

## 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. adage**  
(ad' ij)

(*n.*) a proverb, wise saying

One way to begin an informal speech or an oral report is to quote an old \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: maxim, aphorism

**2. bonanza**  
(bə nan' zə)

(*n.*) a rich mass of ore in a mine; something very valuable, profitable, or rewarding; a source of wealth or prosperity; a very large amount; sudden profit or gain

The thrilling adventure movie set in Alaska proved to be a box-office \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYM: windfall

**3. churlish**  
(chər' lish)

(*adj.*) lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to work with or deal with; rude

The store manager instructed all the salesclerks to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ replies to customers' questions.

SYNONYMS: surly, ill-tempered

ANTONYMS: courteous, civil, well-mannered

**4. citadel**  
(sit' ə del)

(*n.*) a fortress that overlooks and protects a city; any strong or commanding place

A medieval \_\_\_\_\_ once guarded the capital city of the Greek island of Rhodes.

SYNONYMS: fort, stronghold, bulwark, bastion

**5. collaborate**  
(kə lab' ə rāt)

(*v.*) to work with, work together

Several students plan to \_\_\_\_\_ on a geology project for the annual science fair.

SYNONYMS: team up, join forces

ANTONYM: work alone

**6. decree**  
(di krē')

(*n.*) an order having the force of law; (*v.*) to issue such an order; to command firmly or forcefully

Caesar Augustus issued a \_\_\_\_\_ that all the world be taxed.

Why does nature always seem to \_\_\_\_\_ nasty weather for our annual family picnic?

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) proclamation, edict; (*v.*) proclaim

- 7. discordant**  
(dis kōr' dānt)  
(*adj.*) disagreeable in sound, jarring; lacking in harmony  
Their little spat struck a \_\_\_\_\_ note in our otherwise happy family get-together.  
SYNONYMS: grating, shrill, different, divergent, conflicting  
ANTONYMS: harmonious, in agreement
- 8. evolve**  
(ē vālv')  
(*v.*) to develop gradually; to rise to a higher level  
Authors hope that their notes, descriptions, and character sketches will \_\_\_\_\_ into a book.  
SYNONYMS: unfold, emerge; ANTONYMS: wither, atrophy
- 9. excerpt**  
(ek' sərpt)  
(*n.*) a passage taken from a book, article, etc.; (*v.*) to take such a passage; to quote  
My essay includes a long \_\_\_\_\_ from a speech by Sojourner Truth.  
If you \_\_\_\_\_ some material from a reference book, be sure to enclose it in quotation marks.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) portion, section, extract
- 10. grope**  
(grōp)  
(*v.*) to feel about hesitantly with the hands; to search blindly and uncertainly  
When the power failed, we had to \_\_\_\_\_ in the dark to find a working flashlight.  
SYNONYMS: fumble for, cast about for
- 11. hover**  
(həv' ər)  
(*v.*) to float or hang suspended over; to move back and forth uncertainly over or around  
A large group of vultures \_\_\_\_\_ in the air above the wounded animal.  
SYNONYMS: linger, waver, seesaw; ANTONYM: soar
- 12. jostle**  
(jās' əl)  
(*v.*) to make or force one's way by pushing or elbowing; to bump, brush against; to compete for  
I tried not to \_\_\_\_\_ other riders as I exited the crowded bus.  
SYNONYM: push
- 13. laggard**  
(lag' ərd)  
(*n.*) a person who moves slowly or falls behind; (*adj.*) falling behind; slow to move, act, or respond  
Tour guides often have to urge \_\_\_\_\_ to keep up with the rest of the group.  
Tenants who are \_\_\_\_\_ in paying rent run the risk of being forced to move.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) slowpoke, straggler; (*adj.*) sluggish  
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) early bird; (*adj.*) swift, speedy, prompt

**14. plaudits**  
(plô' ditz)

(*n., pl.*) applause; enthusiastic praise or approval

The skaters who won the gold medals gratefully accepted the \_\_\_\_\_ of their fans.

SYNONYMS: cheers, acclaim

ANTONYMS: boos, disapproval, ridicule

**15. preclude**  
(prē klüd')

(*v.*) to make impossible, prevent, shut out

Three wrong answers will \_\_\_\_\_ any contestant from entering the quiz show's final round.

SYNONYMS: hinder, check, stop

ANTONYMS: help, promote, facilitate

**16. revert**  
(rē vɜrt')

(*v.*) to return, go back

Control of a property usually \_\_\_\_\_ to the legal owner when a lease is up.

SYNONYMS: relapse, regress

ANTONYMS: progress, advance

**17. rubble**  
(rəb' əl)

(*n.*) broken stone or bricks; ruins

Bulldozers and wrecking balls soon reduced the damaged building to a heap of smoking \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYM: wreckage

**18. servile**  
(sər' vil)

(*adj.*) of or relating to a slave; behaving like or suitable for a slave or a servant, menial; lacking spirit or independence, abjectly submissive

Most serious performers prefer constructive criticism to \_\_\_\_\_ flattery.

SYNONYMS: slavish, groveling

ANTONYMS: masterly, overbearing

**19. vigil**  
(vij' əl)

(*n.*) a watch, especially at night; any period of watchful attention

Thousands attended the solemn \_\_\_\_\_ at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**20. wrangle**  
(rəŋ' gəl)

(*v.*) to quarrel or argue in a noisy, angry way; to obtain by argument; to herd; (*n.*) a noisy quarrel

My brother and sister always \_\_\_\_\_ over whose turn it is to take out the trash.

The customer got into a nasty \_\_\_\_\_ with the shopkeeper.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) squabble, bicker

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) agree, concur