

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.

- altruistic** ('al trü 'is tik)
(adj.) unselfish, concerned with the welfare of others
an _____ program to help the poor
- assent** (ə 'sent)
(v.) to express agreement; (n.) agreement
forced to _____ to their demands
- benefactor** ('ben ə fak tə)
(n.) one who does good to others
became my _____ in time of need
- chivalrous** ('shiv ə ləs)
(adj.) marked by honor, courtesy, and courage; knightly
praised for his _____ act
- clemency** ('klem ə n sə)
(n.) mercy, humaneness; mildness, moderateness
show _____ to first offenders
- dearth** (də:θ)
(n.) a lack, scarcity, inadequate supply; a famine
a _____ of able assistants
- diffident** ('dif ə dent)
(adj.) shy, lacking self-confidence; modest, reserved
amused by the _____ suitor
- discrepancy** (dis 'krep ə n sə)
(n.) a difference; a lack of agreement
a _____ between their stories
- embark** (em 'bɑ:k)
(v.) to go aboard; to make a start; to invest
_____ on the long ocean trip
- facile** ('fas ə l)
(adj.) easily done or attained; superficial; ready, fluent; easily shown but not sincerely felt
a _____ writer
- indomitable** (in 'dɑ:m ə t ə bəl)
(adj.) unconquerable, refusing to yield
admire her _____ courage
- infallible** (in 'fæl ə bəl)
(adj.) free from error; absolutely dependable
his _____ judgment
- plod** (pləd)
(v.) to walk heavily or slowly; to work slowly
_____ wearily through the snow
- pungent** ('pen jənt)
(adj.) causing a sharp sensation; stinging, biting
the _____ odor of onion soup
- remiss** (rē 'mis)
(adj.) neglectful in performance of one's duty, careless
_____ in doing daily chores
- repose** (rē 'pōz)
(v.) to rest; lie; place; (n.) relaxation; peace of mind, calmness
a much-needed period of _____

- temerity** (te 'mer ə tē)
(n.) rashness, boldness
have the _____ to answer back
- truculent** ('trək yə lənt)
(adj.) fierce and cruel; aggressive; deadly, destructive; scathingly harsh
shocked by his _____ disposition
- unfeigned** (ən 'fānd)
(adj.) sincere, real, without pretense
the _____ emotions of a child
- virulent** ('vir yə lənt)
(adj.) extremely poisonous; full of malice, spiteful
a _____ racist

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.

- He is not merely unpleasant but actually dangerous whenever he gets into one of his _____ moods.
- The pathetic refugees _____ along the dusty road, hoping to reach the Red Cross camp before nightfall.
- In view of the many able people in public life today, I do not agree that we are suffering from a(n) _____ of capable leaders.
- His _____ joy when it was announced that I had won the scholarship meant more to me than all the polite congratulations I received.
- History tells us that many men and women considered "failures" in their own lifetimes were really major _____ of humanity.
- Humor should be clever and amusing but never so _____ that it hurts the feelings of other people.
- What good are _____ principles if no real attempt is made to help people by putting them into practice?
- As soon as the last passenger had _____, the captain ordered the ship to get underway.
- As a school cafeteria guard, I would be _____ in my duties if I failed to report any serious disorder.
- Emphasizing the youth of the convicted man, the defense attorney pleaded for _____.
- Do you really think it is _____ to give your seat to a pretty girl when an aged and infirm lady is standing nearby?
- The brash young lieutenant had the _____ to disregard the express orders of his commanding officer.
- Paula's parents will not _____ to her going to the dance unless she promises faithfully to be home no later than 1:00 A.M.

14. I did not realize how beautiful the child was until she fell asleep and I saw her face in complete _____.
15. The custom of putting erasers on pencils is one way of recognizing the fact that no one is _____.
16. Leonard rarely joins in the discussions, not because he lacks information and ideas but rather because he is _____.
17. Doctors attributed the epidemic to the rampant spread of a particularly _____ strain of influenza virus.
18. Refusing to admit defeat even when things looked completely hopeless, our _____ football team drove 85 yards in the last few minutes to score the winning touchdown.
19. The principal claimed that there were major _____ between what actually happened in the school and the way the incident had been reported on TV.
20. We were all impressed by his _____ use of unusual words and expressions that he had learned only a few hours before.
21. How the _____ smell of burning leaves in autumn arouses memories of happier days!

