

**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. aficionado**  
(ə fish yə nă' dō)

(*n.*) an enthusiastic and usually expert follower or fan

I have been an \_\_\_\_\_ of football since my youth.

SYNONYMS: devotee, enthusiast
- 2. browbeat**  
(brau' bēt)

(*v.*) to intimidate by a stern or overbearing manner; to bully

The dissatisfied customer had to \_\_\_\_\_ the store manager into refunding his money.

SYNONYMS: cow, coerce  
ANTONYMS: coax, cajole, wheedle, sweet-talk
- 3. commensurate**  
(kə men' sə rit)

(*adj.*) equal in size, extent, duration, or importance; proportionate; measurable by the same standards

All employees got raises \_\_\_\_\_ with their efforts.

SYNONYMS: comparable, corresponding, coordinate
- 4. diaphanous**  
(dī af' ə nəs)

(*adj.*) very sheer and light; almost completely transparent

We were asked to use a \_\_\_\_\_ material like gauze to make the costumes.

SYNONYMS: translucent, gossamer  
ANTONYMS: opaque, coarse, dense
- 5. emolument**  
(i mol' yə mēt)

(*n.*) profit derived from an office or position or from employment; a fee or salary

Choosing an equitable \_\_\_\_\_ for the mayor was the latest of the city council's acts.

SYNONYMS: pay, wages, compensation
- 6. foray**  
(fôr' ā)

(*n.*) a quick raid, especially for plunder; a venture into some field of endeavor; (*v.*) to make such a raid

The cavalry's \_\_\_\_\_ behind enemy lines was a great success.

Counting on the element of surprise, the general ordered the troops to begin to \_\_\_\_\_ before dawn.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) sally, sortie  
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) retreat, strategic withdrawal

**7. genre**  
(zhän' rə)

(*n.*) a type, class, or variety, especially a distinctive category of literary composition; a style of painting in which everyday scenes are realistically depicted

The science fiction \_\_\_\_\_ has produced several classics.

SYNONYMS: species, sort, school

**8. homily**  
(hom' ə lē)

(*n.*) a sermon stressing moral principles; a tedious moralizing lecture or discourse

The topic of this week's \_\_\_\_\_ is respect for diversity.

**9. immure**  
(i myūr')

(*v.*) to enclose or confine within walls; to imprison; to seclude or isolate

The terrorist was \_\_\_\_\_ for life in a narrow cell.

SYNONYMS: incarcerate, mew up

ANTONYMS: release, liberate, emancipate

**10. insouciant**  
(in sü' sē ənt)

(*adj.*) blithely indifferent or unconcerned; carefree; happy-go-lucky

After months of worrying about the fate of his new project, the man was determined to lead a more \_\_\_\_\_ life thereafter.

SYNONYMS: nonchalant, blasé, devil-may-care

ANTONYMS: worried, careworn, agitated, distraught

**11. matrix**  
(mā' trik)

(*n.*) a mold; the surrounding situation or environment

Scientists discovered a tiny prehistoric creature fossilized in a \_\_\_\_\_ of amber.

SYNONYMS: pattern, model

**12. obsequies**  
(ob' sə kwēz)

(*n.*) funeral rites or ceremonies

The nation held somber \_\_\_\_\_ for their beloved leader.

SYNONYMS: last rites, funeral services

**13. panache**  
(pə nash')

(*n.*) a confident and stylish manner, dash; a strikingly elaborate or colorful display

In the film *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, the actor Errol Flynn captures the \_\_\_\_\_ of the bandit.

SYNONYMS: style, verve, élan, éclat, flamboyance

- 14. persona**  
(pər sō' nə)  
(*n.*) a character in a novel or play; the outward character or role that a person assumes  
The comic \_\_\_\_\_ of Charlie Chaplin is recognizable the world over.  
SYNONYMS: personality, image, role
- 15. philippic**  
(fi lip' ik)  
(*n.*) a bitter verbal attack  
The senator delivered a \_\_\_\_\_ against the proposed law and those who supported it.  
SYNONYMS: harangue, tirade, diatribe  
ANTONYMS: encomium, panegyric, tribute
- 16. prurient**  
(prūr' ē ənt)  
(*adj.*) having lustful desires or interests; tending to arouse sexual desires  
Considered a \_\_\_\_\_ novel by some, *Ulysses* was once banned from sale in the United States.  
SYNONYMS: lascivious, salacious, lewd, titillating  
ANTONYMS: prudish, demure, innocent
- 17. sacrosanct**  
(sak' rō sənkt)  
(*adj.*) very sacred or holy; inviolable; set apart or immune from questioning or attack  
Members of the clergy felt privileged to be entrusted with guarding the \_\_\_\_\_ relic.
- 18. systemic**  
(sis tem' ik)  
(*adj.*) of or pertaining to the entire body; relating to a system or systems  
The singer suffered a \_\_\_\_\_ breakdown after the long and demanding season.  
SYNONYMS: extensive, comprehensive, system-wide  
ANTONYMS: localized, specific, isolated, confined
- 19. tendentious**  
(ten den' shəs)  
(*adj.*) intended to promote a particular point of view, doctrine, or cause; biased or partisan  
The candidate's supporters heartily applauded her \_\_\_\_\_ arguments.  
SYNONYM: partial  
ANTONYMS: fair, impartial, equitable, disinterested
- 20. vicissitude**  
(vi sis' ə tüd)  
(*n.*) a change, variation, or alteration; (*pl.*) successive or changing phases or conditions  
The inevitable \_\_\_\_\_ of life affect us all.  
SYNONYMS: fluctuation, vacillation  
ANTONYMS: sameness, evenness