

Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

1. anecdote

(an' ek dōt)

(*n.*) a short account of an incident in someone's life

The governor told a humorous _____ about her first day in office.

SYNONYMS: tale, sketch, vignette, yarn

2. consolidate

(kən sāl' ə dāt)

(*v.*) to combine, unite; to make solid or firm

The generals agreed to _____ their forces for the invasion.

SYNONYMS: strengthen, firm up, merge

ANTONYMS: scatter, disperse, dissipate

3. counterfeit

(kaŭn' tər fīt)

(*n.*) an imitation designed to deceive; (*adj.*) not genuine, fake;

(*v.*) to make an illegal copy

The painting was a _____ of Gainsborough's *Blue Boy*.

The forger was selling _____ postage stamps to his friends and neighbors.

It is a crime to _____ money.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) false, phony, bogus

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) genuine, real, authentic

4. docile

(dās' əl)

(*adj.*) easily taught, led, or managed; obedient

She was a _____ child, eager to learn and to please.

SYNONYMS: manageable, teachable, pliant

ANTONYMS: unruly, wayward, intractable, disobedient

5. dominate

(dām' ə nāt)

(*v.*) to rule over by strength or power, control; to tower over, command due to height

History shows that powerful nations tend to _____ weaker ones.

SYNONYMS: govern, overlook

6. entreat

(en trēt')

(*v.*) to beg, implore, ask earnestly

The dog's eyes seemed to _____ me for an extra helping of dinner.

SYNONYMS: plead, appeal to

ANTONYM: clamor for

7. **fallible** (fal' ə bəl)
 (adj.) capable of being wrong, mistaken, or inaccurate
 The researcher's _____ methods led to faulty conclusions.
 SYNONYMS: errant, flawed; ANTONYMS: foolproof, unfailing, flawless
8. **fickle** (fik' ə l)
 (adj.) liable to change very rapidly, erratic; marked by a lack of constancy or steadiness, inconsistent
 My aunt's interests change with the weather, showing she is a truly _____ person.
 SYNONYMS: inconstant, faithless; ANTONYMS: constant, steady
9. **fugitive** (fyu' jə tiv)
 (n.) one who flees or runs away; (adj.) fleeting, lasting a very short time; wandering; difficult to grasp
 That thief is a _____ from justice.
 Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch had a few _____ moments together before Mrs. Hirsch boarded the train.
 SYNONYMS: (n.) deserter; (adj.) elusive
 ANTONYMS: (adj.) lasting, enduring, permanent
10. **grimy** (grɪ' meɪ)
 (adj.) very dirty, covered with dirt or soot
 The miners emerged from the pits with _____ hands and faces.
 SYNONYMS: filthy, sooty, soiled, dirt-encrusted
 ANTONYMS: spotless, spick-and-span, immaculate
11. **iota** (i' ə tə)
 (n.) a very small part or quantity
 The employer had not an _____ of proof, but he blamed the new clerk for the theft anyway.
 SYNONYMS: speck, dab, jot, bit, smidgen
 ANTONYMS: flood, deluge, avalanche, glut
12. **maul** (mɔl)
 (v.) to beat or knock about, handle roughly; to mangle;
 (n.) a heavy hammer
 The tiger was about to _____ when the zookeeper stepped between them.
 SYNONYMS: (v.) manhandle, batter
13. **potential** (pa' ten' chal)
 (adj.) possible, able to happen; (n.) something that can develop or become a reality
 Hurricanes are a _____ threat to this area.
 They were a football team with _____
 SYNONYMS: (n.) possibility, capability
 ANTONYMS: (adj.) actual, real, unlikely, impossible

- 14. radiant**
(rā' dē ənt)
- (*adj.*) shining, bright; giving forth light or energy
A model needs to have a _____ smile in order to advertise toothpaste.
SYNONYMS: glowing, brilliant, dazzling, resplendent
ANTONYMS: dull, tarnished, lackluster
- 15. rural**
(rūr' əl)
- (*adj.*) relating to farm areas and life in the country
They settled in a _____ community that was miles from the nearest large city.
SYNONYMS: countrified, pastoral
ANTONYMS: metropolitan, citified
- 16. substantial**
(səb stan' shəl)
- (*adj.*) large, important; major, significant; prosperous; not imaginary, material
Expecting a _____ raise in salary, the employee put a down payment on a new car.
SYNONYMS: considerable, tangible, big
ANTONYMS: minor, insignificant, negligible
- 17. tactful**
(takt' fəl)
- (*adj.*) skilled in handling difficult situations or people, polite
A _____ approach is usually the wisest one to take with coworkers.
SYNONYMS: skillful, discreet
ANTONYMS: clumsy, gauche, indiscreet
- 18. tamper**
(tam' pər)
- (*v.*) to interfere with; to handle in a secret and improper way
Please don't _____ with our baggage.
SYNONYMS: monkey with, fool with, mess with
- 19. ultimate**
(əl' tə mət)
- (*adj.*) last, final; most important or extreme; eventual; basic, fundamental
California is our _____ destination on this cross-country trip.
SYNONYMS: farthest, furthest, terminal
ANTONYMS: first, initial, most immediate, nearest
- 20. uncertainty**
(ən sər' tən tē)
- (*n.*) doubt, the state of being unsure
_____ about the future was the immigrants' greatest concern.
SYNONYMS: doubtfulness, unsureness
ANTONYMS: sureness, certainty, confidence

