Unit 7

Words in Action

shrink become smaller, especially because of the effect of heat or water
Woolen items shrink if washed in hot water.

wither become dry and die
The sun or the cold can wither flowers, tree leaves, grass, etc.

dwindle become fewer or smaller
His fame is dwindling. The number of students keeps dwindling year after year.

contract 1. become tight or narrow
2. decrease in size
Metals usually contract when they become cool and ***expand*** *when they heat up.*

decline 1. change to something worse, weaker or lower, especially for health, value or force
2. one's influence, power and age can decline with the lapse of time
3. say 'no'; refuse something offered
When I asked her to dance, she politely declined.

lessen 1. become less necessary, valuable or important
2. make less in estimation or value
You can lessen the value of money, the hours of work, the importance of a heroic deed.
We also speak of the distance of a journey being lessened.

impair spoil, damage or weaken
Long hours of work can impair your health, vitality or eyesight.

Exercise A >>> Choose the correct word in parenthesis to complete the sentences below.

1 Your jacket will be less likely to _____ (shrink/contract) if you have it dry-cleaned.

2 Dim light may _____ (dwindle/impair) your eyesight.

3 The number of young people interested in art keeps _____ (lessening/dwindling).

4 In autumn, leaves turn yellow, _____ (lessen/wither) and fall.

5 He suggested that they try to expand rather than _____ (contract/impair) the local steel industry.

6 As his health had been _____ (declining/shrinking), he was advised to move to the country.

7 The press tried to _____ (dwindle/lessen) the importance of his heroic action.

Exercise B >>> Read the text below and choose the correct word **A, B C** or **D** to fit the gaps.

The United States in the 1960s was the richest and most powerful nation in the world. Thanks to ample natural ____(1) and highly developed technology, many of its citizens lived lives of comfort and ____(2) unimaginable a century ____(3). It was also a nation with a record of generosity to other nations. It had lent and given billions of dollars to Western Europe and to ____(4) born and have-not countries around the globe. Yet, in the ____(5) of unprecedented American prosperity there existed, although often invisible to visitors from foreign lands, the paradox of poverty.

1 **a** sources	2 **a** influence	3 **a** earlier	4 **a** lately	5 **a** edge
b resources	**b** indigence	**b** past	**b** formerly	**b** between
c recourse	**c** affluence	**c** gone	**c** sooner	**c** midst
d repercussion	**d** asperity	**d** formerly	**d** newly	**d** end

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Vocabulary Development

Task One >>> Combine each of the following pairs of sentences into one using a participle. Make whatever changes are necessary especially to the sentences in heavy type.

Example: ***He missed the last bus home.*** *He decided to walk.*
Answer: *Having missed the last bus home, he decided to walk.*

1 **The poor man is nearly blind**. He can't read the paper.

_____ .

2 **I was fired.** You were the cause of it.

_____ .

3 **He was walking along the street.** A tile fell and hit him on the head.

_____ .

4 **He is a brilliant cook.** He knows a lot about French sauces.

_____ .

5 **He arrived at the station.** He saw the train pull out.

_____ .

6 **They will see you.** You can't avoid it.

_____ .

7 **People order him about.** He resents it.

_____ .

8 **Don't lend money.** It's equivalent to spending it.

_____ .

Task Two >>> The following passage refers to malnutrition. In each sentence, there is a choice of three words similar in meaning. Underline the one which best fits the sentence.

Malnutrition is the (deprivation, privation, minimum) of essential (nutrients, nourished, nutritional) elements resulting (at, from, in) severe physiological (disturbances, mess, disorders) and ultimately death (unless, if, so) not reversed in time.

A diet sufficient in calories but (deficit, defective, deficient) in protein may lead to (grand, grave, solemn) diseases characterised by loss of skin and hair color, diarrhea, and water-logged tissue cells in which the body chemicals become so diluted that life can no longer be (sustained, subsisted, helped). A diet deficient in both calories and protein usually results in marasmus, that is, (famine, starvation, hunger).

Victims of malnutrition are usually (greatly, highly, totally) susceptible to infectious (diseases, illnesses, ailments). In advanced cases, the victim may die simply because he literally no longer has the (force, power, strength) to breathe.

Recent studies indicate that children receiving insufficient (input, supply, provision) of protein during (puberty, infancy, adolescence) or (before, ago, prior) to delivery may sustain (irreverent, irretrievable, irreversible) brain damage or suffer from a permanent (overdraft, deficit, scarcity) of brain cells, with the (subsistent, subsequent, substantial) impairment of intelligence.

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Task Three >>> Fill in the blanks with appropriate **PREPOSITIONS**.

1 'Do you think he'll scrape through the exam?'
'I think so. I have faith _____ his ability.'

2 'How did your father react when you broke the news to him?'
'He blew _____ and didn't calm down for some time.'

3 'My brother ate five pizzas in one go.'
'That borders _____ the incredible, doesn't it?'

4 'They seem to be very indulgent parents, don't they?'
'Yes, they invariably bow _____ their kid's wishes.'

5 'The Department of the Environment seems to be submitting to pressure from industry to ignore the recommendations.'
'Exactly, and the pressure is building _____ , too.'

6 'Shall I give you a call?'
'Only if you come up _____ any difficulties.'

7 'Was the meeting well attended?'
'Not as many people turned _____ as I had expected.'

8 'Only a few parents are interested in these problems.'
'Well, I'd love to see more of them concerning themselves _____ such vital issues.'

9 'Why do you prefer fishing to swimming?'
'It's not so tiring _____ one thing.'

