


**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. anonymous**  
(ə nān' ə mās)

(*adj.*) unnamed, without the name of the person involved (writer, composer, etc.); unknown; lacking individuality or character

The detective received an \_\_\_\_\_ tip that helped to narrow the search for the thief.

SYNONYM: nameless
- 2. browse**  
(braūz)

(*v.*) to nibble, graze; to read casually; to window-shop

I like to \_\_\_\_\_ through a book before I buy it.

SYNONYMS: skim, scan, dip into, graze  
ANTONYMS: pore over, scrutinize
- 3. dupe**  
(dūp)

(*n.*) a person easily tricked or deceived; (*v.*) to deceive

He played the \_\_\_\_\_ in one of Shakespeare's comedies.

The villain in the play tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the hero out of his money.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) fool, mislead, hoodwink, delude  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) undeceive, disabuse
- 4. dynamic**  
(dī nam' ik)

(*adj.*) active, energetic, forceful

The advertising agency was looking to hire a creative person with a \_\_\_\_\_ personality.

SYNONYMS: vigorous, high-powered  
ANTONYMS: lazy, lackadaisical, lethargic, sluggish
- 5. eradicate**  
(i rad' ə kāt)

(*v.*) to root out, get rid of, destroy completely

The team of doctors and researchers worked tirelessly to \_\_\_\_\_ the disease.

SYNONYMS: wipe out, uproot  
ANTONYMS: implant, instill, foster, promote
- 6. frustrate**  
(frəs' trāt)

(*v.*) to prevent from accomplishing a purpose or fulfilling a desire; to cause feelings of discouragement

Nothing could \_\_\_\_\_ our plans to storm the fort.

SYNONYMS: thwart, foil, baffle, disappoint  
ANTONYMS: help, assist, abet

**7. grim**  
(grim)

(*adj.*) stern, merciless; fierce, savage, cruel

Many Third World nations face the \_\_\_\_\_ prospect of famine.

SYNONYMS: dreadful, frightful, ferocious

ANTONYMS: mild, merciful, delightful

**8. inimitable**  
(in im' ə tə bəl)

(*adj.*) not capable of being copied or imitated

The young performer stole the show with her \_\_\_\_\_ charm.

SYNONYMS: matchless, incomparable, unique

**9. makeshift**  
(māk' shift)

(*n.*) a temporary substitute for something else; (*adj.*) crude, flimsy, or temporary

The boards and cinder blocks are only a \_\_\_\_\_ until the bookcase arrives.

That army cot serves as a \_\_\_\_\_ bed for guests.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) stopgap, substitute

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) permanent, durable, solid, sturdy

**10. marginal**  
(mārj' ən əl)

(*adj.*) in, at, or near the edge or margin; only barely good, large, or important enough for the purpose

During times of economic hardship, many people have only a \_\_\_\_\_ standard of living.

SYNONYMS: borderline, minimal, peripheral

ANTONYMS: central, pivotal, focal

**11. pending**  
(pen' dɪŋ)

(*adj.*) waiting to be settled; (*prep.*) until

Curiosity about the \_\_\_\_\_ trial builds with each day.

Sentencing of the convicted criminal was postponed \_\_\_\_\_ the judge's decision.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) undecided, unsettled

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) settled, decided, resolved

**12. prescribe**  
(pri skrīb')

(*v.*) to order as a rule or course to be followed; to order for medical purposes

The doctor was quick to \_\_\_\_\_ complete bed rest.

SYNONYMS: specify, appoint, recommend

**13. preview**  
(prē' vyü)

(*n.*) something seen in advance; (*v.*) to view beforehand

The critics saw a \_\_\_\_\_ of the new movie.

The teacher wished to \_\_\_\_\_ the video before showing it to the class.

