



## Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

**1. adage**  
(ad' ij)

(*n.*) a proverb, wise saying

One way to begin an informal speech or an oral report is to quote an old \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: maxim, saw, aphorism

**2. bonanza**  
(bə nan' zə)

(*n.*) a rich mass of ore in a mine; something very valuable, profitable, or rewarding; a source of wealth or prosperity; a very large amount; sudden profit or gain

The thrilling adventure movie set in Alaska proved to be a box-office \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: windfall

**3. churlish**  
(chər' lish)

(*adj.*) lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to work with or deal with; rude

The store manager instructed all the salesclerks to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ replies to customers' questions.

SYNONYMS: surly, ill-tempered

ANTONYMS: courteous, civil, well-mannered

**4. citadel**  
(sit' ə del)

(*n.*) a fortress that overlooks and protects a city; any strong or commanding place

A medieval \_\_\_\_\_ once guarded the capital city of the Greek island of Rhodes.

SYNONYMS: fort, stronghold, bulwark, bastion

**5. collaborate**  
(kə lab' ə rāt)

(*v.*) to work with, work together

Several students plan to \_\_\_\_\_ on a geology project for the annual science fair.

SYNONYMS: team up, join forces

ANTONYM: work alone

**6. decree**  
(di krē')

(*n.*) an order having the force of law; (*v.*) to issue such an order to command firmly or forcefully

"There went forth a \_\_\_\_\_ from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1).

Why does nature always seem to \_\_\_\_\_ nasty weather for our annual family picnic?

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) proclamation, edict; (*v.*) proclaim



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com).

- 7. discordant**  
(dis kôr' dent)  
(*adj.*) disagreeable in sound, jarring; lacking in harmony, conflicting  
Their little spat struck a \_\_\_\_\_ note  
in our otherwise happy family get-together.  
SYNONYMS: grating, shrill, different, divergent  
ANTONYMS: harmonious, in agreement
- 8. evolve**  
(ē vâlv')
- (*v.*) to develop gradually; to rise to a higher level  
Authors hope that their notes, descriptions, and character sketches will \_\_\_\_\_ into a book.  
SYNONYMS: unfold, emerge  
ANTONYMS: wither, shrivel up, atrophy
- 9. excerpt**  
(ek' sərpt)
- (*n.*) a passage taken from a book, article, etc.; (*v.*) to take such a passage; to quote  
My essay includes a long \_\_\_\_\_ from a speech by Sojourner Truth.  
If you \_\_\_\_\_ some material from a reference book, be sure to enclose it in quotation marks.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) portion, section, extract
- 10. grope**  
(grōp)
- (*v.*) to feel about hesitantly with the hands; to search blindly and uncertainly  
When the power failed, we had to \_\_\_\_\_ in the dark to find a working flashlight.  
SYNONYMS: fumble for, cast about for
- 11. hover**  
(hæv' ə)
- (*v.*) to float or hang suspended over; to move back and forth uncertainly over or around  
A large group of vultures \_\_\_\_\_ in the air above the wounded animal.  
SYNONYMS: linger, waver, seesaw  
ANTONYM: soar
- 12. jostle**  
(jäs' əl)
- (*v.*) to make or force one's way by pushing or elbowing; to bump, shove, brush against; to compete for  
I tried not to \_\_\_\_\_ other riders as I exited the crowded bus.  
SYNONYM: push
- 13. laggard**  
(lag' ərd)
- (*n.*) a person who moves slowly or falls behind; (*adj.*) falling behind; slow to move, act, or respond  
Tour guides often have to urge \_\_\_\_\_ to keep up with the rest of the group.  
Tenants who are \_\_\_\_\_ in paying rent run the risk of being forced to move.



SYNONYMS: (*n.*) slowpoke, straggler; (*adj.*) sluggish  
 ANTONYMS: (*n.*) early bird; (*adj.*) swift, speedy, prompt

**14. plaudits**  
 (plô' ditz')

(*n. pl.*) applause; enthusiastic praise or approval  
 The skaters who won the gold medals gratefully accepted \_\_\_\_\_ of their fans.

SYNONYMS: cheers, acclaim  
 ANTONYMS: boos, disapproval, ridicule

**15. preclude**  
 (prē klüd')

(*v.*) to make impossible, prevent, shut out  
 Three wrong answers will \_\_\_\_\_ any contestant from entering the quiz show's final round

SYNONYMS: hinder, check, stop  
 ANTONYMS: help, promote, facilitate

**16. revert**  
 (rē vɜrt')

(*v.*) to return, go back  
 Control of a property usually \_\_\_\_\_ to the legal owner when a lease is up.

SYNONYMS: relapse, regress  
 ANTONYMS: progress, advance

**17. rubble**  
 (rəb' əl)

(*n.*) broken stone or bricks; ruins  
 Bulldozers and wrecking balls soon reduced the damaged building to a heap of smoking \_\_\_\_\_

SYNONYMS: wreckage, debris

**18. servile**  
 (sər' vīl)

(*adj.*) of or relating to a slave; behaving like or suitable for a slave or a servant, menial; lacking spirit or independence, abjectly submissive

Most serious performers prefer constructive criticism to \_\_\_\_\_ flattery.

SYNONYMS: slavish, groveling, fawning  
 ANTONYMS: masterly, overbearing

**19. vigil**  
 (vij' əl)

(*n.*) a watch, especially at night; any period of watchful attent  
 Thousands attended the solemn \_\_\_\_\_ at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**20. wrangle**  
 (rɑŋ' gəl)

(*v.*) to quarrel or argue in a noisy, angry way; to obtain by argument; to herd; (*n.*) a noisy quarrel  
 My brother and sister always \_\_\_\_\_ over whose turn it is to take out the trash.

The customer got into a nasty \_\_\_\_\_ with the shopkeeper.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) squabble, bicker  
 ANTONYMS: (*v.*) agree, concur