

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. anecdote
(an' ek dōt)

(*n.*) a short account of an incident in someone's life

The governor told a humorous _____
about her first day in office.

SYNONYMS: tale, sketch, vignette, yarn

2. consolidate
(kən sāl' ə dāt)

(*v.*) to combine, unite; to make solid or firm

The generals agreed to _____ their forces
for the invasion.

SYNONYMS: strengthen, firm up, merge

ANTONYMS: scatter, disperse, dissipate

3. counterfeit
(kaūn' tər fit)

(*n.*) an imitation designed to deceive; (*adj.*) not genuine, fake;

(*v.*) to make an illegal copy

The painting was a _____ of
Gainsborough's *Blue Boy*.

The forger was selling _____ postage
stamps to his friends and neighbors.

It is a crime to _____ money.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) false, phony, bogus

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) genuine, real, authentic

4. docile
(dās' əl)

(*adj.*) easily taught, led, or managed; obedient

She was a _____ child, eager to learn and
to please.

SYNONYMS: manageable, teachable, pliant

ANTONYMS: unruly, wayward, intractable, disobedient

5. dominate
(dām' ə nāt)

(*v.*) to rule over by strength or power, control; to tower over,
command due to height

History shows that powerful nations tend to
_____ weaker ones.

SYNONYMS: govern, overlook

6. entreat
(en trēt')

(*v.*) to beg, implore, ask earnestly

The dog's eyes seemed to _____ me for
an extra helping of dinner.

SYNONYMS: plead, appeal to

ANTONYM: clamor for

- 7. fallible**
(fal' ə bəl)
(*adj.*) capable of being wrong, mistaken, or inaccurate
The researcher's _____ methods led to faulty conclusions.
SYNONYMS: errant, flawed; ANTONYMS: foolproof, unfailing, flawless
- 8. fickle**
(fik' ə l)
(*adj.*) liable to change very rapidly, erratic; marked by a lack of constancy or steadiness, inconsistent
My aunt's interests change with the weather, showing she is a truly _____ person.
SYNONYMS: inconstant, faithless; ANTONYMS: constant, steady
- 9. fugitive**
(fyū' jə tiv)
(*n.*) one who flees or runs away; (*adj.*) fleeting, lasting a very short time; wandering; difficult to grasp
That thief is a _____ from justice.
Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch had a few _____ moments together before Mrs. Hirsch boarded the train.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) deserter; (*adj.*) elusive
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) lasting, enduring, permanent
- 10. grimy**
(grī' mē)
(*adj.*) very dirty, covered with dirt or soot
The miners emerged from the pits with _____ hands and faces.
SYNONYMS: filthy, sooty, soiled, dirt-encrusted
ANTONYMS: spotless, spick-and-span, immaculate
- 11. iota**
(i ō' tə)
(*n.*) a very small part or quantity
The employer had not an _____ of proof, but he blamed the new clerk for the theft anyway.
SYNONYMS: speck, dab, jot, bit, smidgen
ANTONYMS: flood, deluge, avalanche, glut
- 12. maul**
(môl)
(*v.*) to beat or knock about, handle roughly; to mangle;
(*n.*) a heavy hammer
The tiger was about to _____ its victim when the zookeeper stepped between them.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) manhandle, batter
- 13. potential**
(pə ten' chəl)
(*adj.*) possible, able to happen; (*n.*) something that can develop or become a reality
Hurricanes are a _____ threat to this area.
They were a football team with _____.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) possibility, capability
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) actual, real, unlikely, impossible

14. radiant
(rā' dē ənt)

(*adj.*) shining, bright; giving forth light or energy

A model needs to have a _____ smile in order to advertise toothpaste.

SYNONYMS: glowing, brilliant, dazzling, resplendent

ANTONYMS: dull, tarnished, lackluster

15. rural
(rūr' əl)

(*adj.*) relating to farm areas and life in the country

They settled in a _____ community that was miles from the nearest large city.

SYNONYMS: countrified, pastoral

ANTONYMS: metropolitan, citified

16. substantial
(səb stan' shəl)

(*adj.*) large, important; major, significant; prosperous; not imaginary, material

Expecting a _____ raise in salary, the employee put a down payment on a new car.

SYNONYMS: considerable, tangible, big

ANTONYMS: minor, insignificant, negligible

17. tactful
(takt' fəl)

(*adj.*) skilled in handling difficult situations or people, polite

A _____ approach is usually the wisest one to take with coworkers.

SYNONYMS: skillful, discreet

ANTONYMS: clumsy, gauche, indiscreet

18. tamper
(tam' pər)

(*v.*) to interfere with; to handle in a secret and improper way

Please don't _____ with our baggage.

SYNONYMS: monkey with, fool with, mess with

19. ultimate
(əl' tə mət)

(*adj.*) last, final; most important or extreme; eventual; basic, fundamental

California is our _____ destination on this cross-country trip.

SYNONYMS: farthest, furthest, terminal

ANTONYMS: first, initial, most immediate, nearest

20. uncertainty
(ən sər' tən' tē)

(*n.*) doubt, the state of being unsure

_____ about the future was the immigrants' greatest concern.

SYNONYMS: doubtfulness, unsureness

ANTONYMS: sureness, certainty, confidence