



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

Unit 5



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.

**aghast**  
(ə gəst')

(adj.) filled with amazement, disgust, fear, or terror

People were \_\_\_\_\_ at the senseless brutality of the crime.

SYNONYMS: shocked, horrified, stupefied

ANTONYMS: delighted, overjoyed, unmoved

**ample**  
(am' pəl)

(adj.) more than enough, large, spacious

Thanks to the wet spring weather, birds and other animals will have an \_\_\_\_\_ supply of food for the rest of the year.

SYNONYMS: sufficient, adequate, considerable

ANTONYMS: insufficient, inadequate

**apparition**  
(ap ə rish' ən)

(n.) a ghost or ghostly figure; an unexplained or unusual appearance

The vivid \_\_\_\_\_ seemed so real that it completely unnerved me.

SYNONYMS: phantom, specter

**assert**  
(ə sɜrt')

(v.) to declare or state as truth, maintain or defend, put forward forcefully

Throughout the trial and the lengthy appeal process that followed, the defendant firmly \_\_\_\_\_ her innocence.

SYNONYMS: affirm, avow

**cower**  
(kaú' ər)

(v.) to crouch or shrink away from in fear or shame

The tiny kittens \_\_\_\_\_ in the corner, obviously frightened by the huge, growling dog.

SYNONYMS: cringe, flinch

ANTONYM: stand up to

**disdain**  
(dis dān')

(v.) to look upon with scorn; to refuse scornfully; (n.) a feeling of contempt

I emphatically \_\_\_\_\_ their cowardly behavior.

Fair-minded people have only \_\_\_\_\_ for racism in all its forms.

SYNONYMS: (v.) spurn, reject

ANTONYMS: (v.) revere, venerate, esteem, respect



**7. epitaph**  
(ep' ə taf)

(*n.*) a brief statement written on a tomb or gravestone  
Most people never stop to consider the words that might one day appear as their own \_\_\_\_\_  
SYNONYM: tombstone inscription

**8. ethical**  
(eth' ə kəl)

(*adj.*) having to do with morals, values, right and wrong; in accordance with standards of right conduct; requiring a prescription for purchase  
New developments in medicine often lead to discussions of important \_\_\_\_\_ questions.  
SYNONYMS: upright, virtuous, honorable  
ANTONYMS: immoral, unscrupulous, dishonest

**9. facetious**  
(fə sē' shəs)

(*adj.*) humorous, not meant seriously  
We had to laugh at her \_\_\_\_\_ remark  
SYNONYMS: comical, witty, tongue-in-cheek  
ANTONYMS: serious, humorless

**10. inaudible**  
(in ə' də bəl)

(*adj.*) not able to be heard  
Some high-frequency sounds are \_\_\_\_\_ to even the keenest human ear.  
SYNONYMS: faint, indistinct  
ANTONYMS: audible, easily heard

**11. indiscriminate**  
(in dis krim' ə nət)

(*adj.*) without restraint or control; unselective  
The \_\_\_\_\_ slaughter of right whale brought that species to the brink of extinction.  
SYNONYMS: haphazard, random, uncritical  
ANTONYMS: selective, discriminating, judicious

**12. intrigue**  
(*n.*, in' trēg;  
*v.*, in trēg')

(*n.*) crafty dealings, underhanded plotting; (*v.*) to form and carry out plots; to puzzle or excite the curiosity  
Investigators uncovered a shocking network of lies and international \_\_\_\_\_.  
The old album full of faded family pictures and postcards from exotic places \_\_\_\_\_ me.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) scheme, plot, conspiracy  
ANTONYM: (*n.*) fair play

**13. jurisdiction**  
(jūr is dik' shən)

(*n.*) an area of authority or control; the right to administer justice  
Cases involving robbery and assault are usually tried under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the state courts.  
SYNONYM: purview

**14. plausible**  
(plə' zə bəl)

(*adj.*) appearing true, reasonable, or fair  
Their story didn't sound \_\_\_\_\_ to me.

SYNONYMS: believable, probable  
ANTONYMS: improbable, far-fetched

**plebeian**  
(plə bē' ən)

(*adj.*) common, vulgar; belonging to the lower class; (*n.*) a common person, member of the lower class

Despite the couple's enormous wealth, their taste in cars and houses is surprisingly \_\_\_\_\_.

At one time, the \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient Rome were excluded from holding public office of any kind.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) lowborn, proletarian, coarse, unrefined  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) aristocratic, refined, cultivated

**prodigal**  
(prəd' ə gəl)

(*adj.*) wastefully extravagant; lavishly or generously abundant; (*n.*) one who is wasteful and self-indulgent

We have a tight budget, but we make an exception for \_\_\_\_\_ celebrations on family birthdays.

The elderly man told us that he greatly regretted the years he spent living the life of a \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) improvident; (*n.*) spendthrift, wastrel  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) frugal, economical, stingy, miserly

**proximity**  
(præk sim' ə tē)

(*n.*) nearness, closeness

People with children often choose a house because of its \_\_\_\_\_ to schools.

ANTONYMS: distance, remoteness

**pulverize**  
(pəl' və rīz)

(*v.*) to grind or pound to a powder or dust; to destroy or overcome (as though by smashing into fragments)

At many old mills in Vermont, granite stones were used to \_\_\_\_\_ the grain.

SYNONYMS: crush, demolish

**sequel**  
(sē' kwəl)

(*n.*) that which follows, a result; a literary work or film continuing the story of one written or made earlier

Readers are eagerly awaiting a \_\_\_\_\_ to the author's best-selling mystery novel.

SYNONYMS: follow-up, continuation  
ANTONYMS: prelude, overture, curtain-raiser

**volatile**  
(vəl' ə təl)

(*adj.*) highly changeable, fickle; tending to become violent or explosive; changing readily from the liquid to the gaseous state

A person who is usually calm and collected may nevertheless sometimes behave in a \_\_\_\_\_ manner.

SYNONYMS: unstable, erratic  
ANTONYMS: stable, steady, static, inert, dormant