

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. accomplice
(ə kəm' plis)

(*n.*) a person who takes part in a crime
The driver of the getaway car was arrested and tried as an _____ in the daring bank robbery.
SYNONYMS: partner in crime, confederate

2. annihilate
(ə ni' ə lāt)

(*v.*) to destroy completely
Throughout history, nations that are bitter enemies have sought to _____ each other.
SYNONYMS: obliterate, decimate, demolish
ANTONYMS: foster, promote, encourage, nurture

3. arbitrary
(är' bə trer ē)

(*adj.*) unreasonable; based on one's wishes or whims without regard for reason or fairness
A judge may be criticized for rulings that appear to be _____ and without legal precedent.
SYNONYMS: capricious, high-handed, autocratic
ANTONYMS: reasoned, rational, objective, equitable

4. brazen
(brā' zən)

(*n.*) made of brass; shameless, impudent
Behavior considered _____ in one era may be deemed perfectly acceptable in another.
SYNONYMS: saucy, bold
ANTONYMS: deferential, respectful, self-effacing

5. catalyst
(kat' ə l ist)

(*n.*) a substance that causes or hastens a chemical reaction; any agent that causes change
Enzymes are _____ that aid in the digestion of food.
SYNONYMS: stimulus, spur, instigator

6. exodus
(ek' sə dəs)

(*n.*) a large-scale departure or flight
The _____ of African Americans to the industrialized northern states is known as the Great Migration.
SYNONYMS: emigration, escape, hegira
ANTONYMS: immigration, influx, arrival, entrance

7. facilitate
(fə sil' ə tāt)

(*v.*) to make easier; to assist
The Federal Reserve Board may lower interest rates in order to _____ economic growth.

8. incorrigible
(in kă' rə jə bəl)

SYNONYMS: ease, smooth the way, simplify
ANTONYMS: hamper, hinder, obstruct, impede

(*adj.*) not able to be corrected; beyond control
Criminals deemed _____ can expect to receive maximum sentences for their offenses against society.

SYNONYMS: unruly, intractable, incurable, inveterate
ANTONYMS: tractable, docile, curable, reparable

9. latent
(lăt' ə nt)

(*adj.*) hidden, present but not realized
Don't you think it's sad that many people use only a small fraction of their _____ abilities?
SYNONYMS: dormant, inactive, undeveloped
ANTONYMS: exposed, manifest, evident

10. militant
(mil' ə tənt)

(*adj.*) given to fighting; active and aggressive in support of a cause; (*n.*) an activist
In the struggle for civil rights, Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated peaceful rather than _____ protest.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a _____ in the fight for woman suffrage.
SYNONYM: (*adj.*) truculent
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) unassertive, peaceable, passive

11. morose
(mə rōs')

(*adj.*) having a gloomy or sullen manner; not friendly or sociable
Heathcliff is the _____ and vengeful protagonist in Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights*.
SYNONYMS: morbid, doleful
ANTONYMS: cheerful, blithe, jaunty, buoyant

12. opaque
(ō pāk')

(*adj.*) not letting light through; not clear or lucid; dense, stupid
I have read that book twice, but I still find the author's meaning completely _____.
SYNONYMS: hazy, cloudy, foggy, murky, dull, obtuse
ANTONYMS: transparent, clear, bright, perceptive

13. paramount
(par' ə maünt)

(*adj.*) chief in importance, above all others
Voters should insist that candidates for high office address the _____ issues facing our society.
SYNONYMS: supreme, foremost, primary, dominant
ANTONYMS: secondary, subordinate, ancillary

14. prattle
(prat' əl)

(*v.*) to talk in an aimless, foolish, or simple way; to babble;
(*n.*) baby talk; babble

Some people can _____ away on the phone for hours on end.

Over time, recognizable words become part of a toddler's cheerful _____.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) chatter; (*n.*) twaddle, gibberish, piffle

15. rebut
(ri bət')

(*v.*) to offer arguments or evidence that contradicts an assertion; to refute

It is a defense lawyer's job to _____ the charges made by the prosecutor.

SYNONYMS: disprove, confute, shoot holes in
ANTONYMS: confirm, corroborate, substantiate

16. reprimand
(rep' rə mand)

(*v.*) to scold; find fault with; (*n.*) a rebuke

A judge may need to _____ a lawyer for repeatedly harassing a witness.

An employee who frequently violates a company's rules may receive a written _____.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) reprove, reproach; (*n.*) reproof
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) praise, pat on the back

17. servitude
(sər' və tūd)

(*n.*) slavery, forced labor

In *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean is sentenced to many years of _____ for stealing a loaf of bread.

SYNONYMS: captivity, bondage, thralldom
ANTONYMS: freedom, liberty

18. slapdash
(slap' dash)

(*adj.*) careless and hasty

Landlords who routinely make _____ repairs should be considered negligent.

SYNONYMS: cursory, perfunctory, sloppy, slipshod
ANTONYMS: painstaking, meticulous, thorough, in-depth

19. stagnant
(stag' nənt)

(*adj.*) not running or flowing; foul from standing still; inactive, sluggish, dull

It is dangerous for hikers to drink water from any source that appears to be _____.

SYNONYMS: still, motionless, inert, fetid
ANTONYMS: flowing, running, fresh, sweet

20. succumb
(sə kəm')

(*v.*) to give way to superior force, yield

Most dieters occasionally _____ to the lure of a high-calorie dessert.

SYNONYMS: submit, die, expire
ANTONYMS: overcome, master, conquer