

Unit 2

Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, and definition of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space in the illustrative phrase following.

1. **adroit**
(ə 'droit) _____ (adj.) skillful, expert in the use of the hands or mind _____ at twirling a rope
2. **amicable**
('am ə ke bəl) _____ (adj.) peaceable, friendly
an _____ settlement of the dispute
3. **averse**
(ə 'vɜrs) _____ (adj.) having a deep-seated distaste; opposed, unwilling
_____ to strenuous exercise
4. **belligerent**
(bə 'lɪj ə rənt) _____ (adj.) given to fighting, warlike; combative, aggressive;
(n.) one at war, one engaged in war
a _____ answer
5. **benevolent**
(bə 'nev ə lənt) _____ (adj.) kindly, charitable
a _____ feeling toward all their neighbors
6. **cursor**
('kɜ sə rē) _____ (adj.) hasty, not thorough
a _____ glance at the document
7. **duplicity**
(dū 'plɪs ə tē) _____ (n.) treachery, deceitfulness
fired the employees suspected of _____
8. **extol**
(ek 'stōl) _____ (v.) to praise extravagantly
_____ her heroic deeds
9. **feasible**
('fē ze bəl) _____ (adj.) possible, able to be done
develop a _____ plan of action
10. **grimace**
('grɪm əs) _____ (n.) a wry face, facial distortion; (v.) to make a wry face
a _____ of pain
11. **holocaust**
('hɔl ə kɔst) _____ (n.) a large-scale destruction, especially by fire; a vast slaughter; a burnt offering
a victim of the Chicago _____
12. **impervious**
(ɪm 'pɜr v̄ əs) _____ (adj.) not affected or hurt by; admitting of no passage or entrance
a plastic cover _____ to moisture
13. **impetus**
('ɪm p̄ ə t̄ əs) _____ (n.) a moving force, impulse, stimulus
gave a new _____ to the drive
14. **jeopardy**
('jep ə r̄ ə) _____ (n.) danger
mistakes that put the entire operation in serious _____

- 15. meticulous**
(me 'tik yə les)
(adj.) extremely careful; particular about details
a _____ housekeeper
- 16. nostalgia**
(nə 'stəl jə)
(n.) a longing for something past; homesickness
a vague feeling of _____
- 17. quintessence**
(kwɪn 'tes əns)
(n.) the purest essence or form of something; the most typical example
a deed hailed as the _____ of valor
- 18. retrogress**
(re trə 'gres)
(v.) to move backward; to return to an earlier condition
has _____ into barbarism
- 19. scrutinize**
('skrʊt ə nɪz)
(v.) to examine closely
_____ the documents
- 20. tepid**
('tep ɪd)
(adj.) lukewarm; unenthusiastic, marked by an absence of interest
a cup of _____ tea

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.

- As the old soldier watched the parade pass by, he was suddenly filled with _____ for the youthful years he had spent in the Army.
- An expert from the museum _____ the painting, looking for telltale signs that would prove it to be genuine or expose it as a forgery.
- My teacher counseled me to keep up my studies, or my performance in class might once again _____ into mediocrity.
- Only when we learned that the embezzler had tried to cast suspicion on his innocent partner did we realize the extent of his _____.
- The physical education instructor _____ the virtues of regular exercise.
- If you are _____ to hard study and intensive reading, how do you expect to get through law school?
- King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table were the _____ of chivalry.
- We must not forget the millions of people who were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Nazis in the _____ of the 1940s.
- Miss De Carlo's records—neat, accurate, and complete in every respect—show that she is a most _____ worker.

- For centuries, Switzerland has avoided becoming a(n) _____ in the wars that have scarred the rest of Europe.
- Looking forward to a hot bath, I was disappointed at the feeble stream of _____ water that flowed into the tub.
- Percy shows no particular talent as a worker, but I must admit that he is exceptionally _____ at finding excuses for not doing his job.
- My teammates agreed that a triple reverse looked mighty impressive on the chalkboard but doubted that the play would prove _____ on the football field.
- If, as you claim, you really like raw oysters, why do you make such an eloquent _____ every time you swallow one?
- When I realized how bad the brakes of the old car were, I feared that our lives were in _____.
- No one doubts the _____ intentions of the program for community improvement, but it was ruined by mismanagement.
- When I heard Rose speaking French so fluently, my determination to master that language received a fresh _____.
- Regarding native Americans as "bloodthirsty savages," Europeans were rarely able to maintain _____ relations with them.
- A(n) _____ examination of my luggage was enough to show me that someone had been tampering with it.
- What good is a plastic raincoat that is _____ to water if it also prevents any body heat from escaping?

