

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. bellow
(bel' ō)

(*v.*) to make a sound similar to that of a bull, roar; (*n.*) a loud, angry roar

The wounded buffalo began to _____ in pain.

The troop commander's _____ could be heard a mile away.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) yell, bawl, holler; (*n.*) howl

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) whisper; (*n.*) murmur

2. beneficiary
(ben ə fish' ē er ē)

(*n.*) one who benefits from something; a person who is left money or other property in a will or the like

The _____ of the dead man's will was the main suspect in the murder case.

SYNONYMS: recipient, heir

3. botch
(bäch)

(*v.*) to repair or patch poorly; make a mess of; (*n.*) a hopelessly bungled job

The unsupervised laborers proceeded to _____ the job badly.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) foul up, mangle

4. clutter
(klät' ə)

(*v.*) to fill or cover in a disorderly way; (*n.*) a state of disorder, mess

When we moved into our new house, we unloaded the truck and began to _____ up the dining room with boxes.

Attics are often filled with _____.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) litter; (*n.*) confusion

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) order, tidiness, neatness

5. dilapidated
(də lap' ə də tid)

(*adj.*) falling apart or ruined, run-down

The old house had become so _____ that no one could live in it anymore.

SYNONYMS: in disrepair, deteriorated, gone to seed

ANTONYMS: shipshape, trim

6. dismantle
(dis man' təl)

(*v.*) to take apart; to strip of something

After the final performance, all the actors worked with the stagehands to _____ the set.

SYNONYM: disassemble

ANTONYMS: put together, assemble, construct

- (n.) a play filled with ridiculous or absurd happenings; broad or far-fetched humor; a ridiculous sham
The humor in the play was so broad and the plot so ridiculous that the critic termed the play a _____
SYNONYMS: buffoonery, travesty; ANTONYMS: tragedy, melodrama
- (adj.) not successful, failing to have any result; useless; unimportant, frivolous
After several _____ attempts to save it, the captain ordered the ship abandoned.
SYNONYMS: fruitless, vain, ineffective
ANTONYMS: successful, effective
- (adj.) very tiring, calling for an extreme effort
After the _____ climb, two of the mountaineers collapsed from exhaustion.
SYNONYMS: exhausting, punishing, taxing
ANTONYMS: easy, effortless
- (adj.) offering friendly or generous treatment to guests; open to anything new or strange
Known for their generosity to strangers, the local inhabitants offered a _____ welcome to our tour group.
SYNONYMS: gracious, cordial, courteous
ANTONYMS: unfriendly, cold, icy, chilly
- (n.) the home or den of a wild animal; any hideout
The police were making careful preparations to trap the smugglers in their _____
SYNONYMS: nest, burrow, hideaway
- (adj.) overly generous, extravagant; abundant; (v.) to spend or give freely or without limit
The couple received _____ wedding gifts from their closest friends.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) excessive, profuse
ANTONYMS: (adj.) stingy, meager; (v.) begrudge, stint, deny
- (adj.) in an unhealthy mental state, extremely gloomy; caused by or related to disease, unwholesome
The police captain was afraid that the officer was taking a _____ interest in the crime.
SYNONYMS: depressed, unsound, "sick"
ANTONYMS: wholesome, healthy, cheerful, blithe

7. farce
(fars)8. futile
(fyt'ul)9. grueling
(gru'ling)10. hospitable
(has'pit'ə-bəl)11. lair
(lar)12. lavish
(lav'ish)13. morbid
(môr'bid)

14. notorious
(nō tōr' ē əs)

(*adj.*) widely known because of bad conduct

Chicago had its share of _____ gangsters
in the 1930s.

SYNONYMS: disgraceful, infamous, disreputable

ANTONYMS: unknown, obscure, respectable

15. pamper
(pam' pər)

(*v.*) to allow too many privileges, be too generous and easygoing toward

If my aunt continues to _____ that child,
he may grow into an irresponsible adult.

