

Words in Action

Exercise A >>> Match the definitions of occupations below with the words in the box.

playwright milliner plumber locksmith potter thatcher hardware dealer peddler fishmonger cobbler

- 1 A wandering merchant selling small wares is a hawker or a(n) _____.
- 2 A man who works as a shoemaker mending and patching shoes is a(n) _____.
- 3 A man who makes earthen-ware is a(n) _____.
- 4 A writer of plays is a(n) _____.
- 5 A person employed in making, trimming or selling bonnets, men's hats, etc is a(n) _____.
- 6 Someone who works in a shop that sells fish is a(n) _____.
- 7 A maker or repairer of locks is a(n) _____.
- 8 A person whose job is to connect or repair water and drainage pipes, baths, toilets etc. is a(n) _____.
- 9 A person who makes roofs of houses with straw or reeds is a(n) _____.
- 10 A shopkeeper who sells hardware, especially metal goods, is a(n) _____.

Exercise B >>> Match each of the following definitions with a word from the box.

Example: A young person who commits minor crimes or vandalism and who is not old enough yet to be legally considered an adult is a (juvenile) **delinquent**.

mugger poacher assassin perjurer usurper stowaway trespasser
hijacker hobo hooligan quack usurer vagrant tax-evader forger

- 1 Someone who catches or shoots animals, birds or fish on private land unlawfully and without permission is a(n) _____.
- 2 Someone who alters a genuine piece of writing especially somebody else's signature in order to deceive is a(n) _____.
- 3 A man who attacks another usually from behind with the intention of robbing him is a(n) _____.
- 4 Someone who murders by assault, especially a public or eminent person, usually for political motives, is a(n) _____.
- 5 Someone who lends money at an exorbitant rate which is illegal is a(n) _____.
- 6 Someone who forcibly seizes (kingly) power is a(n) _____.
- 7 Someone who gives false testimony before a court of law while under oath is a(n) _____.
- 8 Someone who does not pay the full amount of tax that he should is a(n) _____.
- 9 One who hides on a vessel in order to obtain free passage without paying a fare is a(n) _____.
- 10 A person without a settled home who wanders aimlessly from place to place, begging or stealing in order to live is a(n) _____.
- 11 A tramp or a vagrant who has no regular work or home, especially one who travels from place to place and gets money by begging is a(n) _____.
- 12 One who pretends to possess medical knowledge especially in the field of salves that is, ointments for local ailments, is a(n) _____.
- 13 One of a gang of disorderly and noisy persons behaving in a violent and destructive way is a(n) _____.
- 14 One who seizes control of an aircraft while in flight by the threat or use of force and directs it to a different destination is a(n) _____.
- 15 One who violates privately owned land without right or permission is a(n) _____.

Exercise C >>> Match each of the following definitions with a word from the box.
Example: A large number of bees flying together is a swarm of bees.

pack shoal/school constellation congregation band squad mob
 conglomeration cluster/clump sheaf heap pile

- 1 A large number of fish swimming together _____
- 2 A group of church attendees _____
- 3 A group of different people or things _____
- 4 A number of trees, bushes, etc growing close together _____
- 5 A quantity of things placed neatly one on top of the other _____
- 6 A quantity of things in a rather untidy arrangement _____
- 7 A bundle of papers or corn tied together _____
- 8 A disorderly crowd of people _____
- 9 A small group of policemen who form a unit or a section of a police force that is responsible for dealing with a particular type of crime _____
- 10 A group of bandits under a leader _____
- 11 A group of fixed stars in the sky forming a pattern _____
- 12 A group of animals, especially wolves or dogs hunting together _____

Exercise D >>> Read the text below and choose the correct word **a**, **b**, **c** or **d** to fit the gaps.

The current emphasis on language as a social phenomenon will open the way to ____ (1) communicative language-learning approaches at all school levels. The focus on the social purposes of language will ____ (2) that interaction among persons in a society and ____ (3) societies will become more harmonious and more significant ____ (4) the use of clear but polite language in ____ (5) the native and the second language is taught and practised in schools in meaningful and interesting social situations.

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|----------------|------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| 1 a widespread | 2 a assure | 3 a along | 4 a as | 5 a either |
| b wide-known | b reassure | b across | b so | b both |
| c wide-awake | c insure | c above | c by | c neither |
| d wide open | d ensure | d over | d why | d none |

Task One >>> Replace the following underlined phrases with a single word from the box.
Example: He suffers from **being unable to sleep at night** (*insomnia*).

decapitation replica carnivore herbivore longevity posterity reticence outcast
reckless accomplice casualties eyesore coalition dispute subsidy welfare

- 1 *Later generations* _____ will be grateful to those who planned the new freeway.
- 2 The Robinsons were noted for *living a long time*. _____
- 3 He is very *apt to act rashly and without proper thought*. _____
- 4 A wolf is a *flesh-eating animal* _____, whereas a sheep is a *plant-eating animal*. _____
- 5 The designers counted on a *government grant*. _____
- 6 A *person who helps another in the commitment of a crime* _____ is as equally guilty as the criminal himself.
- 7 We're thinking only of our son's *well-being, comfort and good health*. _____
- 8 The model was a *reproduction in exact detail* _____ of his own yacht.
- 9 He showed great *reserve in his speech*. _____
- 10 He was treated as a *person not accepted by his peer group*. _____
- 11 The new statue was considered *a sight ugly to the eyes*. _____
- 12 A *violent discussion and argument* _____ arose over the new proposed salary scales.
- 13 They thought that a *government consisting of members from two or more political parties* _____ would not survive long.
- 14 The battle cost each side thousands of *dead or seriously injured people*. _____
- 15 During the Middle Ages, many criminals were punished by *having their heads cut off*. _____

Task Two >>> Rewrite the following sentences by using the adjectives of the words in heavy type.

