


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. abscond
(ab skänd')

(v.) to run off and hide

The thieves who _____ with several of the museum's most valuable paintings have never been found.

SYNONYMS: bolt, make off, skip town

2. access
(ak' ses)

(n.) approach or admittance to places, persons, things; an increase; (v.) to get at, obtain

_____ to information on a seemingly unlimited number of topics is available over the Internet.

You need a password in order to _____ your e-mail accounts.

SYNONYMS: (n.) entry, admittance, entrée

ANTONYM: (n.) total exclusion

3. anarchy
(an' ər kē)

(n.) a lack of government and law; confusion

In the final days of a war, civilians may find themselves living in _____.

SYNONYMS: chaos, disorder, turmoil, pandemonium

ANTONYMS: law and order, peace and quiet

4. arduous
(är' jü əs)

(adj.) hard to do, requiring much effort

No matter how carefully you plan for it, moving to a new home is an _____ chore.

SYNONYMS: hard, difficult, laborious, fatiguing

ANTONYMS: easy, simple, effortless

5. auspicious
(ô spish' əs)

(adj.) favorable; fortunate

My parents describe the day that they first met as a most _____ occasion.

SYNONYMS: promising, encouraging, propitious

ANTONYMS: ill-omened, ominous, sinister

6. biased
(bī' əst)

(adj.) favoring one side unduly; prejudiced

Athletes in certain sports may complain that judges are _____ toward particular competitors.

SYNONYMS: unfair, partial, bigoted

ANTONYMS: fair, impartial, unprejudiced, just

7. daunt
(dɔnt)
(v.) to overcome with fear, intimidate; to dishearten, discourage
Despite all its inherent dangers, space flight did not _____ the Mercury program astronauts.

SYNONYMS: dismay, cow
ANTONYMS: encourage, embolden, reassure

8. disentangle
(dis en tanj' gəl)
(v.) to free from tangles or complications
Rescuers worked for hours to _____ a whale from the fishing net wrapped around its jaws.

SYNONYMS: unravel, unwind, unscramble, unsnarl
ANTONYMS: tangle up, ensnarl, snag

9. fated
(fā' tid)
(adj.) determined in advance by destiny or fortune
The tragic outcome of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is _____ from the play's very first scene.

SYNONYMS: destined, preordained, doomed
ANTONYMS: accidental, fortuitous, chance, random

10. hoodwink
(húd' wɪŋk)
(v.) to mislead by a trick, deceive
Many sweepstakes offers _____ people into thinking they have already won big prizes.

SYNONYMS: dupe, put one over on
ANTONYMS: undecieve, disabuse, clue in

11. inanimate
(in an' ə mīt)
(adj.) not having life; without energy or spirit
Although fossils are _____, they hold many clues to life on Earth millions of years ago.

SYNONYMS: lifeless, dead, inert, spiritless
ANTONYMS: living, alive, energetic, lively, sprightly

12. incinerate
(in sin' ə r āt)
(v.) to burn to ashes
Because of environmental concerns, many cities and towns no longer _____ their garbage.

SYNONYMS: burn up, cremate, reduce to ashes

13. intrepid
(in trep' id)
(adj.) very brave, fearless, unshakable
_____ Polynesian sailors in outrigger canoes were the first humans to reach the Hawaiian Islands.

SYNONYMS: valiant, courageous, audacious, daring
ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly, craven, pusillanimous

14. larceny
(lār' sə nē)
(n.) theft
Someone who steals property that is worth thousands of dollars commits grand _____.

SYNONYMS: stealing, robbery, burglary

15. pliant
(plī' ə nt)
(adj.) bending readily; easily influenced
The _____ branches of the sapling sagged but did not break under the weight of the heavy snow.

SYNONYMS: supple, flexible, elastic, plastic
ANTONYMS: rigid, stiff, inflexible, set in stone

16. pompous
(pām' pəs)
(adj.) overly self-important in speech and manner; excessively stately or ceremonious
Political cartoonists like nothing better than to mock _____ public officials.

SYNONYMS: pretentious, highfalutin, bombastic
ANTONYMS: unpretentious, unaffected, plain

17. precipice
(pres' ə pis)
(n.) a very steep cliff; the brink or edge of disaster
During the Cuban missile crisis, the world hovered on the _____ of nuclear war.

SYNONYMS: cliff, crag, bluff, promontory, ledge
ANTONYMS: abyss, chasm, gorge

18. rectify
(rek' tə fī)
(v.) to make right, correct
The senators debated a series of measures designed to _____ the nation's trade imbalance.

SYNONYMS: remedy, set right
ANTONYMS: mess up, botch, bungle

19. reprieve
(ri prēv'
(n.) a temporary relief or delay; (v.) to grant a postponement
A vacation is a kind of _____ from the cares and responsibilities of everyday life.

A judge may _____ a first-time offender from jail time until sentencing.

SYNONYMS: (n.) stay, respite; (v.) postpone, delay
ANTONYM: (v.) proceed

20. revile
(ri vil'
(v.) to attack with words, call bad names
The enraged King Lear _____ the daughters who have cast him out into a fierce storm.

SYNONYMS: inveigh against, malign, vilify, denounce
ANTONYMS: praise, acclaim, revere, idolize