


**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. appreciable**  
 (ə prē' shə bəl)

(*adj.*) sufficient to be noticed or measured

The injured woman lost an \_\_\_\_\_ amount of blood before the paramedics arrived.

SYNONYMS: perceptible, detectable, considerable  
 ANTONYMS: slight, trivial, inconsequential, negligible

**2. autocratic**  
 (ô tã krat' ik)

(*adj.*) absolute in power or authority

For many years, the island was under the \_\_\_\_\_ control of a dictator.

SYNONYMS: domineering, dictatorial, tyrannical, bossy  
 ANTONYMS: democratic, egalitarian, lenient, permissive, indulgent

**3. blanch**  
 (blanch)

(*v.*) to remove the color from; to make or turn pale; to parboil

Even the veteran rescue worker \_\_\_\_\_ upon seeing the crash site.

SYNONYMS: bleach, drain, wash out, go white  
 ANTONYMS: color, dye, infuse, blush, flush

**4. blasphemy**  
 (blas' fã mē)

(*n.*) an act, utterance, or writing showing contempt for something sacred

Galileo was accused of \_\_\_\_\_ for asserting that the sun, and not the earth, is the center of the universe.

SYNONYMS: curse, profanity, sacrilege, imprecation  
 ANTONYMS: reverence, veneration, devotion, respect

**5. brawny**  
 (brô' nē)

(*adj.*) strong, muscular

In Arthurian legend, one \_\_\_\_\_ knight after another tries to pull the sword Excalibar from the stone, but none succeeds.

SYNONYMS: broad-shouldered, strapping, husky, burly  
 ANTONYMS: slight, frail, delicate, puny

**6. concerted**  
 (kən sər' tid)

(*adj.*) planned or performed in cooperation with others

Teenagers and adults, northerners and southerners alike, participated in a \_\_\_\_\_ drive to register new voters.

SYNONYMS: joint, cooperative, combined, consolidated  
 ANTONYMS: unorganized, unilateral, diffused

- 7. contend**  
(kən tend')
- v.) to fight, struggle; to compete; to argue
- I enjoy watching the four major tennis tournaments in which brilliant players \_\_\_\_\_ for the "grand slam" titles.
- SYNONYMS: battle, dispute, vie, maintain, assert  
ANTONYMS: yield, acquiesce, submit, relinquish
- 8. humane**  
(hyü mān')
- (adj.) kind, merciful
- The \_\_\_\_\_ legal code of Hammurabi, king of Babylonia, was ahead of its time in seeking justice for the weak and the oppressed.
- SYNONYMS: sympathetic, compassionate, kindhearted  
ANTONYMS: cruel, merciless, unfeeling, brutal, heartless
- 9. illustrious**  
(i ləs' trē əs)
- (adj.) very famous, distinguished
- As a student of world politics, I would be thrilled to meet an \_\_\_\_\_ member of Parliament.
- SYNONYMS: eminent, renowned, prominent, celebrated  
ANTONYMS: unknown, obscure, nameless, anonymous
- 10. intolerable**  
(in täl' ə ə bəl)
- (adj.) unbearable
- To a perfectionist, mediocrity is more than unacceptable; it is simply \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYMS: insufferable, unendurable, outrageous  
ANTONYMS: enjoyable, pleasant, pleasing
- 11. irreverent**  
(i rev' ə ə nt)
- (adj.) disrespectful
- The student's \_\_\_\_\_ comments show a lack of respect for people in authority.
- SYNONYMS: profane, impious, sacrilegious, flippant  
ANTONYMS: awed, respectful, devout, pious, deferential
- 12. laborious**  
(lə bôr' ē əs)
- (adj.) not easy, requiring hard work; hardworking
- After cleaning the gutters, we moved on to the \_\_\_\_\_ task of raking and bagging the leaves.
- SYNONYMS: arduous, difficult, strenuous, wearisome  
ANTONYMS: easy, effortless, facile
- 13. lithe**  
(līth)
- (adj.) bending easily, limber
- The burly linebacker was as \_\_\_\_\_ and agile as a ballet dancer.
- SYNONYMS: supple, flexible, pliant, lissome  
ANTONYMS: stiff, rigid, inflexible, taut

- 14. maltreat**  
(mal trēt')
- (v.) to abuse, use roughly or crudely
- The candidate pledged to shut down any factory or manufacturing plant found to \_\_\_\_\_ workers.
- SYNONYMS: misuse, mistreat, harm, aggrieve  
ANTONYMS: coddle, pamper, indulge
- 15. ponder**  
(pän' dər)
- (v.) to consider carefully, reflect on
- I need time to \_\_\_\_\_ all of my options before deciding how to spend the summer.
- SYNONYMS: think over, ruminate, contemplate
- 16. subversive**  
(səb vər' sīv)
- (adj.) intended to undermine or overthrow; (n.) one who advocates or attempts to undermine a political system
- The underground movement circulated \_\_\_\_\_ pamphlets that criticized the government.
- The Alien and Sedition Acts enacted in 1798 gave the U.S. president the power to deport any noncitizen deemed a \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYMS: (adj.) treasonous, traitorous; (n.) a revolutionary  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) patriotic, loyal, true-blue
- 17. synthetic**  
(sin thet' ik)
- (adj.) made or put together by people; (n.) something artificial
- Sometimes only a jeweler can detect the difference between an expensive \_\_\_\_\_ gem and a natural stone.
- Nylon, rayon, and polyester are all \_\_\_\_\_ that have revolutionized the textile industry.
- SYNONYMS: (adj.) artificial, ersatz  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) natural, genuine
- 18. temperate**  
(tem' pər ət)
- (adj.) mild, moderate
- It's impossible to have a \_\_\_\_\_ discussion with a hotheaded person.
- SYNONYMS: composed, balanced, mellow, fair  
ANTONYMS: immoderate, extreme, excessive, harsh
- 19. venomous**  
(ven' ə məs)
- (adj.) poisonous; spiteful, mean
- It was only after we had rushed the child to the emergency room that we learned he'd been bitten by a \_\_\_\_\_ spider.
- SYNONYMS: nasty, malicious, virulent, malevolent  
ANTONYMS: harmless, innocuous, benign
- 20. wily**  
(wī' lē)
- (adj.) sly, shrewd, cunning
- The fur trappers of colonial North America were known to be \_\_\_\_\_ traders.
- SYNONYMS: clever, tricky, artful, foxy, cagey  
ANTONYMS: dull-witted, dense, artless, straightforward