

1. Most children's books these days have _____ colour illustrations.

[=attractive]

- (a) hunching
- (b) despising
- (c) enticing
- (d) racking

2. My son's incessant questions are annoying, but I won't ____ his curiosity. [=constrain / suppress]

- (a) brand
- (b) stray
- (c) redeem
- (d) stifle

3. Homeownership rates among young Americans continue to ____. [=drop/ fall/ decrease]

- (a) plummet
- (b) wince
- (c) chuck
- (d) rig

4. A meteorological satellite fell out of orbit and _____ to Earth last week. [=fell]

- (a) emulated
- (b) fended
- (c) plummeted

(d) flocked

5. Employees like her are an asset to our company, so we try to ____ them.

[=keep]

(a) retain

(b) refrain

(c) curtail

(d) hamper

6. He __ his accident to alcohol-induced performance impairment.

[=blamed...on]

(a) strangled

(b) hampered

(c) attributed

(d) eluded

7. She never told her children that she had _____ from a boarding school when she was young. [=run away]

(a) engendered

(b) absconded

(c) twitched

(d) sprawled

8. My parents' warnings didn't ____ me from marrying the girl of my dreams. (=discourage/ scare/ stop]

- (a) dim
- (b) flex
- (c) smear
- (d) deter

9. The ____ noises from the kitchen kept the baby awake. [=rattling/ banging sounds]

- (a) raking
- (b) etching
- (c) clattering
- (d) assassinating

10. Imprisonment will be the punishment for those who won't ____ by the new law. [=obey/ follow]

- (a) fine
- (b) abide
- (c) ratify
- (d) pioneer

11. You will be severely penalised for not _____ by my order. [=obeying/following]

- (a) abiding
- (b) smearing
- (c) flexing
- (d) bullying

12. Don't you understand that you'll gain weight when you ____ on sweets and fast food? [=eat too much]

- (a) overlap
- (b) augment
- (c) gorge
- (d) falter

13. He never ceased to ____ his controversial beliefs. [=maintain/argue/defend]

- (a) undercut
- (b) trickle
- (c) infuse
- (d) assert

14. I use a special lotion that ____ insects. [=keeps away]

- (a) orbits
- (b) repels
- (c) pans

(d) relays

15. The earthquake victims are eligible for _____ housing.

[=financed/supported]

(a) subsidised

(b) zipped

(c) overtaken

(d) flanked

16. In my home country, it's compulsory to _____ children.

[=inoculate/protect from illness]

(a) heed

(b) wail

(c) salvage

(d) vaccinate

17. Every winter they carefully _____ their apple trees to promote significant growth of fruit buds. [=cut/ shorten]

(a) lurch

(b) prune

(c) reaffirm

(d) heave

18. If they attack us we won't hesitate to ____. [=fight back]

- (a) retaliate
- (b) scurry
- (c) dice
- (d) hustle

19. We managed to leave only when the tide ____. [=went back]

- (a) tensed
- (b) boomed
- (c) booted
- (d) receded

20. I think it's impossible to ____ school examinations. [=stop]

- (a) paddle
- (b) concur
- (c) abolish
- (d) orchestrate