

Unit 4

Words in Action

abolish do away with, put an end to a system or practice by law
The death penalty has still not been abolished in some states.
Note: The law abolishes or you abolish something by law, but you can't abolish the law.

repeal put an end to a law
Income tax legislation will never be repealed.

annul declare officially that something is invalid and no longer exists
The contract has been annulled.

revoke take back something granted so that it is no longer legal or official
His driving license (diploma, order) was revoked.

recall send somebody back or order somebody to return especially if they have been working abroad
The Greek Ambassador to Mozambique was recalled some time ago.
Note: We RECALL a messenger, an ambassador, but we REVOKE an order.

eradicate make something disappear completely by destroying it
The problem of absenteeism will never be totally eradicated from schools.
Many dreadful diseases have been eradicated.

exterminate destroy somebody or something completely by killing them
The local tribes were exterminated by the invading army.
Note: Individuals are said to be banished, expelled, destroyed. Races of people, animals or insects can be exterminated.

annihilate destroy a place or a group of people by using weapons, bombs, etc.
Man is in possession of such sophisticated weaponry that he could annihilate the entire human race.

decimate destroy a large part of a whole (but not the whole lot, as in exterminate or annihilate)
Disease and malnutrition had decimated the local population.

Exercise A >>> Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the appropriate word from the list above.

- 1 The government decided to _____ all anti-discrimination laws.
- 2 The government _____ its ambassador when war was declared.
- 3 Many tropical diseases have still not been successfully _____.
- 4 Slavery was _____ in England in the 19th century.
- 5 Drink driving may be the cause for having your driving license _____.
- 6 His job was to _____ rats and mice.
- 7 The city had been virtually _____ by the enemy air-raids.
- 8 Black Death _____ Europe's population in the Middle Ages.
- 9 They are no longer legally married. Their marriage was _____ three days after the ceremony.

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

Human life is influenced ____ (1) by climate. What man eats and wears, how he lives and earns his ____ (2), all depend to some extent on climate. In hot, humid central Africa, food is ____ (3) but the climate drains man's energies. In extremely cold northern Alaska, where food cannot be cultivated, people depend upon hunting and fishing ____ (4) survive. A drastic change in climate has sometimes contributed ____ (5) the migration of large groups of people, who then introduce their way of life into other regions.

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|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 a reasonably | 2 a livelihood | 3 a abound | 4 a in order to | 5 a in |
| b especially | b liveliness | b abundance | b so as | b to |
| c considerably | c livestock | c abandoned | c so that | c at |
| d highly | d live | d abundant | d for to | d for |

Task One >>> Tick the one word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the words in heavy type.

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| 1 Another synonym for beseech is | ☐ solicit | ☐ elicit |
| 2 A person going about in the nude | ☐ has his clothes on | ☐ has no clothes on |
| 3 A mere detail is | ☐ an unimportant one | ☐ an important one |
| 4 A derogatory remark | ☐ shows respect | ☐ shows no respect |
| 5 When a marriage is nullified it is declared | ☐ valid | ☐ invalid |
| 6 An invalid is a | ☐ cripple | ☐ healthy person |
| 7 A lawsuit is a | ☐ new suit of clothes | ☐ court case |
| 8 To banish somebody is to _____ him. | ☐ praise | ☐ exile |
| 9 An accurate and succinct account is | ☐ brief | ☐ lengthy |
| 10 A divine beauty is | ☐ ordinary | ☐ extraordinary |
| 11 An era is a _____ period of time. | ☐ long | ☐ short |

Task Two >>> Complete the sentences using the words defined below.

A **cute** - delightfully pretty and often small

acute - sharp; penetrating

Although their vision is poor, bats have a(n) _____ sense of hearing.

B **fierce** - violent; very great or strong

pierce - make a hole through something with a pointed item

The battle for the castle was _____.

C **congenital** - (of a disease) existing from birth

congenial - pleasant in agreement with one's taste

Jack and Mary had a _____ conversation about their holiday plans.

D **contagious** - (of disease) spreading by contact

contiguous - touching or neighboring

Washing your hands frequently is the best way to avoid catching _____ illnesses.

E **snag** - any sort of difficulty or obstacle

snug - cozy, warm and comfortable

The elderly couple lived in a small, _____ cottage outside the village.

F **obscene** - morally disgusting; offensive

obscure - not clearly seen or understood; unknown

The museum houses famous paintings by Picasso and Monet as well as works by more _____ artists.

Task Three >>> Rewrite the following sentences to express the same meaning by changing the adjective in **bold** to an **adverb**. Make whatever changes are necessary.
Example: The doctor gave him a thorough examination. He was thoroughly examined by the doctor.

1 This is a **frequent** occurrence.

2 His intelligence was **remarkable**.

3 She has my **full** support.

4 Would you be so **kind** as to show me the way to the station?

_____ ?

5 It is not **possible** for me to sleep in a filthy place like this.

6 Despite his **serious** injury, he managed to get home.

7 The formality of his behavior was **absurd**.

8 She showed an **uncommon** interest in the new device.

9 There has been a **considerable** rise in prices lately.

10 He is **bad** at math.

Task Four >>> Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the box.

there's no
him being

might as
alone

meeting you
would be on

action is taken
really want

went to
can (either)

1 'Why don't you trade in your old car for a new one?'

