

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. adieu
(ə dü'; a dyü')

(*int.*) "Farewell!"; (*n.*) a farewell

As my friends boarded the airplane, I waved and shouted,
"_____! Have a safe trip."

When the hour grew late, the last of the dinner guests
made their _____ to their
gracious hosts.

SYNONYMS: (*int.*) "So long"; (*n.*) good-bye

ANTONYMS: (*int.*) "Hello"; (*n.*) greeting

2. advent
(ad' vent)

(*n.*) an arrival; a coming into place or view

The _____ of spring is particularly
welcome after a long, harsh winter.

SYNONYM: approach

ANTONYMS: departure, going away, exodus

3. apex
(ā' peks)

(*n.*) the highest point, tip

If you want to reach the _____ of
the Washington Monument, you can take the stairs or an
elevator.

SYNONYMS: peak, summit, acme, crowning point

ANTONYMS: bottom, nadir

4. assimilate
(ə sim' ə lāt)

(*v.*) to absorb fully or make one's own; to adopt as one's own; to
adapt fully

A well-read person _____
knowledge of a wide range of subjects.

SYNONYMS: digest, incorporate, blend in

5. bogus
(bō' gəs)

(*adj.*) false, counterfeit

Cashiers receive special training so that they will be able to
identify _____ currency.

SYNONYMS: phony, fake, spurious

ANTONYMS: genuine, authentic

6. exorbitant
(eg zôr' bæ tənt)

(*adj.*) unreasonably high; excessive

Management rejected the union's demands for higher
wages and better benefits as _____.

SYNONYMS: extreme, inordinate, overpriced

ANTONYMS: inexpensive, affordable, reasonable

7. interim
(in' tər əm)

(*n.*) the time between; (*adj.*) temporary, coming between two
points in time

In the _____ between landing and
takeoff, the ground crew cleaned and refueled the plane.

The team played well under an _____
coach for the final three months of the season.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) interval, interlude; (*adj.*) provisional, stopgap

8. inundate
(in' ən dāt)

(*v.*) to flood, overflow; to overwhelm by numbers or size

Torrential rains and high tides _____
the streets of the picturesque seaside community.

SYNONYMS: submerge, deluge, swamp

9. malign
(mə līn')

(*v.*) to speak evil of, slander; (*adj.*) evil

In every office, there are gossips who are only too willing to
_____ their coworkers.

Iago reveals his _____ motives to
the audience in a series of soliloquies.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) defame, vilify, badmouth; (*adj.*) wicked

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) praise, commend; (*adj.*) kind, benevolent

10. meander
(mē an' dər)

(*v.*) to wander about, wind about; (*n.*) a sharp turn or twist

When I travel, I like to _____
through unfamiliar towns and cities.

Lombard Street in San Francisco is famous for its many
_____.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) ramble, roam, zigzag, twist

11. metropolis
(mə trəp' ə ləs)

(*n.*) a large city; the chief city of an area

Archaeologists have learned much about the Mayans from
the ruins of the _____ Palenque.

SYNONYM: large urban center

ANTONYMS: hamlet, village

12. momentous
(mō men' təs)

(*adj.*) very important

A _____ decision by the Supreme Court
in 1954 declared public school segregation unconstitutional.

SYNONYMS: consequential, weighty, portentous

ANTONYMS: inconsequential, trivial, slight, unimportant

13. obstreperous
(əb strep' ə r əs)

(*adj.*) noisy; unruly, disorderly

Our teacher will not tolerate _____
behavior in the classroom.

SYNONYMS: wild, rowdy, uncontrolled, riotous

ANTONYMS: quiet, well-behaved, docile

14. pensive
(pen' siv)

(*adj.*) thoughtful; melancholy

We admired the skill with which the artist captured the child's _____ expression.

SYNONYMS: dreamy, reflective, contemplative, wistful

15. perilous
(per' ə ləs)

(*adj.*) dangerous

Episodes of old-time movie serials usually ended with the hero or heroine in _____ circumstances.

SYNONYMS: risky, chancy, hazardous, unsafe

ANTONYMS: safe, secure, harmless

16. shoddy
(shād' ē)

(*adj.*) of poor quality; characterized by inferior workmanship

That designer watch I bought from a street vendor turned out to be a _____ knockoff.

SYNONYMS: flimsy, cheap, tacky, imitative

ANTONYMS: well-made, solid, durable, superior

17. sprightly
(sprit' lē)

(*adj.*) lively, full of life; spicy, flavorful

Though Grandmother is well into her eighties, she is still as _____ as a teenager.

SYNONYMS: frisky, peppy, spirited, animated, buoyant

ANTONYMS: sullen, spiritless, dull, morose, sluggish

18. surly
(sər' lē)

(*adj.*) angry and bad-tempered; rude

Passengers stranded in an airport because their flight is canceled may become quite _____.

SYNONYMS: gruff, sullen, cranky, grouchy, hostile

ANTONYMS: polite, gracious, civil, friendly, genial

19. tirade
(tī' rād)

(*n.*) a long, angry speech, usually very critical

The dictator's televised _____ against his opponents lasted for four hours.

SYNONYMS: harangue, diatribe, tongue-lashing

20. vagrant
(vā' grənt)

(*n.*) an idle wanderer, tramp; (*adj.*) wandering aimlessly

During the Great Depression, many people lost everything and were forced to live as _____.

Advertisers continually vie with one another to capture the _____ attention of fickle consumers.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) drifter, vagabond, hobo, nomad

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) stay-at-home, homebody, resident