

Words in Action

All of the following verbs denote a sense of **giving up**. Study their definitions carefully and then use the words to fill in the blanks in the sentences on the next page. In some sentences, more than one verb may be appropriate.

abandon	leave or withdraw completely and forever; give up or bring to an end e.g. <i>He abandoned his wrecked car on the freeway.</i>
forsake	(forsook-forsaken) desert; leave forever; give up completely e.g. <i>He forsook his fortune to devote himself to the church.</i> (a man may <i>abandon</i> his home or <i>forsake</i> his friends)
abdicate	give up officially (an official position, esp. that of king or queen)
resign	give up (a job or position) e.g. <i>A monarch abdicates while an employee resigns.</i>
quit	stop doing something and leave e.g. <i>He quit his job and went abroad.</i> (quit is used informally)
surrender	give up or give in to power (esp. of an enemy), as a sign of defeat e.g. <i>After days of fighting, the enemy finally surrendered.</i>
cede	give (usually land or a right) to another country or person, esp. after losing a war e.g. <i>The Louisiana colony was ceded to Spain in 1762.</i>
desert	(esp. of military service) leave without authority or permission e.g. <i>A soldier who deserts from the army is severely punished.</i>
relinquish	give up (power, position, a claim, etc.) e.g. <i>One can relinquish a claim, hope or privilege, etc.</i>
discard	(of something useless or unwanted) throw away or put aside e.g. <i>Don't discard your train ticket before you reach your destination.</i>
evacuate	take all the people away from (a place); move (a person) away from a place in order to protect them from danger e.g. <i>The defeated army was forced to evacuate the conquered territory.</i>
renounce	give up (a claim); say formally that one does not own or has no more connection with e.g. <i>He renounced his religion and became a Christian.</i>
yield	give up control of (surrender) to superior forces e.g. <i>A politician may yield to public pressure and an army may yield their position to the enemy.</i>

Exercise A >>> Fill in the blanks with the suitable verb.

- 1 It would be most unwise to _____ the map which shows the route before we reach our destination.
- 2 The inconsiderate husband took to drinking and soon _____ his wife and child.
- 3 The cowardly soldier was court-marshaled for _____ his post.
- 4 As a result of the earthquake, the panic-stricken people _____ their homes leaving all their belongings behind.
- 5 The president was most unwilling to _____ his privileges.
- 6 When the man went bankrupt, all his friends _____ him.
- 7 On the one hand, I'm not satisfied with my job, on the other hand, I can't _____. It won't be easy to find another one.
- 8 Shortly after the revolution had broken out, the king found himself obliged to _____.
- 9 Our troops were forced to _____ when they were overwhelmed by superior enemy forces.
- 10 Mr. Rankine decided to _____ when he was passed over in favor of young Brown.
- 11 The besieged people vowed to die in battle rather than _____ their national territory to the invading army.
- 12 Mr. Smith is a very indulgent father. He always _____ to his son's wishes.
- 13 The early Christians, who didn't _____ their faith in Christianity, usually formed a part of the spectacle in the Colosseum.
- 14 When you wash the lettuce, you should _____ the outside leaves first.
- 15 Governments don't usually _____ to pressure from the opposition, but from the public.

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

The impact of the Great Depression on Europe was as memorable and decisive in its way as the French Revolution or the First World War. The ____ (1) of the Depression can be precisely dated.

American stock markets had prospered almost uninterruptedly since 1921 and had grown fantastically for eighteen months. On 24th, October 1929, the ____ (2) halted; share prices fell even faster than they had risen, and thousands of ____ (3) were ruined. The American financial crash soon hit Europe.

American loans to Europe had already stopped; now American purchases from Europe stopped also. The European economy was ____ (4) balanced. Recovery had brought a great increase in productive powers, with little corresponding increase in markets. ____ (5) had also been maintained by the flood of American dollars. Now European factories, too, closed their gates. Within two years, world trade was more than halved. Unemployment soared, particularly in the more industrialised countries. There were over two million unemployed in Great Britain and six million in Germany.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 a onset | 2 a boom | 3 a adventurers | 4 a cautiously | 5 a Destitution |
| b outset | b boon | b hawkers | b precautionary | b Prosperity |
| c offset | c bonus | c executives | c precariously | c Dereliction |
| d onslaught | d boor | d speculators | d precociously | d Expenditure |

Vocabulary Development

Task One >>> The words in the box form the opposites of the words in heavy type in the sentences that follow.

Try to fit the appropriate antonym in each blank.

Example: *Offspring* are one's children as opposed to one's parents.

obsolete haughty extrovert ameliorate inhale sanity assets
obscure indolent acquittal abundance prodigal ancestor

- 1 A **descendant** is a person that is descended from an individual that lived a long time ago as opposed to an _____.
- 2 To **exhale** is to breathe out air as opposed to _____.
- 3 To **deteriorate** is to become worse as opposed to _____.
- 4 A **modern** teaching method is usually new and involves the latest developments as opposed to _____.
- 5 **Liabilities** are the sums of money owed or debts that must be paid from one company to another as opposed to _____.
- 6 A **well-known** writer is known far and wide as opposed to _____.
- 7 **Madness** is an illness of the mind that causes a person to behave in an abnormal way as opposed to _____.
- 8 An **affable** person is polite and pleasant to others as opposed to _____.
- 9 An **economical** person spends his money carefully, sensibly, and without waste as opposed to _____.
- 10 An **introvert** keeps to himself; he is withdrawn rather than spending time with others as opposed to a(n) _____.
- 11 **Conviction** is the decision of a court of law that finds somebody guilty as opposed to _____.
- 12 A **diligent** student is habitually and constantly hardworking as opposed to _____.
- 13 **Scarcity** denotes a state of not being plentiful so that something is not easy to find as opposed to _____.

