

## 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. abase**  
(ə bās')
- (v.) to lower in esteem, degrade; to humble  
My friend refused to \_\_\_\_\_ herself by admitting to something she had not done.  
SYNONYMS: lower, humiliate, prostrate, demean  
ANTONYMS: elevate, ennoble, exalt
- 2. actuate**  
(ak' chū āt)
- (v.) to move to action; to impel  
A third bad accident at the notorious intersection finally \_\_\_\_\_ an angry community protest.  
SYNONYMS: trigger, incite, instigate
- 3. avert**  
(ə vɜrt')
- (v.) to turn aside, turn away; to prevent, avoid  
Rigorous training of the new lifeguards will quite probably \_\_\_\_\_ several tragedies each summer.  
SYNONYMS: stop, deflect, ward off, preclude  
ANTONYMS: invite, induce, provoke, cause
- 4. boorish**  
(būr' ish)
- (adj.) rude, unrefined; clumsy  
Her musical genius was rivaled only by her legendary \_\_\_\_\_ behavior in public.  
SYNONYMS: vulgar, crude, uncouth, ill-mannered, gauche  
ANTONYMS: suave, urbane, polished, courtly, well-bred
- 5. brunt**  
(brənt)
- (n.) the main impact, force, or burden  
Fortunately, a sparsely populated area bore the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hurricane.  
SYNONYMS: blow, shock  
ANTONYMS: aftershock, aftermath, repercussion
- 6. combatant**  
(kəm bat' ənt)
- (n.) a fighter; (adj.) engaged in fighting  
Several times the referee had to step in and separate the two \_\_\_\_\_ after the bell rang.  
The \_\_\_\_\_ forces from France and England met on the fields near Agincourt.  
SYNONYMS: (n.) soldier, disputant, warrior; (adj.) hostile, battling  
ANTONYMS: (n.) civilian; (adj.) peaceful, neutral

- 7. dormant**  
(dɔr' mənt)
- (adj.) inactive; in a state of suspension; sleeping  
The warm spring sun stirred the \_\_\_\_\_ daffodil bulbs we planted in the park last fall.  
SYNONYMS: resting, still, quiescent  
ANTONYMS: awake, active, lively, productive
- 8. dubious**  
(dū' bē əs)
- (adj.) causing uncertainty or suspicion; in a doubtful or uncertain state of mind, hesitant  
Experts have said that the manuscript first attributed to Mark Twain was of \_\_\_\_\_ authenticity.  
SYNONYMS: questionable, suspect, unsettled, undecided  
ANTONYMS: certain, positive, indubitable, reliable
- 9. harangue**  
(hə rɑŋ')
- (v.) to deliver a loud, ranting speech; (n.) a loud speech  
From the moment we walked in, our math teacher began to \_\_\_\_\_ us about our midterm exam scores.  
The speaker was supposed to discuss the criminal justice system, but delivered a \_\_\_\_\_ against lawyers.  
SYNONYMS: (v.) rant, lecture; (n.) tirade, diatribe  
ANTONYMS: (n.) whisper, murmur, undertone
- 10. harry**  
(har' ē)
- (v.) to make a destructive raid on; to torment, harass  
My parents are forever \_\_\_\_\_ me about cleaning up my room and playing music too loudly.  
SYNONYMS: badger, pester, hound, pillage, ravage
- 11. impenitent**  
(im pen' ə tənt)
- (adj.) not feeling remorse or sorrow for errors or offenses  
His \_\_\_\_\_ demeanor during the trial probably encouraged the judge to impose a harsh sentence.  
SYNONYMS: remorseless, unrepentant, incorrigible  
ANTONYMS: ashamed, remorseful, contrite, apologetic
- 12. knave**  
(nāv)
- (n.) a tricky, unprincipled, or deceitful fellow  
Her friends always knew that \_\_\_\_\_ of a first husband was only after her inheritance.  
SYNONYMS: rascal, rogue, scoundrel, miscreant
- 13. legion**  
(lē' jən)
- (n.) a large military force; any large group or number; (adj.) many, numerous  
It would undoubtedly take a \_\_\_\_\_ of skilled mechanics to repair an old rattletrap like my car.  
Her reasons for not attending the Community Gourmet Club's "Cooking with Beets Night" were \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (n.) multitude, host, throng, division, regiment  
ANTONYMS: (n.) squad, platoon; (adj.) few, sparse

- 14. liberality**  
(lib ə ral' ə tē)
- (*n.*) generosity, generous act; breadth of mind or outlook  
The dean's well-known \_\_\_\_\_ allowed an atmosphere of spirited debate to flourish at the college.  
SYNONYMS: largesse, magnanimity, broad-mindedness  
ANTONYMS: stinginess, miserliness, narrow-mindedness
- 15. plaintiff**  
(plān' tif)
- (*n.*) one who begins a lawsuit  
His lawyers objected that the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the defendant was being put on trial.  
SYNONYMS: complainant, accuser  
ANTONYMS: defendant, accused
- 16. probe**  
(prōb)
- (*v.*) to examine, investigate thoroughly; (*n.*) an investigation; a device used to explore or examine  
An auditor was brought in to \_\_\_\_\_ the company's financial irregularities.  
An unmanned \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to examine the geology of the Martian surface.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) explore, scrutinize; (*n.*) inquiry, detector  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) conceal, hide; (*n.*) cover-up, whitewash
- 17. protract**  
(prō trakt')
- (*v.*) to draw out or lengthen in space or time  
Militants opposed to the peace treaty attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the negotiations.  
SYNONYMS: prolong, extend, elongate, spin out  
ANTONYMS: contract, compress, concentrate
- 18. quarry**  
(kwär' ē)
- (*v.*) to cut or take from (or as if from) a quarry; (*n.*) a place from which stone is taken; something that is hunted or pursued  
The Internet makes it easier to \_\_\_\_\_ information from the world's vast supply.  
Bargain hunters armed with sale ads raced through the store, urgently seeking their \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) prey, game, victim, excavation, pit, mine  
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) hunter, predator, pursuer
- 19. spurn**  
(spərn)
- (*v.*) to refuse with scorn, disdain  
He \_\_\_\_\_ a full scholarship offered by a small college to go to a big state university instead.  
SYNONYMS: turn down, reject, decline, snub, repudiate  
ANTONYMS: accept, welcome, greet
- 20. subterfuge**  
(səb' tər fyūj)
- (*n.*) an excuse or trick for escaping or hiding something  
The accused embezzler's "heart attack" could be a clever \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid his upcoming trial.  
SYNONYMS: dodge, blind, ruse, deception, artifice