


Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

1. adept

(*adj.*, ə dept';
n., a' dept)

(*adj.*) thoroughly skilled; (*n.*) an expert

Not only is the soloist an accomplished singer, but he is also _____ at playing the saxophone.

An _____ at chess, she hopes to compete in tournaments against top-rated players.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) masterful, accomplished, proficient

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) clumsy, unskilled, maladroit; (*n.*) novice

2. aspire

(ə spīr')

(*v.*) to have ambitious hopes or plans, strive toward a higher goal, desire earnestly; to ascend

An early fascination with ants led the young naturalist to _____ to a career as an entomologist.

SYNONYMS: seek, yearn, aim for, soar

3. bleak

(blēk)

(*adj.*) bare, dreary, dismal

Urban renewal can turn a run-down city with _____ economic prospects into a flourishing metropolis.

SYNONYMS: grim, cheerless, gloomy, desolate, barren

ANTONYMS: rosy, cheerful, sunny, promising, encouraging

4. chide

(chīd)

(*v.*) to blame; scold

The teacher _____ the student for truancy and tardiness.

SYNONYMS: upbraid, reprimand, rebuke, chastise

ANTONYMS: approve, praise, compliment, pat on the back

5. despicable

(di spik' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) worthy of scorn, contemptible

Whatever the provocation, there is no justification for such _____ behavior.

SYNONYMS: low, vile, cheap, sordid, detestable

ANTONYMS: praiseworthy, commendable, meritorious

6. diminutive

(də min' yə tiv)

(*adj.*) small, smaller than most others of the same type

The _____ lapdog was so small that it actually fit in its owner's purse.

SYNONYMS: undersized, miniature, tiny, compact

ANTONYMS: oversized, gigantic, huge, enormous

- 7. emancipate**
(ē man' sə pāt)
(*v.*) to free from slavery; to release or liberate
Scientific knowledge can _____
humanity from blind superstition.
SYNONYMS: set loose, unchain, unshackle, unfetter
ANTONYMS: enslave, snare, chain, shackle
- 8. erroneous**
(e rō' nē əs)
(*adj.*) incorrect, containing mistakes
An _____ first impression is not
easily corrected.
SYNONYMS: mistaken, fallacious, all wrong
ANTONYMS: accurate, correct, exact, unerring
- 9. exploit**
(*v.*, ek sploit';
n., ek' sploit)
(*v.*) to make use of, develop; to make improper use of for
personal profit; (*n.*) a feat, deed
A good debater knows how to _____
weaknesses in an opponent's argument.
The _____ of Robin Hood and his
Merry Men are so well known that they have become a part
of Western culture.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) utilize, turn to advantage, misuse
- 10. extemporaneous**
(ek stem pə rā' nē əs)
(*adj.*) made or delivered on the spur of the moment
The stand-up comedian's outrageous act included about
twenty minutes of completely _____
banter.
SYNONYMS: spontaneous, impromptu, off-the-cuff
ANTONYMS: planned, rehearsed, prepared
- 11. impair**
(im pâr')
(*v.*) to make imperfect, damage, harm
I am fortunate that the scratch on my eye will not
permanently _____ my vision.
SYNONYMS: injure, mar, disable, cripple, enervate
ANTONYMS: improve, strengthen, promote, advance
- 12. invincible**
(in vin' sə bəl)
(*adj.*) not able to be defeated, unbeatable
Napoleon I, emperor of France, was _____
until he launched a disastrous invasion of Russia.
SYNONYMS: unconquerable, indomitable, insuperable
ANTONYMS: vulnerable, conquerable, surmountable
- 13. languid**
(lan' gwid)
(*adj.*) drooping; without energy, sluggish
A big lunch makes me feel _____
for the rest of the day.
SYNONYMS: lazy, sluggish, listless, slack, lethargic
ANTONYMS: lively, energetic, vigorous, enlivening
- 14. mire**
(mīr)
(*n.*) mud; wet, swampy ground; a tough situation; (*v.*) to get stuck
The once verdant expanse of the soccer field has become
a rectangle of muck and _____.
Congress will never ratify that bill _____
in controversy.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) marsh, swamp, bog, slough
- 15. obtrusive**
(əb trü' siv)
(*adj.*) forward; undesirably prominent; thrust out
I don't blame you for being put off by his _____
attempt to dominate the conversation.
SYNONYMS: brash, impudent, conspicuous, protruding
ANTONYMS: meek, reserved, deferential, recessed
- 16. preamble**
(prē' am bəl)
(*n.*) an introduction to a speech or piece of writing
The _____ to the Constitution
describes the purpose of our national government.
SYNONYMS: opening, preface, prologue, preliminary
ANTONYMS: conclusion, ending, closing, epilogue
- 17. render**
(ren' dər)
(*v.*) to cause to become; to perform; to deliver officially; to
process, extract
The freelance writer presented the managing editor with a
bill for services _____.
SYNONYMS: present, furnish, submit, make, effect
- 18. rugged**
(ræg' əd)
(*adj.*) rough, irregular; severe, stern; strong; stormy
Settlers had a rough time crossing the _____
Appalachian Mountains.
SYNONYMS: rocky, craggy, blunt, harsh, hardy, tough
ANTONYMS: smooth, flat, soft, mild, tender, delicate
- 19. skeptical**
(skep' tə kəl)
(*adj.*) inclined to doubt; slow to accept something as true
I am _____ of promises made by
politicians when they are running for office.
SYNONYMS: dubious, suspicious, incredulous
ANTONYMS: believing, credulous, gullible, ingenuous
- 20. slipshod**
(slip' shäd)
(*adj.*) untidy in dress, personal habits, etc.; careless, sloppy
The commission attributed the unfortunate collapse of the
apartment building to its _____
construction.
SYNONYMS: messy, untidy, slovenly, slapdash, cursory
ANTONYMS: tidy, neat, orderly, careful, painstaking