

Definitions

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

1. acquisitive
(ə kwiz' ə tiv)

(*adj.*) able to get and retain ideas or information; concerned with acquiring wealth or property

In an _____ society, there is a great deal of emphasis on buying and selling.

SYNONYMS: greedy, avaricious, retentive
ANTONYM: altruistic

2. arrogate
(a' rə gāt)

(*v.*) to claim or take without right

The ambitious noblemen will put the young king under house arrest and _____ royal privileges to themselves.

SYNONYMS: expropriate, commandeer
ANTONYMS: renounce, abdicate, abandon

3. banal
(bə nal')

(*adj.*) hackneyed, trite, commonplace

The new play's _____ dialogue made it seem more like a soap opera than a serious drama.

SYNONYMS: stale, insipid
ANTONYMS: fresh, original, new

4. belabor
(bi lā' bər)

(*v.*) to work on excessively; to thrash soundly

His tendency to _____ the small points often made him miss the big picture.

SYNONYM: overwork

5. carping
(kär' piŋ)

(*adj.*) tending to find fault, especially in a petty, nasty, or hairsplitting way; (*n.*) petty, nagging criticism

The trainee resigned after a week rather than put up with the _____ complaints of the sales manager.

Most artists choose to ignore the _____ of critics and simply go on with their work.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) nit-picking, caviling
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) approving, uncritical

6. coherent
(kō hēr' ənt)

(*adj.*) holding or sticking together; making a logical whole; comprehensible, meaningful

The physics teacher gave a surprisingly _____ description of quantum mechanics.

SYNONYMS: connected, unified, consistent, cohesive
ANTONYMS: muddled, chaotic, disjointed

7. congeal
(ken jət')

(v.) to change from liquid to solid, thicken; to make inflexible or rigid

If you do not wash your dishes right away, the food on them

will

SYNONYMS: harden, jell, solidify

ANTONYM: liquefy

8. emulate
(em'ya lat)

(v.) to imitate with the intent of equaling or surpassing the model

Most beginning writers try to _____ a great writer and later develop their own individual styles.

SYNONYMS: copy, mimic, rival, match, measure up to

9. encomium
(en kō' me əm)

(n.) a formal expression of praise, a lavish tribute

On Veterans Day, the President delivered a heartfelt

_____ to those who died for their country.

SYNONYMS: panegyric, eulogy

ANTONYMS: condemnation, castigation, criticism

10. eschew
(es chū')

(v.) to avoid, shun, keep away from

The young athletes promised the coach that they would train

_____ vigorously and _____ bad habits.

SYNONYMS: abstain from, steer clear of, forgo

ANTONYMS: embrace, adopt

11. germane
(jər mən')

(adj.) relevant, appropriate, apropos, fitting

Bringing up examples from the past is not

_____ to the present discussion.

SYNONYM: pertinent

ANTONYMS: irrelevant, extraneous, inappropriate

(adj.) so great or demanding as not to be satisfied

People with an _____ appetite for gossip

often do not have compelling stories of their own.

SYNONYMS: unquenchable, ravenous

13. intransigent
(in tran' se jənt)

(adj.) refusing to compromise, irreconcilable

Little will get accomplished if the legislators of both parties

maintain their _____ attitudes.

SYNONYMS: uncompromising, unyielding, obdurate

ANTONYMS: lukewarm, halfhearted, yielding

- 14. invidious**
(in vid' ē əs)
(*adj.*) offensive, hateful; tending to cause bitterness and resentment
Bosses should avoid making _____ comparisons between their employees.
SYNONYMS: malicious, spiteful, prejudicial, pejorative
ANTONYMS: flattering, ameliorative
- 15. largesse**
(lār jes')
(*n.*) generosity in giving; lavish or bountiful contributions
The university was the fortunate beneficiary of the _____ of many of its graduates.
SYNONYMS: liberality, bounty
ANTONYMS: stinginess, miserliness, niggardliness
- 16. reconnaissance**
(ri kăn' ə səns)
(*n.*) a survey made for military purposes; any kind of preliminary inspection or examination
The field officer required a thorough _____ before ordering any troop movements.
SYNONYM: exploration
- 17. substantiate**
(səb stan' shē ət)
(*v.*) to establish by evidence, prove; to give concrete or substantial form to
The prospector was unable to _____ his claim to the land where the gold was found.
SYNONYMS: confirm, validate, authenticate
ANTONYMS: refute, disprove, invalidate
- 18. taciturn**
(tas' ə tərn)
(*adj.*) habitually silent or quiet, inclined to talk very little
Woodrow Wilson has the reputation of having a dour and _____ personality.
SYNONYMS: tight-lipped, uncommunicative, laconic
ANTONYMS: garrulous, loquacious, prolix, verbose
- 19. temporize**
(tem' pə rīz)
(*v.*) to stall or act evasively in order to gain time, avoid a confrontation, or postpone a decision; to compromise
For most of Shakespeare's great tragedy, the protagonist Hamlet chooses to _____ rather than act.
SYNONYMS: dillydally, procrastinate
- 20. tenable**
(ten' ə bəl)
(*adj.*) capable of being held or defended
The researchers put forth a _____ theory, but their conclusions would be reviewed carefully by others.
SYNONYMS: defensible, justifiable, maintainable
ANTONYMS: indefensible, unjustifiable