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 provided at the right.

- negligent, lax, slack
- leniency, forbearance, gentleness
- timid, bashful; unassertive, withdrawn
- venomous; noxious, baneful; hateful
- brutal, savage, belligerent, vitriolic
- genuine, heartfelt
- unbeatable, invincible, unyielding
- gallant, civil; valiant
- recklessness, foolhardiness; effrontery
- a disagreement, divergence, inconsistency
- to commence, launch, begin; to board
- sharp, spicy, piquant; caustic; racy

- easy, effortless; assured, poised; specious
- unerring, certain
- to concur, agree, consent, accede
- selfless, rising above personal interests
- an insufficiency, want, paucity
- to lumber, trudge
- sleep; tranquility; a respite
- one who helps others; a patron, humanitarian

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 provided at the right.

- convergence; agreement, consistency
- scrupulous, dutiful, punctilious
- open to error, imperfect
- a surplus, oversupply, glut, abundance
- to scamper, skip, prance
- a misanthrope; a malefactor
- gentle, mild; meek, unthreatening
- bold, brash, audacious, self-confident, jaunty
- exertion, wakefulness, tumult, bustle, ado
- to disagree, differ, dissent
- innocuous, harmless; benign
- crude, uncouth, churlish, loutish
- selfish, self-centered
- insincere, simulated, phony
- yielding, surrendering, submissive
- harshness, severity, cruelty, inflexibility
- timidity, fearfulness, diffidence, humility
- labored, awkward, halting
- bland, unappetizing, colorless, insipid

Choosing the Right Word

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

- After boasting to me of his family's great wealth, he had the (**clemency, temerity**) to ask me for a loan.
- By 1781, George Washington's green recruits of a few years earlier had been forged into an (**infalible, indomitable**) army.
- Lucille is a popular young woman because people realize that her interest in them is sympathetic and (**remiss, unfeigned**).
- Phil is not too well informed on most matters, but when it comes to big-league baseball, he is all but (**indomitable, infalible**).
- American Presidents often point to one of their school teachers as the (**discrepancy, benefactor**) who helped shape their character and ideas.
- I admired his (**remiss, facile**) flow of words, but they failed to convince me that he had practical ideas to help solve our problems.
- We had no inkling of Calvin's deep-seated aversion to modern pop music until we overheard his (**altruistic, virulent**) comments about punk rock.
- The lawyer (**plodded, embarked**) through hundreds of pages of the trial record hoping to find some basis for an appeal.
- In the violent world of today's pro football, good sportsmanship and (**pungent, chivalrous**) behavior still have a place.
- We soon learned that behind his retiring and (**truculent, diffident**) manner, there was a keen mind and a strong will.
- As a state legislator, you should not give your (**assent, chivalry**) to any measure unless you truly believe in it.
- With all the deductions, there is a (**clemency, discrepancy**) of forty dollars between my official salary and my weekly paycheck.
- Her (**pungent, truculent**) comments during the TV panel show were not only amusing but very much to the point.
- The planet Earth is a sort of spaceship on which more than five billion of us have (**reposed, embarked**) on a lifelong voyage.
- In a grim old joke, a man found guilty of murdering his parents appeals for (**clemency, assent**) because he is an orphan.
- We breathed a sigh of relief when we saw the supposedly missing set of keys (**assenting, reposing**) in the desk drawer.
- How do you account for the (**clemency, dearth**) of old-fashioned "family doctors" willing to make house calls?
- Great political leaders know how to appeal to people not only through self-interest but also through their sense of (**temerity, altruism**).
- You will surely win more support for your view by quiet discussion than by (**chivalrous, truculent**) attacks on your opponents.
- It would be (**indomitable, remiss**) of me, as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, not to express appreciation of the help of our faculty advisor.