



## Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, a 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. annul**  
(ə nəl')

(v.) to reduce to nothing; to make ineffective or inoperative; to declare legally invalid or void

The state legislators voted by an overwhelming majority \_\_\_\_\_ the out-of-date law.

SYNONYMS: cancel, abolish, invalidate, nullify  
ANTONYMS: validate, authorize, ratify

**2. blasé**  
(blā zā')

(adj.) indifferent, bored as a result of having enjoyed many pleasures; apathetic

Battle-hardened soldiers may tend to become a bit \_\_\_\_\_ about the dangers they face.

ANTONYMS: enthusiastic, passionate, fervent

**3. bolster**  
(bōl' stər)

(v.) to support, give a boost to; (n.) a long pillow or cushion; supporting post

When you write a research paper, you should always use appropriate facts to \_\_\_\_\_ your case.

The sofa has four comfortable \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (v.) strengthen, reinforce, buttress, validate  
ANTONYMS: (v.) undermine, weaken, impair

**4. deplore**  
(di plōr')

(v.) to feel or express regret or disapproval

Social critics \_\_\_\_\_ what they believe is a widespread decline in good manners.

SYNONYMS: lament, bemoan, bewail  
ANTONYMS: approve, commend, extol

**5. frivolous**  
(friv' ə ləs)

(adj.) of little importance, not worthy of serious attention; not meant seriously

I'll ignore your \_\_\_\_\_ suggestions.

SYNONYMS: silly, foolish, inane, petty, trifling  
ANTONYMS: serious, important, significant

**6. muster**  
(məs' tər)

(v.) to bring together for service or battle; to gather or sum up; to amount to, comprise, include; (n.) a list of men for military service; a gathering, accumulation

You will need to \_\_\_\_\_ up your courage to face the bully who has been tormenting you.

The sleepy new recruits assembled on the parade ground \_\_\_\_\_ the early morning \_\_\_\_\_.



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

SYNONYMS: (v.) mobilize, marshal; (n.) roster, inventory  
ANTONYMS: (v.) disband, dismiss, disperse

**7. nonentity**  
(nān en' tē tē)

(n.) a person or thing of no importance  
We may not be movie stars, but we did not deserve to be treated as \_\_\_\_\_ by the presumptuous headwaiter.

SYNONYM: nobody  
ANTONYMS: celebrity, superstar

**8. obsess**  
(āb ses')

(v.) to trouble, haunt, or fill the mind  
If you allow fear of failure to \_\_\_\_\_ you, you will find it difficult or even impossible to achieve your goals in life.

SYNONYM: preoccupy

**9. ornate**  
(ōr nāt')

(adj.) elaborately decorated; showily splendid  
If you ask me, an \_\_\_\_\_ gilded frame distracts the viewer's eye from a simple drawing.

SYNONYMS: fancy, elaborate, flashy, flamboyant  
ANTONYMS: simple, plain, stark, austere

**10. oust**  
(aüst)

(v.) to remove, drive out of a position or place  
Military leaders \_\_\_\_\_ the duly elected president and took over the government.

SYNONYMS: expel, eject  
ANTONYMS: admit, welcome

**11. peruse**  
(pə rüz')

(v.) to read thoroughly and carefully  
It is wise to have a lawyer \_\_\_\_\_ an agreement before you sign it.

SYNONYMS: study, pore over, scrutinize

**12. porous**  
(pōr' əs)

(adj.) full of tiny holes; able to be penetrated by air or water  
Some synthetic materials are as \_\_\_\_\_ and strong as natural sponges.

SYNONYMS: leaky, permeable  
ANTONYMS: airtight, waterproof, impermeable

**13. promontory**  
(prām' ən tōr ē)

(n.) a high point of land extending into water  
We chose a high \_\_\_\_\_ overlooking the sea as the perfect spot for our picnic lunch.

SYNONYMS: cliff, headland

**14. prone**  
(prōn)

(adj.) lying face down; inclined, likely  
Unfortunately, I am \_\_\_\_\_ to earaches and sinus infections.



SYNONYMS: prostrate, liable, apt  
ANTONYMS: standing upright, unlikely

**15. qualm**  
(kwām)

(*n.*) a pang of conscience, uneasiness, misgiving, or doubt; feeling of faintness or nausea

Don't you have serious \_\_\_\_\_ about voting for such a relatively unknown and inexperienced candidate?

SYNONYMS: regret, second thought, scruple

**16. recourse**  
(rē' kōrs)

(*n.*) a person or thing turned to for help or advice; the act of seeking help or protection

If my letter of complaint fails to get results, I will still have \_\_\_\_\_ to a higher authority.

SYNONYMS: redress, remedy, resort

**17. residue**  
(rez' ə dü)

(*n.*) a remainder, that which remains when a part has been used up or removed

A \_\_\_\_\_ of sticky taffy made the pan difficult to clean.

SYNONYMS: remnant, remains, leavings

**18. solicitous**  
(sə lis' ət əs)

(*adj.*) showing concern or care; fearful or anxious about someone or something

Neighbors made \_\_\_\_\_ inquiries about the state of the elderly couple's health.

SYNONYM: concerned

ANTONYMS: unconcerned, indifferent, apathetic

**19. staid**  
(stād)

(*adj.*) serious and dignified; quiet or subdued in character or conduct

Many companies have a dress code which requires that a employees wear \_\_\_\_\_ colors such as navy or gray.

SYNONYMS: sedate, sober, prim

ANTONYMS: gaudy, jaunty, unconventional

**20. sustain**  
(sə stān')

(*v.*) to support, nourish, keep up; to suffer, undergo; to bear up under, withstand; to affirm the validity of

You may \_\_\_\_\_ a serious eye injury if you forget to wear your safety goggles when you work with chemicals or power tools.

SYNONYMS: foster, maintain