


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. annex**
(v. ə nek's';
n. an' eks)

(v.) to add to, attach; to incorporate; (n.) an attachment or addition

The two nations protested when their militant neighbor
_____ the disputed territory.

All back issues of magazines are kept next door on the
second floor of the new library _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) join, acquire, appropriate, procure

- 2. cleave**
(klēv)

(v.) To cut or split open; to cling to

It is possible to _____ a ripe
coconut neatly in two with just one swing of a machete.

SYNONYMS: sever, halve, sunder, adhere, clasp

- 3. cordial**
(kôr' jəl)

(adj.) in a friendly manner, hearty; cheery; (n.) a liqueur

Our aunt's _____ welcome made
us all feel right at home in her huge, drafty, Victorian house.

Grasshopper pie is made not with grasshoppers but with
crème de menthe, a _____.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) hospitable, affable, warm, convivial

ANTONYMS: (adj.) gruff, unfriendly, unsociable

- 4. cornerstone**
(kôr' nər stōn)

(n.) the starting point of a building; a fundamental principle or
element

The _____ of the American judicial
system is the presumption of innocence.

SYNONYMS: foundation, base, underpinning, support

- 5. debacle**
(di bāk' əl)

(n.) an overwhelming defeat, rout; a complete collapse or failure

After the _____ of their crushing
loss in the World Series, the team vowed to return next year.

SYNONYMS: disaster, fiasco, calamity

ANTONYMS: success, triumph, victory, coup

- 6. devitalize**
(dē vīt' ə līz)

(v.) to make weak or lifeless

The long, dark winter, with its cold rain and gloomy skies,
_____ her usually buoyant spirit.

SYNONYMS: enfeeble, sap, enervate

ANTONYMS: enliven, stimulate, energize, excite

- 7. embroil**
(em broil') (v.) to involve in a conflict or difficulty; to throw into confusion
The last thing I want is to _____ myself in a dispute between two of my best friends.
SYNONYMS: entangle, ensnarl
ANTONYMS: disentangle, separate, disconnect
- 8. exonerate**
(eg zăn' ə rāt) (v.) to clear from a charge or accusation
The prisoner was set free after ten years, thanks to new evidence that _____ him of all charges.
SYNONYMS: absolve, acquit, vindicate, exculpate
ANTONYMS: implicate, incriminate, inculcate
- 9. glib**
(glib) (*adj.*) ready and fluent in speech; thoughtless, insincere
The salesman had such _____ answers to every objection that I grew extremely skeptical of his claims.
SYNONYMS: superficial, pat, oily, unctuous, facile
ANTONYMS: halting, tongue-tied, speechless, awkward
- 10. haphazard**
(hap haz' ərd) (*adj.*) by chance, not planned; lacking order
The _____ arrangement of facts in his presentation left his listeners completely confused.
SYNONYMS: random, accidental, slapdash
ANTONYMS: deliberate, purposeful, orderly, meticulous
- 11. improvise**
(im' prə vīz) (v.) to compose or perform without preparation; to construct from available materials
After the earthquake, stunned villagers were forced to _____ shelters from the debris.
SYNONYMS: ad-lib, play it by ear, wing it, extemporize
ANTONYMS: plan, rehearse, practice, prepare
- 12. incite**
(in sīt') (v.) to rouse, stir up, urge on
Company agents were hired to _____ a riot at the steelworkers' protest demonstration.
SYNONYMS: spur, kindle, provoke, instigate, prompt
ANTONYMS: check, curb, impede, restrain, smother
- 13. influx**
(in' flæks) (*n.*) a coming in, inflow
An _____ of arctic air has brought unseasonably cold weather to half the country.
SYNONYMS: inpouring, inrush, invasion
ANTONYMS: outpouring, exodus, departure
- 14. pallor**
(pal' ər) (*n.*) an extreme or unnatural paleness
"A ghost!" the girl gasped, her _____ making her look much like a ghost herself as she ran away.
SYNONYMS: wanness, lividness, bloodlessness
ANTONYMS: flush, blush, rosiness, bloom
- 15. pedigree**
(ped' ə grē) (*n.*) a list of ancestors, family tree; the history or origins of something
Despite his impressive _____, the colt showed little enthusiasm for racing.
SYNONYMS: lineage, ancestry, genealogy
- 16. precipitous**
(pri sip' ət əs) (*adj.*) very steep
The novice hikers were very nervous as they carefully negotiated the _____ mountain trail.
SYNONYMS: sheer, abrupt, sharp
ANTONYMS: gradual, shallow, graded, incremental
- 17. profuse**
(prō fyūs') (*adj.*) very abundant; given or flowing freely
How can I stay upset with someone when they are so sincere and _____ with their apologies?
SYNONYMS: extravagant, lavish, bounteous, plenteous
ANTONYMS: sparse, scanty, meager, insufficient
- 18. reconcile**
(rek' ən sīl) (v.) to restore to friendship; to settle; to resign (oneself)
After so many years of feuding, it will be difficult for the brothers to _____ and begin anew.
SYNONYMS: unite, conciliate, mend fences
ANTONYMS: antagonize, alienate, drive a wedge between
- 19. shackle**
(shak' əl) (v.) to put into chains; (*n., usually pl.*) a chain, fetter
The guards attempted to _____ the prisoner before allowing him to board the waiting airplane.
His wicked plot discovered, the prince was bound in _____, and taken to the dank dungeon.
SYNONYMS: (v.) manacle, enslave; (*n.*) handcuffs, bonds, irons
ANTONYMS: (v.) free, unfetter, emancipate, liberate
- 20. threadbare**
(thred' bār) (*adj.*) shabby, old and worn
My brother has carefully collected a closetful of faded, _____ jeans, sweatshirts, and sneakers.
SYNONYMS: frayed, seedy, ragged, shopworn, trite
ANTONYMS: luxurious, plush, costly, sumptuous