


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. ancillary**
(an' sə lēr ē)

(adj.) subordinate or supplementary

The aide serves in an _____ position

SYNONYMS: auxiliary, subsidiary, accessory
ANTONYMS: central, key, primary, principal, main
- 2. bowdlerize**
(bōd' lə rīz)

(v.) to remove material considered offensive (from a book, play, film, etc.)

The writers refused to _____ the book when they turned it into a screenplay.

SYNONYMS: censor, purge, expurgate
- 3. condescend**
(kon di send')

(v.) to come down or stoop voluntarily to a lower level; to deal with people in a patronizing manner

The fashion designer _____ to speak to reporters.

SYNONYM: deign
- 4. cozen**
(kəz' ən)

(v.) to trick; to cheat or swindle

Some taxi drivers _____ unsuspecting tourists.

SYNONYMS: dupe, deceive, beguile, inveigle
- 5. enclave**
(en' klāv)

(n.) an enclosed district, region, or area inhabited by a particular group of people or having a special character

The mountains afforded the displaced townspeople and the local militia an _____ of resistance

SYNONYMS: island, subgroup
- 6. forte**
(fōrt) or (fōr' tā)

(n.) a person's strong point; what a person does best

Although I love listening to piano music, playing the instrument is not my _____.

SYNONYMS: gift, aptitude, specialty
ANTONYMS: weakness, shortcoming, foible

- 7. gratis**
(gra' tis)
(*adj.*) free; (*adv.*) without charge
The food provided was _____.
During the filming, a local restaurant provided meals to the crew _____.
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) on the house; (*adv.*) freely
ANTONYM: (*adv.*) for a price
- 8. icon**
(ī' kăn)
(*n.*) a representation or image of a sacred personage, often considered sacred itself; an image or picture; a symbol; a graphic symbol on a computer monitor display; an object of blind devotion
The museum's exhibit of _____ included several from Czarist Russia.
SYNONYMS: emblem, idol
- 9. interstice**
(in tər' stis)
(*n.*) a small, narrow space between things or parts of things
Once it slipped through the _____ in the fence, the rabbit headed straight for the vegetables.
SYNONYMS: gap, slot, crevice, interval, lacuna
- 10. macrocosm**
(mak' rō koz əm)
(*n.*) the universe considered as a whole; the entire complex structure of something
During the course of their college education, many students study the economic _____.
SYNONYMS: cosmos, entirety
ANTONYMS: model, miniature, microcosm
- 11. mountebank**
(māun' tə bānk)
(*n.*) a trickster or swindler; a charlatan
The _____ who sold surefire remedies for every imaginable ailment was finally exposed.
SYNONYMS: impostor, quack
ANTONYMS: sucker, dupe, "mark," "pigeon"
- 12. paean**
(pē' ən)
(*n.*) a song of praise, joy, or triumph
The audience responded with a _____ of exultation when the ceremony ended.
SYNONYMS: hymn, ode, anthem
ANTONYMS: dirge, elegy, lament, threnody
- 13. persiflage**
(pər' sə flāzh)
(*n.*) lighthearted joking, talk, or writing
The friends engaged in _____ from the moment their reunion began until the last of them left.
SYNONYMS: banter, jesting, repartee, badinage

14. plethora
(pleth' ə rə)

(*n.*) overfullness; superabundance; superfluity

The inquisitive journalists besieged the harried celebrity with a _____ of personal questions.

SYNONYMS: surplus, surfeit, glut, excess

ANTONYMS: shortage, paucity, dearth, scarcity

15. pragmatic
(prag mat' ik)

(*adj.*) concerned with practical considerations or values; dealing with actions and results rather than with abstract theory; stiff in one's opinions

The mayor takes a _____ approach to the city's problems.

SYNONYMS: down-to-earth, businesslike

ANTONYMS: idealistic, impractical, visionary

16. quizzical
(kwiz' i kəl)

(*adj.*) puzzled; mocking; odd; equivocal

The politician's unexpected comment left all who heard it with _____ expressions on their faces.

SYNONYMS: peculiar, perplexed, mystified, derisive

ANTONYMS: unequivocal, crystal-clear, unambiguous

17. rapacity
(rə pas' ə tē)

(*n.*) inordinate greed; the disposition to obtain one's desires by force, extortion, or plunder

With the _____ of a shark, the ruthless new company went after its competitors' clients.

SYNONYMS: avarice, cupidity, voraciousness

ANTONYMS: liberality, generosity, altruism

18. schism
(siz' əm) or
(skiz' əm)

(*n.*) a formal split within a religious organization; any division or separation of a group or organization into hostile factions

What began as a disagreement over a minor issue led to a bitter _____ within the party.

SYNONYMS: rift, breach

ANTONYMS: united front, reconciliation

19. therapeutic
(ther ə pyü' tik)

(*adj.*) having the power to heal or cure; beneficial

Many believe in the _____ effect attributed to the waters of natural hot springs.

SYNONYMS: curative, salutary, salubrious

ANTONYMS: harmful, injurious, deleterious

20. virtuoso
(vær chü ö' sō)

(*n.*) a brilliant performer; a person with masterly skill or technique; (*adj.*) masterly or brilliant

Franz Liszt was a piano _____.

I was treated to a _____ performance.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) expert, master, prodigy, maestro

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) amateur, beginner, novice; (*adj.*) mediocre