- 14. prominent**  
(präm' ə nənt)
- (*adj.*) standing out so as to be easily seen; important, well-known
- Some famous authors are \_\_\_\_\_ figures in society.
- SYNONYMS: conspicuous, noticeable  
ANTONYMS: inconspicuous, unnoticeable, obscure
- 15. quaint**  
(kwānt)
- (*adj.*) odd or old-fashioned in a pleasing way; clever, ingenious; skillfully made
- My parents stayed at a \_\_\_\_\_ old inn in Vermont.
- SYNONYMS: picturesque, peculiar, strange, curious  
ANTONYMS: familiar, commonplace, modern, contemporary
- 16. reluctant**  
(ri lək' tənt)
- (*adj.*) unwilling, holding back
- The attorney called the \_\_\_\_\_ witness to the stand.
- SYNONYMS: hesitant, loath, disinclined  
ANTONYMS: willing, eager, inclined
- 17. scrimp**  
(skrimp)
- (*v.*) to handle very economically or stingily; to supply in a way that is small, short, or scanty
- When the factory closed and other work was scarce, many people were forced to \_\_\_\_\_.
- SYNONYM: economize  
ANTONYM: splurge
- 18. snare**  
(snâr)
- (*v.*) to trap, catch; (*n.*) a trap or entanglement
- They set a trap to \_\_\_\_\_ the rodents that were getting into the garden.
- The unsuspecting spy was caught in a \_\_\_\_\_ set by the other side.
- SYNONYMS: (*n.*) pitfall; (*v.*) entrap  
ANTONYM: liberate
- 19. utmost**  
(ət' most)
- (*adj.*) greatest, highest, farthest; (*n.*) the extreme limit
- The voters had the \_\_\_\_\_ regard for her ability as a leader.
- SYNONYMS: (*adj., n.*) maximum, supreme, best  
ANTONYM: least
- 20. vengeance**  
(ven' jəns)
- (*n.*) punishment in return for an injury or a wrong; unusual force or violence
- History is filled with examples of wronged rulers seeking \_\_\_\_\_ against their enemies.
- SYNONYMS: revenge, retaliation, reprisal  
ANTONYMS: forgiveness, pardon

## Completing the Sentence

From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. The most \_\_\_\_\_ feature of the skyline of that little town in Iowa is the four-story grain elevator.
2. When we visited Salem, Massachusetts, last year, we were charmed by the \_\_\_\_\_ 18th-century houses in the town.
3. After the angler \_\_\_\_\_ the fish, he unhooked it from his line and threw it back into the stream.
4. We may not be able to \_\_\_\_\_ crime in our community, but if we go about it in the right way, I am sure we can reduce it greatly.
5. Instead of seeking personal \_\_\_\_\_ for the wrong that has been done to you, why don't you look for justice under the law?
6. When unexpected guests turned up on the doorstep, I hurriedly made a few \_\_\_\_\_ arrangements to accommodate them.
7. After several unsuccessful attempts to catch the waiter's eye, I began to become a little \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When we saw the \_\_\_\_\_ expression on the poor man's face, we realized that the situation was indeed serious.
9. Safety measures are of the \_\_\_\_\_ importance when you are planning a canoe trip over rivers filled with dangerous rapids.
10. For weeks I \_\_\_\_\_ on everything to save enough money to buy the replacement tires for my bicycle.
11. There is quite a contrast between the \_\_\_\_\_ administration that now runs that country and the "do-nothing" regime that preceded it.
12. Many books have been written about boys, but none of them can match the \_\_\_\_\_ qualities of *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*.
13. Although we know who wrote such famous epics as the *Aeneid* and the *Iliad*, the author of *Beowulf* remains \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The suspect was held in the local police station \_\_\_\_\_ the outcome of the investigation.
15. The eyewitness was \_\_\_\_\_ to tell the police all that she had seen, but we convinced her that it was the only right thing to do.
16. I was \_\_\_\_\_ into trusting him, and I have paid a heavy price for being misled so easily.
17. I like to write \_\_\_\_\_ notes in a book alongside important material, but I never do so unless the book belongs to me.

- 18. Each unit in the textbook opens with a section that \_\_\_\_\_ and highlights the material in the chapters that follow.
- 19. It took the pharmacist about an hour to prepare the medicine that the doctor had \_\_\_\_\_ for my cold.
- 20. Is there any sight in the world more restful than cows \_\_\_\_\_ in a meadow alongside a little brook?

**Synonyms**

Choose the word from this unit that is **the same or most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

- 1. has an **incomparable** sense of humor \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. had a **foretaste** of the new spring clothing \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. wanted to **wipe out** poverty \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. was of **minimal** help to the team \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. is an issue that is still **undecided** \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. tried to **economize** on nonessential items \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. set a **trap** for the gophers \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. waited to hear what the doctor would **order** \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. gave a very **vigorous** effort \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. will demand swift **revenge** \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. likes to **skim** through the books on the shelves \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. attempted to **thwart** his opponent \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. received a card from an **unknown** admirer \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. is of the **highest** priority \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. was unable to **fool** the audience \_\_\_\_\_

**Antonyms**

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite in meaning** to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

- 16. was **eager** to join the others \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. remained a very **obscure** playwright \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. amused by the guest's **modern** notions \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. built a **permanent** shelter \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. heard the **delightful** news on the radio \_\_\_\_\_

## Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. As I was (**previewing, browsing**) my way lazily through the newspaper, I was shocked to see my own name in a headline!
2. He still doesn't realize that he has been used as a (**dupe, snare**) by our opponents to do their dirty work for them.
3. The mistaken idea that the most important thing in life is to "have fun" is a (**snare, vengeance**) that leads to serious trouble for many young people.
4. We have many good musicians in our school orchestra, but they need a (**makeshift, dynamic**) conductor to make them play as a unit.
5. Although the announcement had promised us "a (**prominent, reluctant**) speaker," the person turned out to be a very minor public official.
6. Although we cannot mention her by name, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the (**quaint, anonymous**) donor who gave us this generous gift.
7. I understand your (**reluctance, vengeance**) to be our candidate in the next election, but I think it is your duty to accept the nomination.
8. (**Pending, Eradicating**) the outcome of our national election, none of the foreign governments is willing to take any definite action.
9. His reference to a "historic downfall" after I had failed the history test struck me as a rather (**dynamic, grim**) joke.
10. For months the winter was unusually mild, but when the cold weather did come, it struck with a (**vengeance, prominence**).
11. The new parking regulations are only a (**snare, makeshift**) that will have to be replaced by a better plan within a few years.
12. The exhibition at the fair is intended to give people a (**preview, dupe**) of what life may be like fifty years from now.
13. To improve your unsatisfactory school record, I would (**browse, prescribe**) regular doses of study, to be taken every day for as long as is necessary.
14. It is very easy to say that our city government should (**scrimp, snare**) to balance its budget, but which departments should spend less?
15. You must realize that, although we may find the customs of other lands (**anonymous, quaint**), they are just part of everyday life in those areas.
16. The wily champion used every tennis trick she knew to (**frustrate, scrimp**) her opponent's attempts to come to the net and hit a winner.
17. Landing a man on the moon was a great achievement, but it is far from being the (**utmost, pending**) limit of our space program.
18. Since my job is only (**marginal, inimitable**), I'm afraid that if business falls off a little, my employer may let me go.
19. Even before we saw Alice, we heard her (**inimitable, grim**) high-pitched giggle and knew she was at the party.
20. Nothing can (**eradicate, scrimp**) the love of liberty from the hearts of a free people!

## Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

### More Than an Explorer

(Line)

The **dynamic** John Wesley Powell was perhaps the greatest example of the fearless American explorer of the nineteenth century. Powell maintained that he was neither an adventurer nor just an explorer. To Powell, it was the pursuit of science that was of the **utmost** importance. Indeed, his exploration of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon actually led to the development of some of the principles of geology. It also prompted the settlement of the American Southwest.

(5)

In 1869, Powell, who had lost an arm during the Civil War, and nine companions set out to explore and map the largely uncharted canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers. The party had just four flimsy wooden boats and a meager supply of rations. The hazards of the **grim** journey challenged the group at every turn. In fact, Powell and his party surprised even the local Native Americans, who were themselves **reluctant** to navigate the dangerous Grand Canyon River Gorge. Yet Powell would not let anything **frustrate** his plans for exploration—not even the three reports of his death!

(10)

(15)

(20)



Majestic Grand Canyon in Arizona

Fortunately, Powell did not die on the river, and the one-thousand-mile journey was a success, as was a second trip he led two years later. Powell's book about the Grand Canyon region, as well as the photographs, topographic map, diaries, and field notes prepared by several other members of his party, provided valuable information about the area.

(25)

Soon after his second expedition, Powell became a **prominent** government official, involved in the management of arid western lands. He went on to become the Director of the Bureau of Ethnology, which collected data about fast disappearing North American Indian groups, and later, the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

(30)

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|--|--|
| 1. The meaning of <b>dynamic</b> (line 1) is | 4. <b>Reluctant</b> (line 17) is best defined as |
| a. explosive                                 | a. hesitant                                      |
| b. energetic                                 | b. willing                                       |
| c. lethargic                                 | c. undecided                                     |
| d. sturdy                                    | d. delighted                                     |
| 2. <b>Utmost</b> (line 4) is best defined as | 5. <b>Frustrate</b> (line 19) most nearly means  |
| a. strangest                                 | a. assist  |
| b. high-powered                              | b. foil  |
| c. greatest                                  | c. settle  |
| d. least                                     | d. mislead                                       |
| 3. <b>Grim</b> (line 13) most nearly means   | 6. The meaning of <b>prominent</b> (line 27) is  |
| a. merciful                                  | a. inconspicuous                                 |
| b. short                                     | b. curious                                       |
| c. dirty                                     | c. central                                       |
| d. frightful                                 | d. well-known                                    |