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. anecdote
(an′ ek dōt)

(*n.*) a short account of an incident in someone's life

The governor told a humorous _____ about her first day in office.

SYNONYMS: tale, sketch, vignette, yarn

2. consolidate
(kən säl′ ə dāt)

(*v.*) to combine, unite; to make solid or firm

The generals agreed to _____ their forces for the invasion.

SYNONYMS: strengthen, firm up, merge
ANTONYMS: scatter, disperse, dissipate

3. counterfeit
(kaůn′ tər fit)

(*n.*) an imitation designed to deceive; (*adj.*) not genuine, fake; (*v.*) to make an illegal copy

The painting was a _____ of Gainsborough's *Blue Boy.*

The forger was selling _____ postage stamps to his friends and neighbors.

It is a crime to _____ money.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) false, phony, bogus
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) genuine, real, authentic

4. docile
(däs′ əl)

(*adj.*) easily taught, led, or managed; obedient

She was a _____ child, eager to learn and to please.

SYNONYMS: manageable, teachable, pliant
ANTONYMS: unruly, wayward, intractable, disobedient

5. dominate
(däm′ ə nāt)

(*v.*) to rule over by strength or power, control; to tower over, command due to height

History shows that powerful nations tend to _____ weaker ones.

SYNONYMS: govern, overlook

6. entreat
(en trēt′)

(*v.*) to beg, implore, ask earnestly

The dog's eyes seemed to _____ me for an extra helping of dinner.

SYNONYMS: plead, appeal to
ANTONYM: clamor for

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7. fallible
(fal′ ə bəl)

(*adj.*) capable of being wrong, mistaken, or inaccurate

The researcher's _____ methods led to faulty conclusions.

SYNONYMS: errant, flawed; ANTONYMS: foolproof, unfailing, flawless

8. fickle
(fik′ əl)

(*adj.*) liable to change very rapidly, erratic; marked by a lack of constancy or steadiness, inconsistent

My aunt's interests change with the weather, showing she is a truly _____ person.

SYNONYMS: inconstant, faithless; ANTONYMS: constant, steady

9. fugitive
(fyü′ jə tiv)

(*n.*) one who flees or runs away; (*adj.*) fleeting, lasting a very short time; wandering; difficult to grasp

That thief is a _____ from justice.

Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch had a few _____ moments together before Mrs. Hirsch boarded the train.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) deserter; (*adj.*) elusive
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) lasting, enduring, permanent

10. grimy
(grī′ mē)

(*adj.*) very dirty, covered with dirt or soot

The miners emerged from the pits with _____ hands and faces.

SYNONYMS: filthy, sooty, soiled, dirt-encrusted
ANTONYMS: spotless, spick-and-span, immaculate

11. iota
(ī ō′ tə)

(*n.*) a very small part or quantity

The employer had not an _____ of proof, but he blamed the new clerk for the theft anyway.

SYNONYMS: speck, dab, jot, bit, smidgen
ANTONYMS: flood, deluge, avalanche, glut

12. maul
(môl)

(*v.*) to beat or knock about, handle roughly; to mangle; (*n.*) a heavy hammer

The tiger was about to _____ its victim when the zookeeper stepped between them.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) manhandle, batter

13. potential
(pə ten′ chəl)

(*adj.*) possible, able to happen; (*n.*) something that can develop or become a reality

Hurricanes are a _____ threat to this area.

They were a football team with _____.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) possibility, capability
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) actual, real, unlikely, impossible

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14. radiant
(rā′ dē ənt)

(*adj.*) shining, bright; giving forth light or energy

A model needs to have a _____ smile in order to advertise toothpaste.

SYNONYMS: glowing, brilliant, dazzling, resplendent
ANTONYMS: dull, tarnished, lackluster

15. rural
(rür′ əl)

(*adj.*) relating to farm areas and life in the country

They settled in a _____ community that was miles from the nearest large city.

SYNONYMS: countrified, pastoral
ANTONYMS: metropolitan, citified

16. substantial
(səb stan′ shəl)

(*adj.*) large, important; major, significant; prosperous; not imaginary, material

Expecting a _____ raise in salary, the employee put a down payment on a new car.