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 60–61 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Throughout the course of its history, the United States has opened its doors to (**fugitives**, **counterfeits**) from tyranny in other lands.

2. His (**anecdotes**, **entreaties**) were amusing, but what did they have to do with his central topic?

3. The mayor won't be reelected unless she can (**consolidate**, **maul**) the groups supporting her.

4. There, in the very heart of the noisy and (**grimy**, **fallible**) city, was a truly beautiful little park.

5. Although the ideals of my youth have been (**entreated**, **mauled**) by hard experience, they have not been totally destroyed.

6. Rarely in our history has one man so (**dominated**, **entreated**) the federal government as Franklin D. Roosevelt did during his four terms.

7. The (**ultimate**, **rural**) population of the United States is growing smaller, but farms are as important as ever to the nation.

8. The young man who seemed so quiet and (**docile**, **substantial**) turned out to be very well informed and to have strong opinions of his own.

9. Evidence showed that the lawyer had tried to (**consolidate**, **tamper**) with the witnesses by offering them bribes to change their testimony.

10. I suspected that his expression of happiness was (**potential**, **counterfeit**) and that he was really jealous of our success.

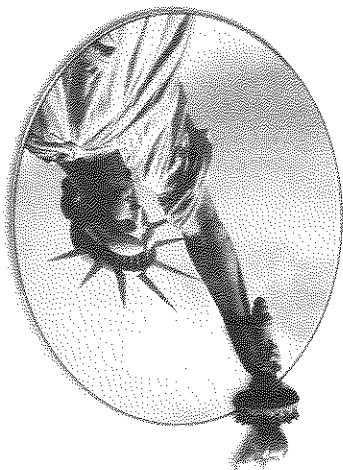
11. It wasn't very (**substantial**, **tactful**) of you to tell her that her new eyeglasses were out of style.

12. Imagine someone as changeable as George having the nerve to say that I'm the (**radiant**, **fickle**) one in the family!

13. Larry got good grades on the midterm tests, but he is headed for trouble because he hasn't done an (**anecdote**, **lots**) of work since then.

14. I know from personal experience how much harm smoking can do, and I (**dominate**, **entreat**) you not to get started on that miserable habit.

15. In modern hospitals, everything possible is done to prevent mistakes resulting from human (**fallibility**, **uncertainty**).



Since its dedication in 1886, the Statue of Liberty has symbolized America's willingness to welcome people from all lands.

16. Alma is such a (**fickle, fallible**) fan that she starts rooting for the opposing teams when they start winning.
17. To make her finances easier to manage, Mrs. Bridges decided to (**entreat, consolidate**) her two bank accounts into one.
18. The Fire Department found that the wiring in our kitchen was a(n) (**potential, uncertain**) fire hazard.
19. If you want to see the (**iota, ultimate**) in shoe styles, ask Beth to show you the new sandals she bought for the spring dance.
20. The thief tried to (**tamper, counterfeit**) with the lock, but he couldn't get it to open.
21. How can we properly direct the (**iota, potential**) for good and evil in each of us into useful channels?
22. One of our best hopes of solving the energy problem lies in making direct use of (**radiant, fugitive**) energy from the sun.
23. One certain thing in life is that there will always be many (**fugitives, uncertainties**).
24. As soon as Horace opened his lunch bag, I realized he needed something more (**grimy, substantial**) to eat.
25. Marisa felt a (**rural, fugitive**) glow of happiness, but it was gone in an instant.

Synonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. a lovely, **rustic**, wooded landscape
2. to **meddle with** the truth
3. made **remarkable** progress last week
4. made a **diplomatic** remark
5. is **changeable** in his moods
6. to **gather together** notes from different sources
7. would **beseech** me to give them money
8. moved forward without **hesitation**
9. was a **runaway** from oppression
10. shared a charming **story** from her childhood

Choose the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. a traffic jam in a crowded **urban** area

2. a **boorish** person pushing to the head of the line

3. to **separate** the members of the two clubs

4. a good idea to **leave it alone**

5. as **invariable** as an atomic clock

Completing the Sentence

From the words in this Unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word form in the space provided.

