


**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. **atone**  
(ə tōn')

(v.) to make up for

At one time or another, everyone has done something he or she needs to \_\_\_\_\_ for.

SYNONYMS: expiate, make amends for

2. **bondage**  
(bān' dij)

(n.) slavery; any state of being bound or held down

Many people escaped the cruel \_\_\_\_\_ of slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad.

SYNONYMS: servitude, captivity, subjection, dependence

ANTONYMS: freedom, liberty, independence

3. **credible**  
(kred' ə bəl)

(adj.) believable

Do you have a \_\_\_\_\_ explanation for not completing your assignment on time?

SYNONYMS: plausible, acceptable, likely

ANTONYMS: unbelievable, implausible, improbable

4. **defray**  
(dē frā')

(v.) to pay for

Corporate sponsors helped to \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of the charity's annual telethon.

SYNONYMS: settle, bear the cost, foot the bill

5. **diligent**  
(dil' ə jənt)

(adj.) hardworking, industrious, not lazy

\_\_\_\_\_ employees are likely to be well rewarded for their dedication and hard work.

SYNONYMS: assiduous, sedulous

ANTONYMS: lazy, indolent, cursory, perfunctory

6. **doleful**  
(dōl' fəl)

(adj.) sad; dreary

One look at the players' \_\_\_\_\_ faces told me that the team had lost the championship game.

SYNONYMS: sorrowful, mournful, melancholy, dolorous

ANTONYMS: cheerful, blithe, jaunty, buoyant

7. **ghastly**  
(gast' lē)

(adj.) frightful, horrible; deathly pale

Some people are almost afraid to go to sleep because they suffer from \_\_\_\_\_ recurring nightmares.

SYNONYMS: dreadful, appalling, gruesome, grisly

ANTONYMS: pleasant, agreeable, attractive, delightful

- 8. hamper**  
(ham' pər)  
(v.) to hold back  
Poor grades will \_\_\_\_\_ you in your effort to get a college education.  
SYNONYMS: hinder, obstruct, impede, inhibit  
ANTONYMS: facilitate, ease, smooth the way
- 9. hew**  
(hyü)  
(v.) to shape or cut down with an ax; to hold to  
Even in a crisis, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to this nation's principles of liberty, equality, and justice.  
SYNONYMS: chop, hack, fell, adhere, conform
- 10. impoverished**  
(im päv' risht)  
(adj.) poor, in a state of poverty; depleted  
After World War II, \_\_\_\_\_ European countries received U.S. aid under the Marshall Plan.  
SYNONYMS: poverty-stricken, destitute, indigent  
ANTONYMS: rich, wealthy, affluent, prosperous
- 11. incessant**  
(in ses' änt)  
(adj.) never stopping, going on all the time  
The loud and \_\_\_\_\_ chatter of the people at the next table made it hard for us to hear each other.  
SYNONYMS: ceaseless, constant, uninterrupted  
ANTONYMS: occasional, sporadic, intermittent
- 12. intricate**  
(in' trə kət)  
(adj.) complicated; difficult to understand  
Our teacher took us through the \_\_\_\_\_ solution to the equation step by step.  
SYNONYMS: complex, convoluted  
ANTONYMS: simple, uninvolved, uncomplicated
- 13. lucid**  
(lü' sid)  
(adj.) easy to understand, clear; rational, sane  
The ability to speak in a \_\_\_\_\_ and persuasive fashion is a great asset to a politician.  
SYNONYMS: limpid, intelligible  
ANTONYMS: murky, muddy, obscure, unintelligible
- 14. posthumous**  
(pä's chə məs)  
(adj.) occurring or published after death  
Many artists and writers have been ignored during their lifetimes only to achieve \_\_\_\_\_ fame.  
SYNONYM: postmortem  
ANTONYM: prenatal
- 15. prim**  
(prim)  
(adj.) overly neat, precise, proper, or formal; prudish  
How is it that such a \_\_\_\_\_ and tidy person and such a messy one can be such good friends?  
SYNONYMS: fussy, fastidious, squeamish  
ANTONYMS: dowdy, frumpy, sloppy, untidy, loose, lax
- 16. sardonic**  
(sär dän' ik)  
(adj.) grimly or scornfully mocking, bitterly sarcastic  
Great satirists save their most \_\_\_\_\_ wit for the greedy, the corrupt, and the hypocritical.  
SYNONYMS: caustic, mordant, acerbic, wry  
ANTONYMS: bland, mild, saccharine, good-natured
- 17. superfluous**  
(sü pər' flü wəs)  
(adj.) exceeding what is sufficient or required, excess  
Neat and well-organized people know how to eliminate all \_\_\_\_\_ clutter.  
SYNONYMS: surplus, supererogatory  
ANTONYMS: necessary, essential, vital, indispensable
- 18. supplant**  
(sə plant')  
(v.) to take the place of, supersede  
Computers rapidly \_\_\_\_\_ typewriters in the workplace, just as photocopiers replaced carbon paper.  
SYNONYMS: replace, displace, oust
- 19. taunt**  
(tônt)  
(v.) to jeer at, mock; (n.) an insulting or mocking remark  
It is not at all unusual for brothers and sisters to tease and \_\_\_\_\_ one another good-naturedly.  
For umpires and referees, the \_\_\_\_\_ of angry fans are just part of the job.  
SYNONYMS: (v.) ridicule, deride  
ANTONYMS: (v.) cheer, applaud, acclaim
- 20. tenacious**  
(tə nā' shəs)  
(adj.) holding fast; holding together firmly; persistent  
Athletes must be \_\_\_\_\_ in the pursuit of excellence if they hope to become Olympic champions.  
SYNONYMS: obstinate, stubborn, dogged  
ANTONYMS: yielding, weak, gentle, lax, slack