SYNONYMS: considerable, tangible, big
ANTONYMS: minor, insignificant, negligible

17. tactful
(takt′ fəl)

(*adj.*) skilled in handling difficult situations or people, polite

A _____ approach is usually the wisest one to take with coworkers.

SYNONYMS: skillful, discreet
ANTONYMS: clumsy, gauche, indiscreet

18. tamper
(tam′ pər)

(*v.*) to interfere with; to handle in a secret and improper way

Please don't _____ with our baggage.

SYNONYMS: monkey with, fool with, mess with

19. ultimate
(əl′ tə mət)

(*adj.*) last, final; most important or extreme; eventual; basic, fundamental

California is our _____ destination on this cross-country trip.

SYNONYMS: farthest, furthest, terminal
ANTONYMS: first, initial, most immediate, nearest

20. uncertainty
(ən sər′ tən tē)

(*n.*) doubt, the state of being unsure

_____ about the future was the immigrants' greatest concern.

SYNONYMS: doubtfulness, unsureness
ANTONYMS: sureness, certainty, confidence

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Choosing the Right Word

*Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the unit selection to see how most of these words are used in context.*

Since its dedication in 1886, the Statue of Liberty has symbolized America's willingness to welcome people from all lands.

1. Throughout the course of its history, the United States has opened its doors to (**fugitives, counterfeits**) from tyranny in other lands.
2. His (**anecdotes, entreaties**) were amusing, but what did they have to do with his central topic?
3. The mayor won't be reelected unless she can (**consolidate, maul**) the groups supporting her.
4. There, in the very heart of the noisy and (**grimy, fallible**) city, was a truly beautiful little park.
5. Although the ideals of my youth have been (**entreated, mauled**) by hard experience, they have not been totally destroyed.
6. Rarely in our history has one man so (**dominated, entreated**) the federal government as Franklin D. Roosevelt did during his four terms.
7. The (**ultimate, rural**) population of the United States is growing smaller, but farms are as important as ever to the nation.
8. The young man who seemed so quiet and (**docile, substantial**) turned out to be very well informed and to have strong opinions of his own.
9. Evidence showed that the lawyer had tried to (**consolidate, tamper**) with the witnesses by offering them bribes to change their testimony.
10. I suspected that his expression of happiness was (**potential, counterfeit**) and that he was really jealous of our success.
11. It wasn't very (**substantial, tactful**) of you to tell her that her new eyeglasses were out of style.
12. Imagine someone as changeable as George having the nerve to say that I'm the (**radiant, fickle**) one in the family!
13. Larry got good grades on the midterm tests, but he is headed for trouble because he hasn't done an (**anecdote, iota**) of work since then.
14. I know from personal experience how much harm smoking can do, and I (**dominate, entreat**) you not to get started on that miserable habit.
15. In modern hospitals, everything possible is done to prevent mistakes resulting from human (**fallibility, uncertainty**).

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16. Alma is such a (**fickle, fallible**) fan that she starts rooting for the opposing teams when they start winning.

17. To make her finances easier to manage, Mrs. Bridges decided to (**entreat, consolidate**) her two bank accounts into one.

18. The Fire Department found that the wiring in our kitchen was a(n) (**potential, uncertain**) fire hazard.

19. If you want to see the (**iota, ultimate**) in shoe styles, ask Beth to show you the new sandals she bought for the spring dance.

20. The thief tried to (**tamper, counterfeit**) with the lock, but he couldn't get it to open.

21. How can we properly direct the (**iota, potential**) for good and evil in each of us into useful channels?

22. One of our best hopes of solving the energy problem lies in making direct use of (**radiant, fugitive**) energy from the sun.

23. One certain thing in life is that there will always be many (**fugitives, uncertainties**).

24. As soon as Horace opened his lunch bag, I realized he needed something more (**grimy, substantial**) to eat.

25. Marisa felt a (**rural, fugitive**) glow of happiness, but it was gone in an instant.

Synonyms

*Choose the word from this Unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.*

1. a lovely, **rustic**, wooded landscape _____
2. to **meddle** with the truth _____
3. made **remarkable** progress last week _____
4. made a **diplomatic** remark _____
5. is **changeable** in his moods _____
6. to **gather together** notes from different sources _____
7. would **beseech** me to give them money _____
8. moved forward without **hesitation** _____
9. was a **runaway** from oppression _____
10. shared a charming **story** from her childhood _____

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