1. Since all our cashiers handle large sums of money, we have given them special training in recognizing _____ bills.

2. The wily old senator had such a forceful and aggressive personality that he soon came to _____ his entire party.

3. Though the United Nations has many lesser objectives, its goal is to achieve lasting world peace.

4. I took my car to a qualified repair shop, rather than run the risk of damaging it further by _____ with it myself.

5. The new book of presidential _____ contains many amusing stories involving our Chief Executives, both past and present.

6. Because I had expected the children to be hard to handle, I was pleasantly surprised by their _____ behavior.

7. As she told us the good news, her face was _____ with joy.

8. To be _____ in everyday life means doing whatever you can to avoid hurting the feelings of other people.

9. Trying desperately to avoid the police, the _____ hid in the cellar of the abandoned house.

10. The boat has been so badly _____ by the storm that it will have to be overhauled before it can be used again.

11. Though Company A has very little chance of expanding in the near future, the _____ growth rate of Company B is staggering.
12. Despite the doctor's best efforts, there has been no _____ change in the patient's condition for weeks.
13. The Board of Education believes it would save considerable money to _____ three small schools into one big school.
14. The windows had become so _____ and spotted that it took me some time to get them clean.
15. There is an old saying that pencils are made with erasers because human beings are _____.
16. "As a mother," the woman said to the judge, "I _____ you to show leniency toward my son."
17. Unwilling to bear the _____ any longer, I called the Dean of Admissions to find out if I had been admitted.
18. The taste of the public is so _____ that a TV performer who is a big hit one year may be forgotten the next.
19. After living so long in a large city, I was happy to spend a few weeks in those beautiful _____ surroundings.
20. We discovered that there was not a(n) _____ of truth in the rumors that they had spread so eagerly.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "The 'Elephant Man' Is Dead" (pages 60–61). Suppose that you are Dr. Frederick Treves, Joseph Merrick's doctor and friend. A newspaper reporter is interviewing you about what Merrick was like. Write two or three questions and answers from the interview. Make each answer at least two sentences long. Use at least two details from the passage and three Unit words to give Dr. Treves's opinions about Merrick's life and character.
2. Joseph Merrick faced an unusually difficult challenge all through his life, and he met it with courage. All people face challenges, both large and small, throughout their lives. Write a brief essay on whether facing challenges makes people stronger. Choose your position on the issue, and defend it in at least two paragraphs. Give at least two reasons to support your position, and provide evidence from life, the reading passage (refer to pages 60–61), or your studies. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more Unit words.

The following excerpts are from Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*. Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. Here, the clothesman, the shoe-vamper, and the rag-merchant, display their goods . . . here, stores of old iron and bones, and heaps of mildewy fragments of woollen-stuff and linen, rust and rot in the **grimy** cellars.

A **grimy** cellar is

- a. dim
b. dirty
c. deep
d. damp

2. And Mr. Sikes was right. By dint of alternate threats, promises, and bribes, the lady in question was **ultimately** prevailed upon to undertake the commission. Something that is done **ultimately** takes place

- a. soon
b. at the start
c. rarely
d. in the end

3. The sun—the bright sun, that brings back, not light alone, but new life, and hope, and freshness to man—burst upon the crowded city in clear and **radiant** glory.

When something is **radiant**, it is NOT

- a. bright
b. warm
c. dull
d. funny

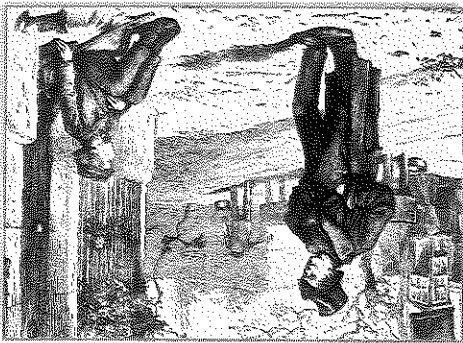
4. In a dreadful state of doubt and **uncertainty**, the agonized young woman staggered to the gate, and then, exchanging her faltering walk for a swift run, returned by the most devious and complicated route she could think of.

Uncertainty is a state of

- a. despair
b. hope
c. grief
d. confusion

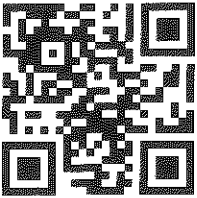
5. They **entreated** to be made good, virtuous, contented, and obedient, and to be guarded from the sins and vices of Oliver Twist. When they **entreated**, they

- a. pleaded
b. failed
c. tried
d. wished



Like many of the novels of Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* examines the lives of the rich and poor in nineteenth-century England.

Interactive
Quiz



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vocabularyworkshop.com