

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. auxiliary** (ôg zil' yə rē) (adj.) giving assistance or support; (n.) a helper, aid
If the main motor fails, the instructions say to turn on the _____ motor.
Someone second in command is an _____ to the person in charge.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) additional, back-up; (n.) reserve, accessory
ANTONYMS: (adj.) main, primary, principal
- 2. candid** (kan' did) (adj.) frank, sincere; impartial; unposed
It is safe to be _____ about our faults with friends and loved ones.
SYNONYMS: forthright, plainspoken, unbiased
ANTONYMS: insincere, evasive, misleading, artful
- 3. cubicle** (kyü' bə kəl) (n.) a small room or compartment
The tiniest _____ is usually assigned to the newest employee.
SYNONYMS: enclosure, hole-in-the-wall
ANTONYMS: vast hall, auditorium
- 4. drudgery** (drəj' ə rē) (n.) work that is hard and tiresome
Trade unions lobby to relieve the endless _____ of factory workers.
SYNONYMS: toil, labor, grind
ANTONYMS: play, frolic, amusement, recreation, fun
- 5. envoy** (en' voi; än' voi) (n.) a representative or messenger (as of a government)
On more than one occasion, a former President has been asked to act as a special _____ to the United Nations.
SYNONYMS: agent, ambassador, emissary, minister
- 6. escalate** (es' kə lāt) (v.) to elevate; to increase in intensity
A small dispute can _____ into a major conflict unless the opposing parties sit down and talk.
SYNONYMS: climb, raise, ascend, mount
ANTONYMS: decrease, lessen, descend, defuse

7. expedient (ek spē' dē ənt) (n.) a means to an end; (adj.) advantageous, useful
As an _____, we chose to use a rock as a makeshift hammer.
An opportunist is someone who is always ready to do whatever is most _____.
SYNONYMS: (n.) contrivance, device; (adj.) serviceable
ANTONYMS: (adj.) inconvenient, untimely, disadvantageous

8. feign (fān) (v.) to pretend
Children sometimes _____ illness to avoid going to school.
SYNONYMS: fake, sham, affect, simulate

9. flair (flār) (n.) a natural quality, talent, or skill; a distinctive style
An opera singer needs a _____ for the dramatic as well as a good voice.
SYNONYMS: aptitude, bent, knack, gift, style, panache
ANTONYMS: inability, incapacity

10. grievous (grē' vəs) (adj.) causing sorrow or pain; serious
Reporters should take careful notes when interviewing to avoid making _____ errors in print.
SYNONYMS: painful, heartrending, onerous, flagrant
ANTONYMS: joyful, uplifting, cheery, upbeat, comforting

11. heterogeneous (het ə rə jē' nē əs) (adj.) composed of different kinds, diverse
Most college admissions officers actively seek a student body that is both talented and _____.
SYNONYMS: miscellaneous, mixed, variegated
ANTONYMS: uniform, homogeneous, of a piece

12. horde (hôrd) (n.) a vast number (as of people); a throng
When the doors opened, a _____ of shoppers headed towards the sales racks.
SYNONYMS: crowd, mass, multitude, host, swarm
ANTONYMS: few, handful

13. impel (im pel') (v.) to force, drive forward
Hunger often _____ people to leave their homes in search of food.
SYNONYMS: urge, push, spur, propel, incite
ANTONYMS: discourage, check, restrain, curb

14. incredulous
(in krej' ə ləs)

(*adj.*) disbelieving, skeptical

When the testimony of a witness contradicts the evidence, you can expect _____ stares from the jury.

SYNONYMS: dubious, mistrustful, doubting
ANTONYMS: believing, trustful, gullible

15. inscribe
(in skrīb')

(*v.*) to write or engrave; to enter a name on a list

The young man asked the jeweler to _____ the locket with his fiancée's name.

SYNONYMS: imprint, enroll, enlist
ANTONYMS: erase, rub out, delete, efface, obliterate

16. monologue
(män' ə läg)

(*n.*) a speech by one actor; a long talk by one person

By means of a _____, a playwright shares a character's private thoughts with the audience.

SYNONYMS: soliloquy, recitation
ANTONYMS: dialogue, conversation, colloquy

17. prognosis
(präg nō' səs)

(*n.*) a forecast of the probable course and outcome of a disease or situation

Doctors are particularly happy to deliver a _____ of a speedy recovery.

SYNONYMS: prediction, projection

18. rasping
(ras' pin)

(*adj.*) with a harsh, grating sound; (*n.*) a harsh sound

Chronic bronchitis can lead to a _____ cough that is difficult to cure.

The _____ of metal scraping against metal sets my teeth on edge.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) scratchy, scraping, abrasive, gravelly
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) sonorous, smooth, satiny, silky, mellow

19. repugnant
(rē päg' nənt)

(*adj.*) offensive, disagreeable, distasteful

Despite their _____ lack of cleanliness, pigs are endearing to many people.

SYNONYMS: hateful, odious, revolting, repulsive
ANTONYMS: pleasing, attractive, tempting, wholesome

20. scuttle
(skət' əl)

(*v.*) to sink a ship by cutting holes in it; to get rid of something in a decisive way; to run hastily, scurry; (*n.*) a pail

Pirates would not wish to _____ a captured galleon before looting its cargo.

Years ago, it was possible to buy a _____ of coal at the corner grocery store.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) abandon, discard, scrap, ditch, dump
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) keep afloat, salvage, rescue, preserve