


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. abridge
(ə brīj')

(v.) to make shorter

Travel by air _____ the time needed to reach far-distant places.

SYNONYMS: shorten, condense, abbreviate

ANTONYMS: expand, enlarge, augment

2. adherent
(ad hēr' ənt)
(n.) a follower, supporter; (*adj.*) attached, sticking to

The senator's loyal _____ campaigned long and hard for her reelection.

Before we could repaint the walls of our living room, we had to remove an _____ layer of wallpaper.

SYNONYM: (*n.*) discipleANTONYMS: (*n.*) opponent, adversary, critic, detractor
3. altercation
(ōl tər kā' shən)
(¹)

(n.) an angry argument

A noisy _____ in the next apartment kept me awake for hours.

SYNONYMS: quarrel, dispute, squabble

ANTONYMS: agreement, accord

4. cherubic
(che rū' bik)
(*adj.*) resembling an angel portrayed as a little child with a beautiful, round, or chubby face; sweet and innocent

How well those photographs of the month-old twins capture the _____ expressions on their faces!

SYNONYMS: angelic, seraphic, beatific

ANTONYMS: impish, devilish, diabolic, fiendish

5. condone
(kən dōn')

(v.) to pardon or overlook

(3) Our parents have always made it crystal clear to us that they do not _____ rude behavior.

SYNONYMS: ignore, wink at, turn a blind eye to

ANTONYMS: censure, condemn, disapprove, deprecate

6. dissent
(di sent')
(v.) to disagree; (*n.*) disagreement

Justices have an option to _____ from a ruling issued by a majority of the Supreme Court.

Some people give voice to their _____ on issues of public policy by writing letters to newspapers.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) differ, disputeANTONYMS: (*v.*) agree, concur; (*n.*) unanimity, harmony

7. eminent
(em' ə nənt)

(*adj.*) famous, outstanding, distinguished; projecting
A group of _____ scientists met to discuss long-term changes in Earth's climate.
SYNONYMS: illustrious, renowned
ANTONYMS: obscure, nameless, unsung, lowly, humble

8. exorcise
(ek' sôr sîz)

(*v.*) to drive out by magic; to dispose of something troublesome, menacing, or oppressive
We must do all we can to _____ the evils of hatred and prejudice from our society.
SYNONYMS: expel, dispel

9. fabricate
(fab' rə kât)

(*v.*) to make, manufacture; to make up, invent
Threads from the cocoons of caterpillars called *silkworms* are used to _____ silk.
SYNONYMS: put together, devise, contrive, concoct
ANTONYMS: take apart, undo, destroy, demolish

10. irate
(ī rāt')
(2)

(*adj.*) angry
Long delays caused by bad weather are likely to make even the most unflappable travelers _____.
SYNONYMS: incensed, infuriated, enraged, livid
ANTONYMS: calm, composed, cool, unruffled

11. marauder
(mə rôd' ə r)

(*n.*) a raider, plunderer
Edgar Allan Poe's story "The Gold Bug" concerns treasure buried by the _____ Captain Kidd.
SYNONYMS: looter, pirate, freebooter

12. obesity
(ō bē' sə tē)
(5)

(*n.*) excessive fatness
Sooner or later, _____ leads to all sorts of serious health problems.
SYNONYMS: serious overweight, extreme corpulence
ANTONYMS: emaciation, gauntness, scrawniness

13. pauper
(pô' pər)

(*n.*) an extremely poor person
During the Great Depression, many people were reduced to leading the desperate lives of _____.
SYNONYM: destitute person
ANTONYMS: millionaire, tycoon

14. pilfer
(pil' fər)

(*v.*) to steal in small quantities
An employee who _____ from the petty cash box will get caught sooner or later.
SYNONYMS: filch, rob, swipe, purloin

15. rift
(rift)

(*n.*) a split, break, breach
Failure to repay a loan can be the cause of an angry _____ between longtime friends.
SYNONYMS: crack, fissure, gap, cleft
ANTONYM: reconciliation

16. semblance
(sem' bləns)

(*n.*) a likeness; an outward appearance; an apparition
Despite a bad case of stage fright, I tried to maintain a _____ of calm as I sang my solo.
SYNONYMS: appearance, air, aura, veneer, facade
ANTONYMS: dissimilarity, contrast, total lack

17. surmount
(sər maunt')

(*v.*) to overcome, rise above
Wilma Rudolph _____ childhood illness and physical disabilities to win three Olympic gold medals.
SYNONYMS: conquer, triumph over
ANTONYMS: be vanquished, be defeated, succumb to

18. terminate
(tər' mə nāt)
(4)

(*v.*) to bring to an end
If you fail to perform your job satisfactorily, your boss may _____ your employment.
SYNONYMS: conclude, finish, discontinue
ANTONYMS: begin, commence, initiate

19. trite
(trīt)

(*adj.*) commonplace; overused, stale
When you write an essay or a story, be especially careful to avoid using _____ expressions.
SYNONYMS: banal, hackneyed, corny
ANTONYMS: original, novel, fresh, innovative

20. usurp
(yü sər p')

(*v.*) to seize and hold a position by force or without right
The general who led the coup _____ the office of the duly elected president.
SYNONYMS: seize illegally, commandeer, supplant