

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. accost (ə kăst')

(v.) to approach and speak to first; to confront in a challenging or aggressive way

The nobleman was _____ by beggars on his way to the castle.

SYNONYMS: buttonhole, approach

ANTONYMS: avoid, shun

2. animadversion (an ə mad vər'zhən)

(n.) a comment indicating strong criticism or disapproval

The inexperienced filmmaker was disheartened by the _____ of the film critic.

SYNONYMS: rebuke, reproof

ANTONYMS: praise, compliment

3. avid (av' id)

(adj.) desirous of something to the point of greed; intensely eager

Most writers are also _____ readers who have loved books since childhood.

SYNONYMS: keen, enthusiastic, grasping

ANTONYMS: reluctant, indifferent, unenthusiastic

4. brackish (brak' ish)

(adj.) having a salty taste and unpleasant to drink

The shipwrecked passengers adrift on the lifeboat became ill after drinking _____ water.

SYNONYM: saline

ANTONYMS: clear, sweet

5. celerity (sə ler' ə tē)

(n.) swiftness, rapidity of motion or action

Although the heavy snowfall was not expected, the highway department responded with surprising _____.

SYNONYMS: promptness, speed

ANTONYMS: slowness, sluggishness, dilatoriness

6. devious (dē' vē əs)

(adj.) straying or wandering from a straight or direct course; done or acting in a shifty or underhanded way

The interrogator used _____ methods to try to get the suspect to incriminate himself.

SYNONYMS: roundabout, indirect, tricky, sly, artful

ANTONYMS: direct, straightforward, open, aboveboard

7. gambit
(gam'bit)

(n.) in chess, an opening move that involves risk or sacrifice of a minor piece in order to gain a later advantage; any opening move of this type

Asking an interesting stranger about his or her job is a popular party _____
SYNONYMS: ploy, ruse, maneuver

8. halcyon
(hal'se en)

(n.) a legendary bird identified with the kingfisher; (adj.) of or relating to the halcyon; calm, peaceful; happy, golden; prosperous, affluent

The teacher read the legend of the _____, a mythic bird that nested in a calm sea.
The woman often spoke of the _____ days of her childhood.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) tranquil, placid, palmy
ANTONYMS: (adj.) turbulent, tumultuous

9. histrionic
(his'tre an'ik)

(adj.) pertaining to actors and their techniques; theatrical, artificial; melodramatic

Upon receiving his award, the young actor gave a _____ speech.

SYNONYMS: affected, stagy
ANTONYMS: muted, untheatrical, subdued

10. incendiary
(in'sen'de er e)

(adj.) deliberately setting or causing fires; designed to start fires; tending to stir up strife or rebellion; (n.) one who deliberately sets fires, arsonist; one who causes strife

The arsonist planted an _____ device in the basement of the store.

The radical _____ was sentenced to life imprisonment.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) inflammatory, provocative; (n.) firebrand
ANTONYMS: (adj.) soothing, quieting; (n.) peacemaker

11. maelstrom
(mal'stram)

(n.) a whirlpool of great size and violence; a situation resembling a whirlpool in violence and destruction

Many innocent people caught in the _____ of the revolution lost their lives and property.

SYNONYMS: chaos, turbulence, tumult

12. myopic
(mi'ap'ik)

(adj.) nearsighted; lacking a broad, realistic view of a situation; lacking foresight or discernment

The _____ foreign policy of the last administration has led to serious problems with our allies.

SYNONYMS: shortsighted
ANTONYM: farsighted

ert
vert')

(*adj.*) open, not hidden, expressed or revealed in a way that is easily recognized

In order for Congress to declare war, the President must demonstrate an _____ threat.

SYNONYMS: clear, obvious, manifest, patent
ANTONYMS: clandestine, covert, concealed

ejorative
ə jōr' ə tiv)

(*adj.*) tending to make worse; expressing disapproval or disparagement, derogatory, deprecatory, belittling

The lawyer was accused of making a _____ remark when referring to the defendant's background.

ANTONYMS: complimentary, ameliorative

ropriety
prə pri' ə tē)

(*n.*) the state of being proper, appropriateness; (*pl.*) standards of what is proper or socially acceptable

The social worker questioned the _____ of the police's request to see confidential records.

SYNONYMS: fitness, correctness
ANTONYMS: unseemliness, inappropriateness

sacrilege
sək' rə lij)

(*n.*) improper or disrespectful treatment of something held sacred

The anthropologist was accused of committing a _____ when she disturbed a burial ground.

SYNONYMS: desecration, profanation, defilement

summarily
(sə mer' ə lē)

(*adv.*) without delay or formality; briefly, concisely

As soon as there was evidence of criminal wrongdoing, the official was _____ ousted from his post.

SYNONYMS: promptly, peremptorily

suppliant
(səp' lē ənt)

(*adj.*) asking humbly and earnestly; (*n.*) one who makes a request humbly and earnestly, a petitioner, suitor

He made a _____ address to the parole board.
Stranded in the deserted city of Moscow, Napoleon had to turn to the Czar not as a conqueror but as a _____

talisman
(tal' iz mən)

(*n.*) an object that serves as a charm or is believed to confer magical powers, an amulet, fetish

Most people do not believe that rabbit's feet and other _____ actually bring good luck.

undulate
(ən' dyə lāt)

(*v.*) to move in waves or with a wavelike motion; to have a wavelike appearance or form

The baseball fans began to _____ as they cheered, so that they appeared to move in a wave.

SYNONYMS: fluctuate, rise and fall