

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. ad infinitum
(ad in fə nī' təm)

(adv.) endlessly

Children who hear a favorite story read over and over _____ are learning about language.

SYNONYMS: forever, unceasingly, incessantly, ceaselessly

ANTONYMS: succinctly, concisely, tersely, briefly

2. apportion
(ə pōr' shən)

(v.) to divide and give out in shares

The aging king decided to _____ the lands of his vast kingdom among his three daughters.

SYNONYMS: distribute, allot, parcel out, allocate

3. bona fide
(bō' nə fīd)

(adj.) genuine; sincere

The appraiser studied the old book and declared it to be a _____ first edition of *Moby Dick*.

SYNONYMS: authentic, indisputable, legitimate, certified

ANTONYMS: false, fake, bogus, spurious, counterfeit

4. buoyant
(boi' ənt)

(adj.) able to float easily; able to hold things up; cheerful, hopeful

We were weary and anxious to get home, but our friend's _____ spirits kept us going.

SYNONYMS: blithe, jaunty, lighthearted, animated

ANTONYMS: downcast, depressed, gloomy, morose

5. clique
(klīk; klik)

(n.) a small, exclusive group of people

The queen was surrounded by a _____ of powerful nobles who actually ran the country.

SYNONYMS: inner circle, coterie

6. concede
(kən sēd')

(v.) to admit as true; to yield, submit

Even though the votes were all in and counted, the losing candidate refused to _____ the election.

SYNONYMS: acknowledge, grant, allow, assent

ANTONYMS: contest, dispute, gainsay, challenge

7. congenial
(kən jēn' yəl)

(adj.) getting on well with others; agreeable, pleasant

I was relieved when my bunkmate at summer camp turned out to be considerate and _____.

SYNONYMS: friendly, sociable, amiable, compatible

ANTONYMS: disagreeable, surly, cold, standoffish

8. lofty
(lōf' tē)

(adj.) very high; noble

My mentor maintains _____ standards and works hard to adhere to them.

SYNONYMS: elevated, towering, exalted, grand

ANTONYMS: base, petty, low, sordid, despicable

9. migration
(mī grā' shən)

(n.) a movement from one country or region to another

_____ from north to south has contributed to the political clout of the Sun Belt.

SYNONYMS: population shift, mass movement

10. perceive
(pər sēv')

(v.) to be aware of through the senses, observe; to grasp mentally

I thought I _____ a flicker of guilt on my brother's face when I asked who ate my slice of pie.

SYNONYMS: notice, discern, understand

ANTONYMS: miss, overlook, be blind to

11. perverse
(pər vɜrs')

(adj.) inclined to go against what is expected; stubborn; turned away from what is good and proper

Some teenagers get _____ pleasure from blasting music that their parents do not like.

SYNONYMS: obstinate, contrary, mulish, wayward

ANTONYMS: tractable, docile, amenable, yielding

12. prelude
(pre' lūd)

(n.) an introduction; that which comes before or leads off

The orchestral _____ to the new opera seemed more interesting to me than the opera itself.

SYNONYMS: preface, overture, prologue, "curtain-raiser"

ANTONYMS: epilogue, postlude, aftermath

13. rancid
(ran' sid)

(adj.) stale, spoiled

When he opened the door, there poured forth the unmistakably _____ odor of some ancient leftovers.

SYNONYMS: foul, rank, fetid, sour, rotten, putrid

ANTONYMS: wholesome, fresh

14. rustic
(rəs' tik)

(*adj.*) country-like; simple, plain; awkward; (*n.*) one who lives in the country

We rented a _____ cabin, with no electricity or running water, twenty miles from the town.

On the trail we met an amiable old _____ carrying a fishing pole and a string of trout he'd caught.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) rough, unsophisticated, countrified

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) citified, urban, sophisticated, suave

15. sever
(sev' ər)

(*v.*) to separate, divide into parts

It was extreme of her to _____ ties with her former best friend, but that is what she did.

SYNONYMS: cut off, amputate, break off, dissolve

ANTONYMS: join, unite, weld together

16. sordid
(sôr' did)

(*adj.*) wretchedly poor; run-down; mean or selfish

Nineteenth century reformers made people aware of just how _____ conditions were in city slums.

SYNONYMS: filthy, squalid, base, vile, seedy, sleazy

ANTONYMS: pure, noble, opulent, lavish

17. untenable
(ən ten' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) not capable of being held or defended; impossible to maintain

Minutes into the debate she had a sinking feeling that her position was completely _____.

SYNONYMS: indefensible, insupportable, groundless

ANTONYMS: irrefutable, impregnable, incontestable

18. versatile
(vər' sə təl)

(*adj.*) able to do many things well; capable of many uses

By moving from comedy to drama to musicals, he has shown himself to be a truly _____ actor.

SYNONYMS: adaptable, handy, all-around, many-sided

ANTONYMS: limited, specialized, restricted

19. vindicate
(vin' də kăt)

(*v.*) to clear from hint or charge of wrongdoing; to defend successfully against opposition; to justify

Though the accused was _____ in the end, his career was all but ruined by the allegations.

SYNONYMS: acquit, absolve, exonerate, advocate

ANTONYMS: implicate, incriminate, condemn, convict

20. wane
(wān)

(*v.*) to lose size, strength, or power

As the moon _____, the nights grew darker; we could hardly see our way along the forest trails.

SYNONYMS: diminish, decline, subside, dwindle

ANTONYMS: grow, wax, amplify, balloon, increase