10 'A lot of small businesses in town are experiencing a considerable slump in sales.'
'Mine, in contrast, is looking _____ .'

Task Four >>> Tick one word from the boxes to complete each sentence.

1 Her beauty _____ everybody.	☐ captured	☐ captivated
2 He has got an _____ service record.	☐ enviable	☐ envious
3 It seems that the _____ in commerce is now over.	☐ boon	☐ boom
4 He was _____ for driving without a license.	☐ persecuted	☐ prosecuted
5 Cigarette smoking is a health _____.	☐ hazard	☐ haphazard
6 He was found _____ naked.	☐ stark	☐ dark
7 He seems to be accident _____.	☐ prone	☐ drone
8 After the meeting, the members of the committee were led to their _____ rooms.	☐ prospective	☐ respective
9 Several high-ranking officers were _____ in the bribery scandal.	☐ implicated	☐ complicated
10 What a _____ dancer he is!	☐ well	☐ swell
11 This house is about to _____ down.	☐ tumble	☐ stumble
12 She lives on the _____ paid to her by her former husband.	☐ alimony	☐ patrimony
13 The headmaster addressed the school audience in a _____ voice.	☐ masterly	☐ masterful
14 He has a _____ imagination.	☐ morbid	☐ chivalrous
15 He is an _____ pianist.	☐ accomplice	☐ accomplished
16 Feeling very tired, he nodded _____during the journey.	☐ off	☐ out
17 Drinking was his _____.	☐ undoing	☐ making

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary Practice

A. Read the text below and choose the correct word A, B C or D to fit the gaps.

The New England Forestry foundation, (NEFF) now has a place it can use to showcase sustainable forestry. It wasn't easy and NEFF still needs to **(11)**..... £2.2 million to complete the capital campaign. The Prouty property has been a fixture in the landscape of Littleton for almost a century. In 2002, Donald Prouty, former Littleton town Moderator and town counsel **(12)**..... . Landvest was engaged to sell the property. Recognizing the opportunity to protect a significant tract of forestland within the rapidly **(13)**..... U.S. Route 495 corridor, Landvest introduced NEFF to the property. After walking the property and meeting with representatives of the town, NEFF boldly signed a purchase and sale agreement with the Prouty family. The family generously agreed to a bargain sale price in order to preserve the property and avoid a likely **(14)**..... war among developers. Valued in **(15)**..... of £3 million, the family's generous offer demonstrated their commitment to conserving the property. In October 2003, NEFF **(16)**..... financing at a highly competitive rate and purchased the property. This wonderful community resource was dedicated "Prouty Woods community forest" at a dedication ceremony in October 2004.

NEFF now provides public **(17)**..... throughout the property and educational opportunities at the William A. King Education Center, located at the top of Wilderness Hill. NEFF continues to manage the land as an active working forest - as Don and Carey Prouty had done for years. **(18)**..... from Fay Park to Long Lake, the 107-acre Prouty property is a truly unique and significant tract of woodland within minutes of Route 495. The property includes 1600 feet of frontage on Long Lake and the top of Wilderness Hill offers expansive views to the west and north including Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. The combination of forest, hayfield and riparian zones provide much-needed habitat for a variety of species. The forest has been under professional forest management for many years. Walking trails maintained by the Littleton Conservation Trust connect to a town-wide system of walking trails. The town has protected significant acreage at Long Lake Park and along the **(19)**..... of Long Lake across from the Prouty property. The town-owned Morgan property adjoins to the north. In addition, the town has purchased a conservation restriction on 85 acres of Prouty Woods Community Forest, further increasing the conservation **(20)**..... of this property.

11.	**A.** lift	**B.** elevate	**C.** promote	**D.** raise
12.	**A.** gave away	**B.** passed away	**C.** passed off	**D.** gave over
13.	**A.** developing	**B.** devising	**C.** deriving	**D.** deviating
14.	**A.** bidding	**B.** proposing	**C.** letting	**D.** summoning
15.	**A.** extra	**B.** over	**C.** excess	**D.** profit
16.	**A.** attached	**B.** tightened	**C.** secured	**D.** possessed
17.	**A.** passage	**B.** acclaim	**C.** entrant	**D.** access
18.	**A.** Stretching	**B.** Swelling	**C.** Pushing	**D.** Multiplying
19.	**A.** coast	**B.** shore	**C.** verge	**D.** hem
20.	**A.** fee	**B.** value	**C.** prize	**D.** treasure

B. Fill the gaps in the following sentences with the correct answer A, B C or D.

21 Mr. Connors was _____ at the police station for further questioning.
a restrained **b** detained **c** contained **d** taken

22 I don't know how on earth he can get by on such _____ wages.
a meager **b** adequate **c** satisfactory **d** high

23 Don't read in such dim light; it will_____ your eyesight.
a impair **b** dwindle **c** decrease **d** contract

24 The gift was a _____ of his gratitude.
a segment **b** specimen **c** receipt **d** token

25 They were able to set sail when the storm _____.
a enraged **b** abated **c** shrank **d** permitted

26 I'd love to live in these _____ surroundings.
a desolate **b** bashful **c** gloomy **d** serene

27 This kind of occupation does not offer any _____ for creative thinking.
a orbit **b** rope **c** scope **d** infection

28 Mr. Smithers _____ to comment on the news.
a upheld **b** retained **c** declined **d** decreased

29 Law-abiding people are the people who _____ the law.
a observe **b** offend **c** protect **d** defy

30 The number of people going to soccer matches seems to be _____ steadily.
a narrowing **b** withering **c** dwindling **d** contracting

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