



**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. allot**  
(ə lät')

(v.) to assign or distribute in shares or portions

The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ books and supplies to each student on the first day of school.

SYNONYMS: apportion, parcel out, allocate

**2. amass**  
(ə mas')

(v.) to bring together, collect, gather, especially for oneself; to come together, assemble

A prudent investor can \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune in the stock market over the long run.

SYNONYMS: accumulate, pile up, garner

ANTONYMS: scatter, dissipate, squander, waste

**3. audacious**  
(ô dâ' shəs)

(adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring

The audience cheered the \_\_\_\_\_ feats of the trapeze artists.

SYNONYMS: enterprising, brave

ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly

**4. comply**  
(kəm plī')

(v.) to yield to a request or command

Employees who fail to \_\_\_\_\_ with a company's rules may lose their jobs.

SYNONYMS: submit to, consent to, acquiesce in

ANTONYMS: reject, refuse, decline

**5. devoid**  
(di void')

(adj.) not having or using, lacking

The old well on my grandparents' property has long been \_\_\_\_\_ of water.

SYNONYMS: wanting, bereft

ANTONYMS: full, teeming, abounding

**6. elite**  
(ā lēt')

(n.) the choice part of a group of people or things; (adj.) superior

Each year, the social \_\_\_\_\_ of the community sponsors several events to benefit local charities.

You can get a fine education regardless of whether or not you attend an \_\_\_\_\_ school.

SYNONYMS: (n.) cream of the crop, upper crust

ANTONYMS: (n.) rank and file, dregs of society

**7. grapple**  
(grap' əl)

(n.) an iron hook used to grab and hold; (v.) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with

A ship equipped with \_\_\_\_\_ may be used to recover large pieces of wreckage from the ocean floor.

Store employees \_\_\_\_\_ with the thieves and held them until the police arrived.

SYNONYMS: (v.) tackle, confront, struggle with

**incapacitate**  
(in kə pas' ə tāt)

(v.) to deprive of strength or ability; to make legally ineligible

In the 1940s and 1950s, polio \_\_\_\_\_ many thousands of people each year all over the world.

SYNONYMS: disable, debilitate, paralyze, cripple

ANTONYMS: rehabilitate, restore

**instigate**  
(in' stə gāt)

(v.) to urge on; to stir up, provoke, start, incite

Several demonstrators in the angry crowd did their best to \_\_\_\_\_ a riot.

ANTONYMS: stop, quell, squelch, quash

**longevity**  
(län jev' ə tē)

(n.) long life, long duration, length of life

The sea turtle is known for its \_\_\_\_\_.

ANTONYMS: brevity, transience

**myriad**  
(mir' ē əd)

(adj.) in very great numbers; (n.) a very great number

Scientists continue to make new discoveries in their studies of the \_\_\_\_\_ life-forms of the jungle.

You will find information on a \_\_\_\_\_ of subjects on the Internet.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) innumerable, countless

ANTONYMS: (adj.) few, scant, sparse

**perspective**  
(pər spek' tiv)

(n.) a point of view or general standpoint from which different things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance to the eye of various objects at a given time, place, or distance

The designs for the children's playhouse were drawn to scale and in the right \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: viewpoint, sense of proportion

**perturb**  
(pər tərb')

(v.) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into confusion

The rude and disruptive behavior of several party guests \_\_\_\_\_ the host and hostess.

SYNONYMS: upset, agitate, anger, irritate

ANTONYMS: delight, gladden, please

**prodigious**  
(prə dij' əs)

(adj.) immense; extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree

Few intellects have rivaled the \_\_\_\_\_ mind of Albert Einstein.



SYNONYMS: gigantic, tremendous, astounding  
 ANTONYMS: puny, minuscule, insignificant

**15. relevant**  
 (rel' ə vənt)

(*adj.*) connected with or related to the matter at hand  
 I found several Web sites that provided information  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to the topic of my research  
 paper.

SYNONYMS: pertinent, germane, applicable  
 ANTONYMS: unconnected, extraneous

**16. skittish**  
 (skit' ish)

(*adj.*) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid;  
 extremely cautious; unstable, undependable

Only an experienced and confident rider should mount  
 a \_\_\_\_\_ horse.

SYNONYMS: jumpy, restive, capricious, fickle  
 ANTONYMS: bold, daring, reckless, cool, unflappable

**17. tether**  
 (teth' er)

(*n.*) a rope or chain used to fasten something to a fixed object  
 the outer limit of strength or resources; (*v.*) to fasten with a rope  
 or chain

Some young people find it difficult to break the emotional  
 and financial \_\_\_\_\_ that bind the  
 to their parents.

Before the storm, I \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 boat securely to the dock.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) tie up, chain up, leash  
 ANTONYMS: (*v.*) untie, let loose

**18. unison**  
 (yü' nə sən)

(*n.*) a sounding together; agreement or accord

The members of our new student orchestra need to practice  
 playing in \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: harmony, concord, assent

**19. vie**  
 (vī)

(*v.*) to compete; to strive for victory or superiority

Many actors \_\_\_\_\_ for the  
 leading role in the famous director's new film.

SYNONYMS: contend, rival

**20. willful**  
 (wil' fəl)

(*adj.*) stubbornly self-willed; done on purpose, deliberate

After lengthy deliberations, the jury found the defendant  
 guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ murder.

SYNONYMS: headstrong, obstinate, premeditated  
 ANTONYMS: docile, obedient, tractable