'I can't afford a new suit of clothes, let _____ a new car.'

2 'The first time we met was shortly after Christmas 2009.'

'I'm sorry, but I can't remember _____ before.'

3 Inflation will never be brought under control unless immediate _____ by the government.

4 I have to go to Boston tomorrow, but I don't _____ to.

5 'What's become of Joseph?' 'Well, I've had some bad news of _____ fired by the company.'

6 That's the restaurant we _____ during our holiday.

7 I can't help you and I don't think anyone else _____.

8 I regret leaving my last job. I _____ a really good salary if I'd stayed.

9 'Would you like to go home now?' 'I _____ well, since my work's done.'

10 'Inflation gnaws at our income more and more every day.' 'Exactly, _____ denying the fact.'

Vocabulary Practice

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

The Navajo are a peaceful and pastoral people, living by, with and off their flocks of sheep and goats. Though the arid character of their country - good for grazing only - forces them to (11)..... a nomadic life, most of the families have one main home, generally in a well-watered valley, where they raise corn, beans, melons, oats, alfalfa etc. The Navajo women weave the renown Navajo blankets, (12)..... for their durability, beauty and variety of design, and careful execution, whilst a number of men are clever silversmiths, making silver necklaces, belts, bracelets, wristlets, rings and buttons of rare beauty, out of Mexican silver dollars. They have always been self-sufficient. They have little of the sullen, reticent disposition (13)..... to Indians generally, and are cheerful, friendly, hospitable and industrious. Their government is democratic; there is no chief over the whole tribe, and their local chiefs are men of temporary and ill-defined authority, whose power (14)..... largely upon their personal influence, their eloquence and their reputation for wisdom and justice. The tribe is divided into about 58 clans or *gentes*, grouped under several original or nuclear clans. Marriages with Mexicans, Utes, Apaches, but especially with the neighbouring Pueblo Indians who were captured or enslaved and eventually adopted into the tribe, are responsible for a number of clans. As a (15)..... there is nothing like a pronounced or a prevailing Navajo type. Every variety of form and figure can be found among them. Marriage occurs early in life and polygamy and divorce are prevalent.

The elaborate system of pagan worship, expressed in chants, sacrifices, sand painting, dances, ceremonies, some of which last nine days, make the Navajo (16)..... very religious. Though they have no conception of one supreme being, their anthropomorphous deities are numerous and strikingly democratic. The ideas of heaven and hell being unknown to them, they believe in a hereafter (17)..... of a life of happiness with the people of the lower worlds. They are (18)..... believers in their faith system. Diseases are thought to be caused by evil beings, by malign influences of enemies, and by various occult agencies. Their remedies are largely magical and constitute an integral part of their religion. Their superstitions, ceremonies and customs are diligently kept alive by an extraordinarily large number of medicine men who (19)..... a powerful influence among them. Though missionaries have lived among the Navajo since the early 1600s, few Navajo have been (20)..... to Christianity.

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| 11. A. hold | B. lead | C. serve | D. escort |
| 12. A. notorious | B. famous | C. conspicuous | D. obscure |
| 13. A. attributed | B. contributed | C. donated | D. blamed |
| 14. A. reckons | B. determines | C. trusts | D. depends |
| 15. A. connection | B. sequel | C. consequence | D. condition |
| 16. A. assume | B. arise | C. appear | D. apply |
| 17. A. containing | B. incorporating | C. blending | D. consisting |
| 18. A. flimsy | B. firm | C. drastic | D. obstinate |
| 19. A. wield | B. hang | C. fetch | D. process |
| 20. A. converted | B. exchanged | C. confessed | D. modified |

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

- 21 Children under the age of 16 are not _____ to enter the competition.
a eligible b enabled c legible d promised
- 22 The driver's attention was _____ by a child running across the road.
a deterred b disturbed c distracted d destroyed
- 23 He's told us so many lies that we no longer place any _____ on what he says.
a conviction b reliance c prediction d reputation
- 24 His driving license has been _____ on the grounds of drink driving.
a repealed b revoked c nullified d recalled
- 25 The Conservatives declared their intention of _____ the whole Act once they came into power.
a repulsing b repelling c impelling d repealing
- 26 The problem of petty crime has largely been _____.
a annihilated b exterminated c eradicated d decimated
- 27 Bacteria can't be seen by the _____ eye. You have to use a microscope.
a nude b naked c bare d mere
- 28 Mary is a(n) _____ liar. She was even arrested for lying to a police officer
a physical b congenital c naive d abnormal
- 29 Fortunately, everything went off without a _____.
a hope b solution c alternative d hitch
- 30 The Prime Minister will decide whether to release the prisoner or not; that's his _____.
a prerogative b derogatory c abdication d humanity