



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

**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. acme**  
(ak' mē)

(*n.*) the highest point

A perfect game is the \_\_\_\_\_ of any pitcher's career in baseball.

SYNONYMS: summit, top, peak, pinnacle  
ANTONYMS: low point, bottom, nadir

**2. attribute**  
(*n.*, at' trə byüt;  
*v.*, ə trib' yət)

(*n.*) a quality or characteristic belonging to or associated with someone or something; (*v.*) to assign to, credit with; to regard as caused by or resulting from

The \_\_\_\_\_ I most admire in you is your willingness to give everyone's opinions a fair hearing.

The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ my runny nose and itchy eyes to multiple allergies.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) trait; (*v.*) ascribe

**3. belittle**  
(bi lit' əl)

(*v.*) to make something appear smaller than it is; to refer to in a way that suggests lack of importance or value

Candidates for public office may resort to negative ads that \_\_\_\_\_ their opponents' records.

SYNONYMS: minimize, underrate, disparage  
ANTONYMS: exaggerate, magnify, overestimate

**4. convey**  
(kən vā')

(*v.*) to transport; to transmit; to communicate, make known; to transfer ownership or title to

Please \_\_\_\_\_ our best wishes to your parents on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

SYNONYMS: carry, send, impart

**5. doctrine**  
(däk' trin)

(*n.*) a belief, principle, or teaching; a system of such beliefs or principles; a formulation of such beliefs or principles

No two religions see eye to eye on every fine detail of \_\_\_\_\_.

**6. excise**  
(*v.*, ek sīz';  
*n.*, ek' sīz)

(*v.*) to remove by cutting; (*n.*) an indirect tax on the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a commodity or service

If you \_\_\_\_\_ that irrelevant remark, you will improve your essay.

The \_\_\_\_\_ imposed on such potentially dangerous products as tobacco and alcohol have skyrocketed.



SYNONYMS: (v.) cut out, delete, expunge  
ANTONYMS: (v.) put in, insert, interpolate

**7. exotic**  
(ig zät' ik)

(*adj.*) foreign; charmingly unfamiliar or strikingly unusual

A recipe may call for \_\_\_\_\_ herbs and spices that are difficult to obtain.

SYNONYMS: strange, alien, picturesque, colorful  
ANTONYMS: native, indigenous, familiar, commonplace

**8. haggard**  
(hag' ärd)

(*adj.*) thin, pale, and careworn as a result of worry or suffering; wild-looking

The \_\_\_\_\_ refugees were given food, clothing, and temporary shelter.

SYNONYMS: drawn, gaunt, wasted  
ANTONYMS: healthy, glowing, radiant, hale and hearty

**9. jaunty**  
(jôn' tē)

(*adj.*) lively, easy, and carefree in manner; smart or trim in appearance

I bought a \_\_\_\_\_ straw hat.

SYNONYMS: unconcerned, lighthearted  
ANTONYMS: downcast, dejected, glum

**10. juncture**  
(jungk' chər)

(*n.*) a joining together; the point at which two things are joined; any important point in time

Our property ends at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the two stone walls.

SYNONYMS: union, seam, joint, turning point

**11. menial**  
(mē' nē əl)

(*adj.*) lowly, humble, lacking importance or dignity; (*n.*) a person who does the humble and unpleasant tasks

During the Great Depression, people were thankful to have work of any kind, no matter how \_\_\_\_\_.

New immigrants may find jobs as \_\_\_\_\_ in hotels and restaurants.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) underling, scullion, servant  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) lofty, elevated; (*n.*) boss, master

**12. parry**  
(par' ē)

(*v.*) to ward off, fend off, deflect, evade, avoid; (*n.*) a defensive movement in fencing and other sports

An effective press secretary can \_\_\_\_\_ almost any question a reporter asks.

The challenger's swift \_\_\_\_\_ caught the champion completely off guard.

**13. predatory**  
(pred' ə tōr ē)

(*adj.*) preying on, plundering, or piratical

Owls and other \_\_\_\_\_ birds play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature.



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SYNONYMS: looting, pillaging, ravenous, rapacious

**14. ravage**  
(rav' ij)

(*v.*) to destroy, lay waste, ruin; (*n.*) ruinous damage, destruction  
Swarms of locusts \_\_\_\_\_ the farmer's fields and orchards.

No one can escape the \_\_\_\_\_ of time.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) wreck, devastate

ANTONYM: (*v.*) spare

**15. stance**  
(stans)

(*n.*) a way of holding the body; an attitude or position on an issue  
A fashion model's \_\_\_\_\_ is calculated to show off a designer's clothing to best advantage.

SYNONYMS: posture, bearing

**16. tawdry**  
(tô' drē)

(*adj.*) showy and flashy but lacking in good taste

An excess of gold braid and glittery beads gave the costumes a \_\_\_\_\_ look.

SYNONYMS: loud, garish, gaudy, tacky, vulgar

ANTONYMS: refined, tasteful, subdued, muted

**17. turncoat**  
(tərn' kōt)

(*n.*) a person who switches to an opposing side or party

Strikers generally consider those workers who cross the picket lines to be \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: traitor, quisling, deserter, renegade

ANTONYMS: loyalist, diehard

**18. unassuming**  
(ən ə sü' miŋ)

(*adj.*) not putting on airs, unpretentious; modest

Many celebrities remain \_\_\_\_\_ despite their fame and wealth.

ANTONYMS: conceited, pretentious, self-important

**19. wallow**  
(wāl' ō)

(*v.*) to roll about in a lazy, clumsy, or helpless way; to overindulge in; to have in abundance; (*n.*) a wet, muddy, or dusty area used by animals as a sort of bath; a state of moral or physical collapse

After a strenuous hike, I was too tired to do anything but \_\_\_\_\_ blissfully in a hot bath.

On the Serengeti Plain, \_\_\_\_\_ offer animals much-needed relief from the sun's scorching rays.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) delight in, bask in

**20. waver**  
(wā' vər)

(*v.*) to move to and fro, become unsteady; to show lack of firmness or decision

The committee \_\_\_\_\_ for several days before choosing the winner of the essay contest.

SYNONYMS: hesitate, falter

ANTONYMS: stand firm, be resolute