Synonyms

From the words for this unit, choose the one that is most nearly the same in meaning as each of the following groups of expressions. Write the word on the line given.

- quick, superficial, perfunctory _____
- careful, fastidious, painstaking, fussy _____
- risk, hazard, peril _____
- workable, practicable, viable _____
- to revert; to degenerate, decline _____
- fraud, double-dealing, chicanery _____
- a conflagration; devastation; annihilation _____

8. a longing for things past; homesickness
9. impenetrable; resistant, proof against
10. an impulse, incentive, stimulus, spur
11. disinclined, opposed, loath
12. congenial, neighborly, cordial
13. a pained expression, facial contortion
14. lukewarm; insipid; halfhearted, wishy-washy
15. the purest essence; a paragon, exemplar
16. kindly, benign, well-meaning
17. to inspect, examine, pore over
18. clever, deft, dexterous, slick
19. to glorify, applaud, acclaim, hail
20. assertive, truculent, pugnacious

Antonyms

From the words for this unit, choose the one that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to each of the following groups of expressions. Write the word on the line given.

1. to criticize, belittle, disparage
2. safety, security
3. unworkable, impractical
4. thorough, painstaking, careful
5. a curb, hindrance, impediment, constraint
6. favorably disposed, eager, keen
7. heated, excited, enthusiastic
8. hostile, antagonistic
9. to skim, scan, glance at
10. clumsy, inept, all thumbs
11. malicious, spiteful, malevolent
12. to advance, evolve, progress
13. peaceful, conciliatory, placid
14. porous, permeable, vulnerable
15. careless, negligent, sloppy
16. a deluge, inundation
17. to smile, beam, grin

Choosing the Right Word Encircle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. Because I was not even born when the Beatles were at the height of their popularity, their albums do not fill me with (**duplicitly, nostalgia**).
2. Though it may appear rather ordinary to the casual observer, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is to me the (**impetus, quintessence**) of eloquence.
3. Some civil engineers believe that within a generation it will be (**feasible, benevolent**) to derive a large part of our energy directly from the sun.
4. The nightmare that continues to haunt all thoughtful people is a nuclear (**holocaust, jeopardy**) in which our civilization might be destroyed.
5. It made me very uncomfortable to see with what suspicion the wary customs officer (**scrutinized, extolled**) my passport.
6. In the Sherlock Holmes stories, we read of the evil Professor Moriarty, whose (**duplicitly, impetus**) was almost a match for Holmes's genius.
7. Though peace talks began with an exchange of lofty sentiments, they soon (**retrogressed, scrutinized**) into petty squabbling and backbiting.
8. I knew she would be (**impervious, meticulous**) in caring for my plants, but I didn't expect her to water them with a medicine dropper!
9. Anyone who is (**averse, cursory**) to having a girls' basketball team in our school doesn't know what's been happening in recent years.
10. (**Extolling, Scrutinizing**) other people's achievements is fine, but it is no substitute for doing something remarkable of your own.
11. Providing a powerful defense force for our nation does not mean that we are taking a (**belligerent, meticulous**) attitude toward any other nation.
12. When I saw my sister land in a tree on her first parachute jump, my interest in learning to skydive became decidedly (**tepid, adroit**).
13. After shouting at each other rather angrily, the participants in the round-table discussion calmed down and parted (**feasibly, amicably**).
14. It was rude of you to (**retrogress, grimace**) so obviously when the speaker mispronounced words and made grammatical errors.
15. The lawyer's (**adroit, cursory**) questioning slowly but surely revealed the weaknesses in his opponent's case.
16. Carelessness in even minor details may (**averse, jeopardize**) the success of a major theatrical production.
17. News of famine in various parts of the world has given added (**nostalgia, impetus**) to the drive to increase food production.
18. His parents tried to encourage an interest in literature, music, and art, but he seemed (**amicable, impervious**) to such influences.
19. Do you think you are being fair in passing judgment on Fran's poem after such a (**cursory, benevolent**) reading?
20. On the morning of the picnic, the sky was gray and overcast, but suddenly the sun came out and smiled on us (**benevolently, adroitly**).