

(v.) to reach a high point of development; to end, climax

The president's military advisors hoped the overseas action would not \_\_\_\_\_ in disaster.

SYNONYMS: conclude, terminate; ANTONYMS: begin, initiate, kick off
- 5. downright**  
(daʊn' rīt)

(adv.) thoroughly; (adj.) absolute, complete; frank, blunt

Our neighbor, who chopped down our tree and destroyed our fence, is just \_\_\_\_\_ mean.

The actor felt like a \_\_\_\_\_ fool when he forgot his lines.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) total, out-and-out
- 6. drone**  
(drōn)

(n.) a loafer, idler; a buzzing or humming sound; a remote-control device; a male bee; (v.) to make a buzzing sound; to speak in a dull tone of voice

The steady \_\_\_\_\_ of the engine put us all to sleep.

The speaker \_\_\_\_\_ on and on, ignoring the fact that much of the audience had left.

SYNONYMS: (n.) bum, do-nothing; (v.) hum, buzz, purr  
ANTONYM: (n.) hard worker

**7. goad**  
(gōd)

(*v.*) to drive or urge on; (*n.*) something used to drive or urge on  
The sergeant had to \_\_\_\_\_ the reluctant soldiers into action.

The cowhand used a \_\_\_\_\_ to prod the sluggish cattle.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) prod, spur on

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) curb, check, restrain

**8. hanker**  
(han' kər)

(*v.*) to long (for), to desire

Now after three weeks on the road, I really \_\_\_\_\_ for home-cooked meals and my own bed.

SYNONYM: yearn

**9. indulge**  
(in dəl'j')

(*v.*) to give in to a wish or desire, give oneself up to

Sometimes the members of a losing team will \_\_\_\_\_ in self-pity.

SYNONYMS: oblige, humor, coddle, pamper

ANTONYMS: deny, refuse

**10. literate**  
(lit' ə rət)

(*adj.*) able to read and write; showing an excellent educational background; having knowledge or training

Compared with others in the colonial settlement, she was a highly \_\_\_\_\_ young woman.

SYNONYM: educated; ANTONYMS: unlettered, ignorant

**11. loom**  
(lüm)

(*v.*) to come into view; to appear in exaggerated form;

(*n.*) a machine for weaving

The climbers were awestruck to see the peak \_\_\_\_\_ up before them.

The antique \_\_\_\_\_, once used to make cloth, was on display in the crafts museum.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) emerge, surface, hover, tower

**12. luster**  
(ləs' tər)

(*n.*) the quality of giving off light, brightness, glitter

The polished gold dome atop the state capitol shone with a starry \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: gloss, sheen, shine

ANTONYMS: tarnish, dullness

**13. miscellaneous**  
(mis ə lā' nē əs)

(*adj.*) mixed, of different kinds

A collection of \_\_\_\_\_ items was gathering dust in the attic.

SYNONYMS: varied, assorted, motley

ANTONYMS: identical, uniform, homogeneous

- 14. oration**  
(ô rā' shən)  
(*n.*) a public speech for a formal occasion  
Cicero's \_\_\_\_\_ in the Roman Senate are still studied by speakers today.  
SYNONYM: address
- 15. peevish**  
(pē' vish)  
(*adj.*) cross, complaining, irritable; contrary  
Although the members of the tour group were usually in good humor, hunger made them \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: crabby, testy, stubborn  
ANTONYMS: agreeable, amiable, even-tempered, pleasant
- 16. seethe**  
(sēth)  
(*v.*) to boil or foam; to be excited or disturbed  
Mother would \_\_\_\_\_ with rage each time she learned that a dog had been mistreated.  
SYNONYMS: churn, simmer, stew
- 17. singe**  
(sinj)  
(*v.*) to burn slightly; (*n.*) a burn at the ends or edges  
Getting too close to the flame of the campfire caused the camper to \_\_\_\_\_ his eyelashes.  
A \_\_\_\_\_ from a cigar ash had destroyed the last word in the document.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) scorch, char  
ANTONYM: (*v.*) incinerate
- 18. unique**  
(yü nēk')  
(*adj.*) one of a kind; unequaled; unusual; found only in a given class, place, or situation  
Most people would agree that finding an elephant in one's bathtub would constitute a \_\_\_\_\_ situation, even in one's dreams.  
SYNONYMS: unparalleled, distinctive  
ANTONYMS: ordinary, commonplace, run-of-the-mill
- 19. upright**  
(əp' rīt)  
(*adj.*) vertical, straight; good, honest; (*adv.*) in a vertical position  
The senator showed her \_\_\_\_\_ character by voting for bills she believed to be morally right.  
The patient was finally standing \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) perpendicular, virtuous  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) horizontal, prone, dishonest, corrupt
- 20. verify**  
(ver' ə fi)  
(*v.*) to establish the truth or accuracy of, confirm  
The reporter hurried to \_\_\_\_\_ the source of the controversial statement.  
SYNONYMS: prove, validate, substantiate  
ANTONYMS: disprove, discredit