SYNONYMS: cater to, indulge

ANTONYMS: abuse, maltreat, mistreat, discipline

16. parasite
(par' ə sīt)

(*n.*) an organism that lives in or on another organism; one who lives off another person

Uninvited, he hung around with the players so much that the
team considered him a real _____

SYNONYMS: sponger, freeloader

17. shirk
(shərk)

(*v.*) to avoid or get out of doing work, neglect a duty;
to sneak, slink

People who tend to _____ their
responsibilities are not to be relied upon.

SYNONYMS: duck, dodge; ANTONYMS: fulfill, perform, shoulder

18. surplus
(sər' pləs)

(*n.*) an amount beyond what is required, excess; (*adj.*) more
than what is needed or expected

Dad was relieved to find that his business had a
_____ at the end of the year.

The Army decided to sell its _____ goods
to a group of manufacturers.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) glut, surfeit, overage

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) shortage, lack, dearth, paucity

19. timidity
(tə mid' ə tē)

(*n.*) the state of being easily frightened

The shy child's natural _____ had made
her afraid to try out for the team.

SYNONYMS: faintheartedness, shyness

ANTONYMS: fearlessness, boldness, intrepidity

20. veto
(vē' tō)

(*n.*) the power to forbid or prevent; (*v.*) to prohibit, reject

The president decided to _____ the bill
presented to him by Congress.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) turn down, nix

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) approve, endorse, ratify

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 126–127 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. The modern TV sitcom developed from the type of broad (**surplus, farce**) that slapstick comedians served up in the 1920s and 1930s.

2. Since I was led to believe that she would approve my proposal, I was very much taken aback when it was (**lavished, vetoed**) out of hand.

3. Beneath the (**dismantled, dilapidated**) body of the getaway car, there was a powerful, finely tuned motor, capable of reaching high speeds.

4. After winning the award for best actress, she joyously (**lavished, dismantled**) praise on everyone who had worked with her on the movie.

5. The campaign to eliminate pollution will prove (**futile, grueling**) unless it has full public support.

6. He amazed us by reaching into the pile of (**clutter, lair**) on his desk and pulling out the exact piece of paper he wanted.

7. "I discovered a really cool store with all kinds of (**morbid, surplus**) army and navy equipment," Joel told his friends excitedly.

8. I sometimes think that he enjoys being sick and having everyone wait on him, sympathize with him, and (**shirk, pamper**) him.

9. When he said he would "beard the lion in his (**lair, bellow**)," he merely meant that he was going to have it out with the boss.

10. What a difference between the (**timidity, farce**) of the typical freshman and the know-it-all confidence of a senior!

11. He is (**hospitable, notorious**) for his habit of taking small loans from his best friends and then conveniently forgetting about them.

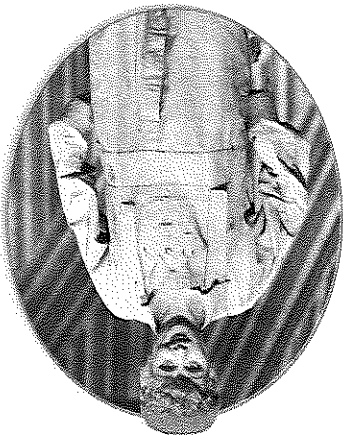
12. Even the toughest critics have been (**lavish, dilapidated**) in their praise of the new movie.

13. The first thing Rick and Maria do when they enter a room is to (**clutter, shirk**) it with their jackets, shoes, backpacks, books, electronic equipment, and pencils.

14. When I think back to my days of basic training, I can almost hear the drill sergeant (**pampering, bellowing**) commands across the field.

15. It would be impossible to (**pamper, dismantle**) our system of governmental checks and balances without destroying American democracy.

Lucille Ball starred in the television comedy *Love Lucy* from 1951–1957.