Task Two >>> Rewrite the following sentences by removing the **ADVERB** in heavy type and substituting it with the **adjective** derived from the adverb. Make any other changes you think necessary.

Example: *How can I **possibly** sleep in a tiny place like this?*

Answer: *How is it possible for me to sleep in a tiny place like this?*

- 1 What he said sounded **utterly** nonsensical.
_____.
- 2 They were **abjectly** poor.
_____.
- 3 He was **absurdly** demanding.
_____.
- 4 'Can I fly **directly** from Rome to Toronto?' he inquired.
_____.
- 5 That's what his father **actually** said.
_____.
- 6 It's **generally** assumed that money brings happiness.
_____.
- 7 We were **heartily** welcomed by the villagers.
_____.
- 8 The English **avidly** read newspapers and magazines.
_____.
- 9 People think **highly** of him.
_____.

Task Three >>> Tick which answer is closest in meaning to the word or phrase in heavy type.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 In my opinion, he is not versatile as regards teaching. | ☐ with reference to | ☐ irrespective of |
| 2 I'm afraid I'm at odds with my boss. | ☐ in agreement | ☐ in disagreement |
| 3 He was so persuasive that I caved in to his argument. | ☐ defended | ☐ gave in to |
| 4 My son invariably turns a deaf ear to my advice. | ☐ follows | ☐ pays no heed |
| 5 I'm never at ease before an interview. | ☐ I'm always ill at ease | ☐ I always stand at ease |
| 6 He has the edge on you. | ☐ he's worse than | ☐ he's better than |
| 7 Let's wind up the evening with a drink. | ☐ start | ☐ finish |
| 8 His lecture was long-winded . | ☐ lengthy and tedious | ☐ brief and to the point |
| 9 The speaker held his audience spell-bound . | ☐ by force | ☐ with their attention held as if by magic |
| 10 He's down in the dumps again! | ☐ he works down in the pits | ☐ he feels depressed and miserable |

Vocabulary Practice

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

The mystique surrounding Henry Ford makes it difficult to (11)..... his true motivations, but the wage increases benefited the company in many ways. In addition to motivating his workers, Ford was, by giving his employees more (12)..... income (or any at all), also creating a consumer base for his product. He later claimed that with the \$5 day "we really started our business, for on that day we first created a lot of customers." But he was also (13)..... by the Progressive and populist movements and may truly have been animated by (14)..... . "Our company is making enough money to do some good in the world," he said, "and I'm glad to do it."

Still, his generosity, it soon emerged, came with strings. What few noticed on January 5 was that workers did not automatically (15)..... for the raise just by doing their jobs. Women, who had been earning on average \$2.04 per day, did not qualify at all. "I consider women only a (16)..... factor in industry," Ford explained. "I pay our women well so they can dress attractively and get married." Men would have to live in Detroit and work at the plant for six months before they could (17)..... the full amount.

Even then they had to meet Ford's social standards to (18)..... . He shared the worry of many of the wealthy that laborers would (19)..... their enlarged paychecks on vice and cheap thrills. Lee explained that the money might "work a tremendous handicap along the paths of rectitude and right living and would make them a (20)..... to society, and so it was established at [the] start that no man was to receive the money who could not use it advisedly and conservatively."

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 11. A. engage | B. pinpoint | C. underestimate | D. favor |
| 12. A. predisposal | B. imposing | C. possible | D. disposable |
| 13. A. influenced | B. touched | C. lead | D. mislead |
| 14. A. ferocity | B. greed | C. generosity | D. malice |
| 15. A. get | B. meet | C. quantify | D. qualify |
| 16. A. strong | B. temporary | C. false | D. unnecessary |
| 17. A. earn | B. deserve | C. score | D. demand |
| 18. A. benefit | B. help | C. advance | D. promote |
| 19. A. invest | B. save | C. squander | D. double |
| 20. A. convenience | B. presence | C. foray | D. menace |

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

- 21 The shop assistant said he would check to see if he had any more copies of the book in _____.
a surplus b stock c supply d store house
- 22 Such relaxed days were few and far _____ in her hectic life.
a between b beyond c past d over
- 23 I was so _____ in the book I was reading that I didn't hear the phone.
a engrossed b gripped c submerged d distracted
- 24 The dealer wanted £40 and I was only willing to pay £30, but we finally agreed to _____ the difference.
a drop b decrease c split d divide
- 25 Far from being plump, she is extremely _____.
a lean b overweight c thick set d obese
- 26 The cowboy had been _____ by the Indians.
a slapped b sculptured c skull d scalped
- 27 The president didn't _____, he was evicted from office.
a abandon b resign c renounce d abdicate
- 28 To what extent is your plan _____?
a palpable b feasible c pliable d absurd
- 29 The Queen appeared reluctant to _____ her long established privileges.
a surrender b relinquish c discard d quit
- 30 In the event of a nuclear accident, huge areas will have to be _____.
a ceded b yielded c evacuated d renounced