


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. adjunct
(aj' əŋkt)

(*n.*) something added to something else as helpful or useful but not essential; an assistant or helper; a valuable quality or characteristic; (*adj.*) added or connected in a subordinate capacity; attached to a faculty or staff in an auxiliary capacity

The test manual was an _____ provided free with purchases of the new textbook series.

An _____ art professor will be hired.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) associate, addition, accessory

2. bellwether
(bel' weth ə)

(*n.*) the male sheep that leads the flock to the slaughterhouse; a leader, as in a desperate or violent undertaking; an indicator of trends

When their _____ was captured the mob disbanded.

SYNONYMS: ringleader, initiator, barometer
ANTONYMS: follower, imitator, emulator

3. caterwaul
(kat' ə wɔl)

(*v.*) to howl or screech like a cat; to quarrel; (*n.*) a harsh or noisy cry; a racket

The desperate survivors _____ about their suffering.

The _____ in the alley kept us awake.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) whine; (*n.*) wail, screech

4. chimerical
(ki mer' i kəl)

(*adj.*) absurd; wildly fantastic; impossible

They proposed yet another _____ get-rich-quick scheme.

SYNONYMS: fanciful, visionary, quixotic, pie-in-the-sky
ANTONYMS: realistic, down-to-earth, practicable

5. effete
(i fēt')

(*adj.*) lacking in wholesome vigor or energy; worn-out or exhausted; sterile or unable to produce; out-of-date

The _____ society was once a thriving and vigorous one.

SYNONYMS: decadent, enfeebled, outmoded
ANTONYMS: thriving, burgeoning, vigorous, dynamic

6. fait accompli
(fe ta kôm plē')

(*n.*) an accomplished and presumably irreversible deed, fact, or action

The proud generals confidently declared the fall of the rebel stronghold a _____.

SYNONYM: accomplished fact

hidebound
(hīd' baūnd)

(*adj.*) narrow-minded and rigid, especially in opinions or prejudices; stubbornly and unthinkingly conservative

The _____ administrator stood by the outdated ways of previous administrations.

SYNONYMS: intolerant, inflexible

ANTONYMS: open-minded, tolerant, liberal, progressive

hierarchy
(hi' ə rār kē)

(*n.*) any system of things or people arranged or graded one above another in order of rank, wealth, class, etc.

Within the governmental _____, the voice of the junior senator was not a powerful one.

SYNONYMS: chain of command, pecking order

liturgy
(lit' ə r jē)

(*n.*) a religious service or rite; the form of a ritual or other act of public worship

The _____ has been modernized.

SYNONYMS: ceremony, observance

mirage
(mi rāzh')

(*n.*) something illusory, without substance, or without a basis in reality; an illusion

Deceived by a _____, the desert travelers perked up at the thought of water and shade.

SYNONYM: optical illusion

morass
(mə ras')

(*n.*) a patch of low, soft, wet ground; a swamp; a confusing situation in which one is entrapped, as in quicksand

After several bad performances, the aging athlete wallowed in a _____ of self doubt.

SYNONYMS: bog, quagmire

ANTONYMS: solid ground, bedrock, terra firma

noisome
(noi' səm)

(*adj.*) offensive or disgusting; foul-smelling; harmful or injurious

The _____ atmosphere of the slaughterhouse overwhelmed the visitors.

SYNONYMS: fetid, noxious, vile, loathsome

ANTONYMS: wholesome, pleasant, sweet-smelling

oblivious
(ə bliv' ē əs)

(*adj.*) forgetful; unaware

The climbers were totally _____ of the dangers ahead.

SYNONYM: insensible

ANTONYMS: aware, mindful, cognizant, alert

- 14. poltroon**
(pɒl trʊn')
- (*n.*) a base coward
The _____ was caught in the act of deserting.
SYNONYMS: craven, dastard, "chicken"
ANTONYMS: hero, stalwart, gallant
- 15. proselyte**
(prɒs' ə laɪt)
- (*n.*) a convert; a disciple
A group of zealous _____ demonstrated in the square.
SYNONYMS: novice, neophyte
ANTONYMS: master, teacher, guide, guru
- 16. quasi**
(kwə' zi) or
(kwə' zē)
- (*adj.*) resembling but not actually being; seemingly but not actually or completely
They formed a _____ partnership.
SYNONYMS: kind of, semi-, as if
ANTONYMS: totally, completely, actually, in fact
- 17. raillery**
(rə' laɪ ē)
- (*n.*) good-humored ridicule; teasing
The good-natured _____ in the locker room pleased the coach.
SYNONYMS: banter, persiflage
- 18. ribald**
(rɪb' əld)
- (*adj.*) irreverently mocking; coarse, vulgar, or indecent in language
The actor tells _____ stories about life in the theater world.
SYNONYMS: bawdy, risqué
ANTONYMS: seemly, proper, decorous
- 19. supine**
(sʊ pɪn')
- (*adj.*) lying flat on one's back; listless or lethargic; apathetic or passive
The hiker relaxed in a _____ position.
SYNONYMS: prone, prostrate; inert
ANTONYMS: upright, erect, perpendicular, vertical
- 20. vignette**
(vɪn yet')
- (*n.*) a short description or sketch; a picture or illustration with edges that gradually shade off; a decorative design on the title page of a book or at the beginning or end of a chapter
All enjoyed the writer's _____ of country life.
SYNONYMS: thumbnail sketch, anecdote
ANTONYMS: epic, full-length treatment