Unit 13

Words in Action

plague - conflagration - deluge - drought - landslide - earthquake - famine - destitution
avalanche - insanity - contamination - depression - subsidence - holocaust - gale

Exercise A>>> The following definitions refer to the words above. They all have **unpleasant connotations** as they are related to disasters, calamities, bad living conditions, natural phenomena, etc. Study them carefully, and then fill each blank with the word that corresponds to its definition.

1 A wide-spread scarcity or dearth of food that causes people to suffer from extreme hunger. _____

2 An unusually great flood accompanied by heavy rainfall that causes inundation such as that which affected Noah and his ark. _____

3 A long continuous spell of dry weather with marked lack of rain that stems the growth of plants. _____

4 Extreme poverty often accompanied by lack of property. _____

5 The sinking of the earth to a lower level because of underground movements and workings. _____

6 A strong and violent wind but of less force than that of a storm or tempest. _____

7 A very large scale destruction and loss of life that may result from use of strategic weapons, as in a nuclear war. _____

8 The slipping of a mass of land from a higher to a lower level. _____

9 An extremely contagious pestilence or epidemic disease, also known as the Black Death, that decimated Europe's population in the Middle Ages. _____

10 A decline in business marked by an extreme slump in production and purchase of foods such as the Great Crash on Wall Street in 1929, which ruined international trade. _____

11 A condition or state where the environment (water, air, soil) is made impure because of harmful chemicals and poisonous matter. _____

12 The fall of a mass of snow or ice down a mountain slope. _____

13 A great or disastrous fire, especially one breaking out in a forest. _____

14 A vibration of the earth's crust caused by disturbances of the inner layers of the earth. _____

15 Any mental disorder characterized by irrational or violent deviation from normal thinking. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary Practice

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

Detroit **(11)**.....St. Patrick's Day in Corktown, a neighborhood named for the many **(12)**..... workers from County Cork. Some of the original workers' row houses there are being **(13)**....., and the area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The parade covers about a dozen blocks along Michigan Avenue, on Sunday, March 12.

The March 12 parade in San Francisco begins at 11:30 a.m. at Second and Market Streets and **(14)**..... to the Civic Center Plaza. San Francisco's first celebration, in 1851, **(15)**..... of a small party in Hayes Valley and a Shamrock Ball at a saloon on Pacific Street. Enthusiasm for the holiday waxed and waned over the years, but by 1956 it had become **(16)**....., with 35,000 marchers.

San Diego **(17)**..... its twenty-sixth St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 11, at 11 a.m. Glittery Las Vegas, Nevada, will have its fortieth one on Saturday, March 18, at 11 a.m. To the south, the Irish in Tucson, Arizona, will step out at the same time.

(18)..... in bathing suits usually line the parade route in the Waikiki Beach district of Honolulu. **(19)**..... to Pat Bigold, a writer who is half Irish, his city's St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 is the closest to the international **(20)**..... . It takes place at noon, which is 5 p.m. in Boston.

11.	**A.** commemorates	**B.** commiserates	**C.** celebrates	**D.** participates
12.	**A.** immigrant	**B.** vagrant	**C.** destitute	**D.** hard
13.	**A.** kept	**B.** flooded	**C.** demolished	**D.** preserved
14.	**A.** detours	**B.** diverts	**C.** heads	**D.** retreats
15.	**A.** was	**B.** consisted	**C.** devised	**D.** contrived
16.	**A.** common	**B.** unpopular	**C.** localised	**D.** mainstream
17.	**A.** kicks off	**B.** forwards	**C.** redirects	**D.** hands over
18.	**A.** Audience	**B.** Addressers	**C.** Listeners	**D.** Spectators
19.	**A.** According	**B.** Assuming	**C.** Listening	**D.** Deliberating
20.	**A.** border	**B.** code	**C.** dateline	**D.** season

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

21 The ship's masts were all destroyed in the strong _____.
a gales **b** deluge **c** famine **d** eruption

22 They were, superficially at any _____, a very unlikely pair to become friends.
a aspect **b** chance **c** extent **d** rate

23 The kidnapper had tried to _____ her before.
a speculate **b** abduct **c** dispel **d** infer

24 He's a very _____ writer whom few people have ever heard of.
a wrinkled **b** congested **c** pale **d** obscure

25 His untimely death _____ the decline of the empire.
a shrank **b** ameliorated **c** precipitated **d** exaggerated

26 David was given all the _____ for rescuing the drowning boy.
a merit **b** blame **c** credit **d** reputation

27 Empires are born, they _____ and finally fall into decline.
a profit **b** culminate **c** deviate **d** convert

28 During the _____, he was afraid none of his family would survive.
a famine **b** destitution **c** subsidy **d** eloquence

29 The whole forest area was devastated by _____.
a plague **b** famine **c** insanity **d** conflagration

30 Hedgehogs, bears and other animals that hibernate remain _____ during winter.
a superficial **b** passive **c** dormitory **d** dormant

LIVEWORKSHEETS