16. The courts of many Renaissance princes were jammed with (**parasites, lairs**), toadies, and other idle hangers-on.
17. The sudden thunderstorm made a (**morbid, botch**) of the picnic, forcing us to flee for cover and soaking most of our food.
18. After buying all the supplies for the club party, we were delighted to find that we had a grand (**surplus, veto**) of 65 cents.
19. The best way to avoid those (**grueling, bellowing**) cram sessions just before the exams is to do your work steadily all term long.
20. Their record is 100% consistent—they have managed to (**botch, clutter**) every job they have undertaken.
21. My experience has been that people who cut corners on small matters will also (**shirk, botch**) their obligations.
22. We who live in the United States today are the chief (**beneficiaries, parasites**) of the rich heritage of freedom left to us by the framers of the Constitution.
23. Ever since I was bitten by a stray mutt years ago, I have had a (**morbid, lavish**) fear of all dogs.
24. She was indeed fortunate to find herself working under a person who was (**notorious, hospitable**) to her novel ideas.
25. Most presidents don't like to exercise their (**veto, beneficiary**) power often.

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. cautiously inspected the **decayed** old building _____
2. took up acting to overcome their **fearfulness** _____
3. may **fumble** the assignment if not careful _____
4. was reluctant to **coddle** the spoiled child any further _____
5. cleaned up the **tangle** of tools in Dad's workroom _____
6. a meeting that turned into a **mockery** _____
7. saw that the wolf had returned to its **hiding place** _____
8. will attempt to **halt** the passing of the law _____
9. trying to **sidestep** her responsibilities _____
10. would hang on like a **leech** _____

Antonyms

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. the decision to **confirm** the anti-pollution bill

2. saw a **tearjerker** of a play

3. a younger sibling who was a real **helper**

4. resting on the ground **out in the open**

5. not one to **take on** extra chores

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. A sitting president can _____ a measure passed by a majority of Congress, but lawmakers can overrule his decision.

2. Since the defendant was never given a chance to prove his innocence, his so-called "trial" was nothing more than a _____.

3. I know what it is that I have to do, and you may be certain that I will not _____ my duty.

4. It is a curious fact of nature that most _____ are unable to survive when they are separated from the organisms they feed on.

5. The practice session was so _____ that we scarcely had the strength to get to the dressing room and take our showers.

6. Ever since the new tax laws went into effect, there has been speculation as to who the real _____ of the changes will be.

7. All the members of that family are such _____ people that we are always completely at ease whenever we visit them.

8. The _____ of food produced each year in the United States is desperately needed to feed hungry people all over the world.

9. Many people both here and abroad seem to have a _____ fascination with the tragic fate of the Russian royal family.

10. It is hard to believe that a teenager so courageous and able on a camping trip can show so much _____ when invited to a dance.

11. Though the cabin was a little _____ when we bought it, we were able to spruce it up without going to a great deal of expense.
12. Why must you _____ up your mind with so many trivial and useless scraps of information?
13. When he realized that he had been tricked by his opponent, he let out a _____ of rage that could be heard all over the gym.
14. They gave me so _____ a helping of dinner that for the first time in my life I was unable to polish off the food on my plate.
15. Unfortunately, the brave lifeguard's valiant attempts to rescue the drowning swimmer proved _____.
16. The inexperienced assistant _____ the business letter he was trying to compose and had to rewrite it.
17. He is such a _____ liar that no one takes anything he says seriously anymore.
18. When I accepted the invitation to join them on the vessel, I didn't realize that I had agreed to help _____ the ship.
19. The animals in the zoo are kept in quarters that are designed to imitate their _____ in the wild.
20. As a child she was so _____ by her parents that she still seems to think that her wishes should be instantly granted.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "The Straight History of Orthodontics" (pages 126–127). The passage discusses how, for thousands of years, people have used orthodontics to improve their appearance, often suffering great pain to do so. Do people care too much about their appearance, or is the quest for physical improvement a healthy impulse? Consider both sides of the issue. Then write at least two paragraphs for each side. Include at least one passage detail for each side, and use at least three Unit words.
2. The subject of "The Straight History of Orthodontics" is one that anyone who has visited the dentist can identify with. Write a one-page personal narrative about your experiences with an orthodontist or dentist. Your narrative may be humorous or serious. Include specific examples from your experiences, readings (refer to pages 126–127), and observations. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.