

# Vocabulary Ex. > Essential Words in English (I)

Finding synonyms > Choose the best answer.

- |                   |                  |                 |                   |                |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. widely         | (A) broadly      | (B) abroad      | (C) secretly      | (D) truly      |
| 2. autonomous     | (A) independent  | (B) sudden      | (C) international | (D) abrupt     |
| 3. agile          | (A) clumsy       | (B) infirm      | (C) nimble        | (D) strong     |
| 4. attractive     | (A) appealing    | (B) adverse     | (C) acceptable    | (D) adequate   |
| 5. disapproval    | (A) attraction   | (B) persistence | (C) objection     | (D) attention  |
| 6. haphazardly    | (A) suddenly     | (B) dangerously | (C) carelessly    | (D) secretly   |
| 7. constant       | (A) variable     | (B) acceptable  | (C) abrupt        | (D) persistent |
| 8. perfect        | (A) original     | (B) ideal       | (C) defective     | (D) abrupt     |
| 9. unfavorably    | (A) attractively | (B) haphazardly | (C) dangerously   | (D) adversely  |
| 10. disturbing    | (A) aggressive   | (B) disruptive  | (C) persistent    | (D) lovable    |
| 11. inspire       | (A) celebrate    | (B) attract     | (C) encourage     | (D) appeal     |
| 12. advantage     | (A) benefit      | (B) persistence | (C) nimbleness    | (D) allure     |
| 13. fragile       | (A) modern       | (B) famous      | (C) allowable     | (D) frail      |
| 14. contemporary  | (A) timing       | (B) current     | (C) well-known    | (D) medieval   |
| 15. appealing     | (A) refined      | (B) encouraging | (C) alluring      | (D) popular    |
| 16. renowned      | (A) unknown      | (B) celebrated  | (C) possessed     | (D) revoked    |
| 17. worthwhile    | (A) rewarding    | (B) acceptable  | (C) permitted     | (D) agile      |
| 18. vigorous      | (A) demanding    | (B) gentle      | (C) energetic     | (D) feeble     |
| 19. refine        | (A) persist      | (B) value       | (C) perfect       | (D) divide     |
| 20. distribute    | (A) disappoint   | (B) disrupt     | (C) discourage    | (D) dispense   |
| 21. indispensable | (A) abrupt       | (B) abroad      | (C) vital         | (D) frail      |
| 22. restore       | (A) appeal       | (B) revitalize  | (C) attract       | (D) disrupt    |
| 23. conform       | (A) participate  | (B) differ      | (C) reaffirm      | (D) obey       |
| 24. notice        | (A) observe      | (B) refine      | (C) distribute    | (D) analyze    |
| 25. current       | (A) energetic    | (B) ideal       | (C) ongoing       | (D) intense    |
| 26. detect        | (A) cover        | (B) spy         | (C) overlook      | (D) modify     |
| 27. intense       | (A) strong       | (B) intolerant  | (C) allowable     | (D) vitally    |
| 28. enrich        | (A) alter        | (B) dispense    | (C) disrupt       | (D) enhance    |
| 29. unbearable    | (A) inspiring    | (B) unfavorable | (C) intolerable   | (D) ancient    |
| 30. proposal      | (A) question     | (B) comment     | (C) suggestion    | (D) notion     |



Taken from Matthiesen, S. (2007) Barron's Essential Words for TOEFL. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Barron's. USA  
Adapted by Andrés Barón-Ávila  
MA Education and Technology – UCL – IOE



**Choosing synonyms in context** > Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the word in bold.

1. As a government official, Benjamin Franklin often traveled **abroad**.  
(A) widely (B) frequently (C) alone (D) overseas
2. American poet James Merrily received critical **acclaim** for his work entitled Jim's Book.  
(A) advice (B) disapproval (C) praise (D) attention
3. A revolution in women's fashion during the second half of the twentieth century made trousers **acceptable** for almost all activities.  
(A) available (B) permissible (C) suitable (D) ideal
4. No fan, electric or otherwise, **actually** cools the air.  
(A) truly (B) haphazardly (C) persistently (D) continuously
5. The climate of Chicago is subject to **abrupt** changes of weather.  
(A) sudden (B) extreme (C) adverse (D) disruptive
6. Swallows are among the most **agile** passerine birds.  
(A) vigorous (B) frail (C) cunning (D) nimble
7. Shrimping in Mississippi's tidal areas is not **allowed** during the summer months.  
(A) beneficial (B) permitted (C) encouraged (D) appealing
8. With the **advent** of cable television and the use of satellites for broadcasting, television reception improved.  
(A) arrival (B) installation (C) distribution (D) introduction
9. Most tadpoles are vegetarians, **albeit** those of some species are carnivorous.  
(A) although (B) simply (C) supposedly (D) since
10. **Advanced** scientific disciplines like solar cell technology and genetic engineering are exploding with possibilities.  
(A) valued (B) celebrated (C) new (D) improved
11. The composition of heavenly bodies can be discovered by **analyzing** the light they emit.  
(A) detecting (B) examining (C) intensifying (D) observing
12. In 1985, the Coca-Cola Company **altered** the secret formula of the drink's ingredients.  
(A) modified (B) replaced (C) enriched (D) restored
13. Aside from simply being **annoying**, loud noises can permanently damage the ear.  
(A) unwelcome (B) bothersome (C) detected (D) intolerable
14. Building construction is **an ancient** human activity.  
(A) an old (B) a vital (C) an ongoing (D) a contemporary
15. Manitoba's leaders **anticipated** the changing economic environment during the early part of the twentieth century.  
(A) omitted (B) predicted (C) made use of (D) conformed to



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**LIVEWORKSHEETS**