Example: *He is eloquent and can easily **persuade** people.*

Answer: *He is eloquent and persuasive.*

- 1 The elderly couple were becoming increasingly affected by **senility**.

- 2 A juvenile of 11 years of **age** was brought before the magistrate's court yesterday.

- 3 This startling statement **illustrates** the unusual rates of change we are experiencing.

- 4 Rising early **conduces** to good health.

- 5 He has good **knowledge** of computers.

- 6 A good teacher must have powers of **invention** and be a person of **resources**.

- 7 He looked lost in **thought**.

- 8 Human **evolution** proceeded rapidly.

- 9 The earth's deserts have **expanded**.

- 10 Thousands of plant and animal species were driven to **extinction**.

Task Three >>> Tick one word that best completes each sentence.

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|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 An arrogant man is _____. | ☐ conceited | ☐ deceitful |
| 2 The mugger _____ in the dark ready to pounce on the elderly lady. | ☐ lurked | ☐ larked |
| 3 The police have conducted _____ inquiries in their effort to track down the criminal. | ☐ exhausting | ☐ exhaustive |
| 4 Are you _____ about any difficulties in the exam? | ☐ apprehensive | ☐ comprehensive |
| 5 Youthful _____ hardly ever come to fruition. | ☐ inspirations | ☐ aspirations |
| 6 It was a(n) _____ sight to see the once wealthy man reduced to begging. | ☐ pathetic | ☐ apathetic |
| 7 He was all in a _____. | ☐ flatter | ☐ flutter |
| 8 The _____ sale of drugs is a punishable offense. | ☐ illicit | ☐ elicit |
| 9 The accused tried to _____ the official in the bribery scandal. | ☐ implicate | ☐ complicate |
| 10 The child _____ over a stone and fell. | ☐ crumbled | ☐ stumbled |

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

Many separate fires (11)..... in the humus of the forest floor. Smoke sometimes (12)..... the sun, which was often visible only at midday. On September 30, flames came within three miles of the town of Green Bay, (13)..... 1,200 cords of wood stored at a charcoal kiln.

The settlements in the area were becoming increasingly (14)..... from both the outside world and one another as railroad and telegraph lines burned. The fires seemed to wax and wane, (15)..... on the wind and chance. On September 30 the Marinette and Peshtigo Eagle reported hopefully that "the fires have nearly (16)..... now in this vicinity."

But the paper was wrong, and the fires were growing. By October 4, the smoke was so thick on Green Bay that ships had to use their foghorns and (17)..... by compass. On October 7, the paper, reduced to looking for any scrap of good news, noted that at least the smoke had greatly reduced the mosquito population and that "a certain establishment down on the bay shore that has been (18)..... to the respectable citizens" had burned.

The paper's editor, (19)..... by the burning of the telegraph line, could not know it, but a large, deep low-pressure area was moving in from the west. The winds circling it would turn the smoldering forest of northeastern Wisconsin into (20)..... on earth.

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|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 11. A. extinguished | B. engulfed | C. spread | D. smoldered |
| 12. A. obscured | B. burnt | C. illuminated | D. exposed |
| 13. A. damaging | B. consuming | C. avoiding | D. licking |
| 14. A. frightened | B. lonely | C. isolated | D. inundated |
| 15. A. depending | B. independent | C. waiting | D. from |
| 16. A. increased | B. died out | C. flared | D. diminished |
| 17. A. steer | B. drive | C. guess | D. navigate |
| 18. A. frequented | B. obnoxious | C. open | D. ignorant |
| 19. A. cut-off | B. burnt | C. dismissed | D. chased |
| 20. A. peace | B. heaven | C. hell | D. paradise |

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

- 21 Good use of language _____ its beauty and development.
a detracts from b deteriorates c enhances d lessens
- 22 Complete the form as _____ in the notes below.
a insisted b specified c implied d devised
- 23 He shuns work as he is such a(n) _____ student.
a indolent b diligent c indigent d indigenous
- 24 The student's grammar was _____.
a well-constructed b incoherent c jerry-built d highbrow
- 25 His spelling was _____.
a ferocious b incongruous c apprehensive d atrocious
- 26 The notice on the villa gate read: '_____ will be prosecuted'.
a Muggers b Hijackers c Stowaways d Trespassers
- 27 He lied under oath in court and was subsequently charged with _____.
a poaching b forgery c perjury d usury
- 28 Not only is little Johnny's grammar incoherent and his spelling atrocious but also his punctuation _____.
a slothful b sluggish c hazard d haphazard
- 29 I'm not a habitual smoker, but I occasionally _____ in a cigarette.
a enjoy b indulge c divulge d decline
- 30 We could discern a _____ of cottages in the distance.
a constellation b clutter c cluster d piled