

## 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. adjourn**  
(ə ˈdʒɜːn)

(v.) to stop proceedings temporarily; move to another place  
The judge \_\_\_\_\_ the hearing until ten o'clock the following morning.  
SYNONYMS: postpone, suspend, discontinue  
ANTONYMS: open, call to order

**2. alien**  
(ā' lē ən)

(n.) a citizen of another country; (*adj.*) foreign, strange  
Movies about \_\_\_\_\_ from outer space have been extremely popular for decades.  
An \_\_\_\_\_ species of plant or animal can upset the balance of an ecosystem.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) exotic, unfamiliar  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) native, endemic, familiar

**3. comely**  
(kəm' lē)

(*adj.*) having a pleasing appearance  
The proud parents and their \_\_\_\_\_ children posed for a family portrait.  
SYNONYMS: good-looking, attractive, bonny  
ANTONYMS: plain, homely, ugly, repulsive

**4. compensate**  
(kəm' pən sāt)

(v.) to make up for; to repay for services  
The manufacturer was ordered to \_\_\_\_\_ customers injured by the defective product.  
SYNONYMS: pay back, reimburse, recompense  
ANTONYMS: fail to reward, stiff

**5. dissolute**  
(dis' ə lüt)

(*adj.*) loose in one's morals or behavior  
The mad Roman emperor Caligula led an extravagant and \_\_\_\_\_ life.  
SYNONYMS: dissipated, debauched, immoral, corrupt  
ANTONYMS: virtuous, chaste, moral, seemingly, proper

**6. erratic**  
(e rat' ik)

(*adj.*) not regular or consistent; different from what is ordinarily expected; undependable  
Students who have an \_\_\_\_\_ attendance record may find themselves disciplined by the principal.  
SYNONYMS: irregular, inconsistent, unpredictable  
ANTONYMS: steady, consistent, dependable

**7. expulsion**  
(ek spəl' shən)

(n.) the process of driving or forcing out  
The story of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden is told in Genesis.  
SYNONYMS: ejection, ouster, eviction  
ANTONYMS: admittance, admission

**8. feint**  
(fānt)

(n.) a deliberately deceptive movement; a pretense; (v.) to make a deceptive movement; to make a pretense of  
The chess master's opening \_\_\_\_\_ gave her an immediate advantage.  
His uncanny ability to \_\_\_\_\_ and counterpunch made the champ unbeatable.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) trick, ruse, subterfuge, dodge, bluff

**9. fodder**  
(fād' ə)

(n.) food for horses or cattle; raw material for a designated purpose  
Every experience in life is \_\_\_\_\_ for a novelist's imagination.  
SYNONYMS: feed, provender

**10. fortify**  
(fōr' tə fi)

(v.) to strengthen, build up  
The soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ the garrison against the expected attack.  
SYNONYMS: reinforce, shore up  
ANTONYMS: weaken, undermine, sap, impair

**11. illegible**  
(i lej' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) difficult or impossible to read  
The effects of air pollution have rendered the inscriptions on many old gravestones \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: unreadable, indecipherable, scribbled  
ANTONYMS: readable, decipherable, distinct, clear

**12. jeer**  
(jēr)

(v.) to make fun of rudely or unkindly; (*n.*) a rude remark of derision  
To \_\_\_\_\_ at someone with a disability is absolutely inexcusable.  
Umpires and other referees quickly become immune to the \_\_\_\_\_ of angry fans.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) laugh at, mock, taunt  
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) applause, plaudits, accolades

**13. lucrative**  
(lü' krə tiv)

(*adj.*) bringing in money; profitable  
Many people find that they can turn a favorite hobby into a highly \_\_\_\_\_ business.  
SYNONYMS: gainful, moneymaking  
ANTONYMS: unprofitable, losing, in the red

**14. mediocre**  
(mē dē ō' kər)

(*adj.*) average, ordinary, undistinguished

The team's number-one draft pick turned out to be a rather \_\_\_\_\_ player, not a star who could lead them to the championship.

SYNONYM: run-of-the-mill

ANTONYMS: exceptional, outstanding, distinguished

**15. proliferate**  
(prō lif' ə rāt)

(*v.*) to reproduce, increase, or spread rapidly

Because malignant cells \_\_\_\_\_, early detection of cancer is absolutely crucial to successful treatment.

SYNONYMS: multiply, mushroom, burgeon

ANTONYMS: decrease, diminish, dwindle, slack off

**16. subjugate**  
(səb' jü gāt)

(*v.*) to conquer by force, bring under complete control

"We must act quickly," the general said, "in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the rebel forces."

SYNONYMS: subdue, vanquish, master

ANTONYMS: be conquered, submit, surrender

**17. sully**  
(səl' ē)

(*v.*) to soil, stain, tarnish, defile, besmirch

The Watergate scandal \_\_\_\_\_ the image of politicians in the minds of many voters.

SYNONYMS: pollute, taint, smear

ANTONYMS: cleanse, purify, decontaminate

**18. tantalize**  
(tan' tə līz)

(*v.*) to tease, torment by teasing

When I am on a diet, the treats in bakery windows seem to have been put there to \_\_\_\_\_ me.

SYNONYMS: tempt, lead on, make one's mouth water

ANTONYMS: satisfy, fulfill, gratify

**19. terse**  
(tərs)

(*adj.*) brief and to the point

The manuscript for my short story was returned to me with a \_\_\_\_\_ letter of rejection.

SYNONYMS: concise, succinct, crisp, short and sweet

ANTONYMS: verbose, wordy, diffuse, prolix

**20. unflinching**  
(ən flin' chɪŋ)

(*adj.*) firm, showing no signs of fear, not drawing back

Everyone admires the \_\_\_\_\_ courage with which firefighters and other rescue workers carry out their dangerous jobs.

SYNONYMS: resolute, steadfast, unwavering

ANTONYMS: irresolute, wavering, vacillating