

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. **accede**
(ək 'sēd)
(v.) to yield to; to assume an office or dignity
_____ to their reasonable request
2. **brandish**
('brændɪʃ)
(v.) to wave or flourish in a menacing fashion
_____ his cane threateningly
3. **comprise**
(kəm 'prɪz)
(v.) to include or contain; to be made up of
a book _____ entirely of essays
4. **deft**
(deft)
(adj.) skillful, nimble
sew with _____ fingers
5. **destitute**
('des te tʃt)
(adj.) deprived of the necessities of life; lacking in
aid to _____ families
6. **explicit**
(ek 'splɪtɪt)
(adj.) definite, clearly stated
greatly in need of _____ directions
7. **extirpate**
('ek stɪr pæt)
(v.) to tear up by the roots; to destroy totally
_____ all forms of racism
8. **inopportune**
(ɪn əp ər 'tʃn)
(adj.) coming at a bad time; not appropriate
arrive at an _____ time for me
9. **ironic**
(ī 'ræn ɪk)
(adj.) suggesting an incongruity between what might be expected and what actually happens; given to irony, sarcastic
an _____ twist of fate
10. **musty**
('mes tē)
(adj.) stale, moldy; out-of-date
a _____ smell in the closet
11. **officious**
(ə 'fɪʃ əs)
(adj.) meddling; excessively forward in offering services or assuming authority
annoyed by the _____ usher
12. **ominous**
('əm ə nes)
(adj.) unfavorable, threatening, of bad omen
an _____ report from the doctor
13. **pinnacle**
('pɪn ə kəl)
(n.) a high peak or point
reach the _____ of success
14. **premeditated**
(prē 'med ə tət ɪd)
(adj., part.) considered beforehand, deliberately planned
guilty of a _____ act of violence
15. **rampant**
('ræm pent)
(adj.) growing without check, running wild
_____ rumors

- 16. solace** ('säl əs)
(n.) comfort, relief; (v.) to comfort, console
find _____ in music
- 17. stately** ('stāt ī)
(adj.) dignified, majestic
impressed by the _____ procession
- 18. supple** ('sep əl)
(adj.) bending easily; bending with agility; readily adaptable; servile
the sapling's _____ branches
- 19. suppress** (se 'pres)
(v.) to stop by force, put down
use force to _____ a rebellion
- 20. venal** ('vēn əl)
(adj.) open to or marked by bribery or corruption
a _____ official

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.

- A great dancer, like a great athlete, must have a sharp sense of timing and a highly trained, responsive, and _____ body.
- What a(n) _____ time to ask Miit for help, just when he was having trouble with his own car!
- The sudden drop in temperature and the unnatural stillness in the air were _____ signs of an unfavorable change in the weather.
- From 1859 to 1871, "Boss" Tweed controlled New York City through a(n) _____ political machine that fed on graft and extortion.
- Who would have dreamt that the old attic, with all its darkness, dust, and _____ odor, contained such a treasure!
- We will never _____ to those selfish and unfair demands.
- During the darkest hours of defeat, their only _____ was the knowledge that they had fought hard to the very end.
- Unfortunately, the so-called "recreational facilities" _____ nothing more than a Ping-Pong table and a small-screen TV set.
- Attacking the present administration, the candidate said that crime has been running _____ in the streets of our city.
- The unruly mob retreated as the line of deputies moved forward slowly, _____ their riot sticks.
- Isn't it _____ that he finally inherited all that money at a time when it could no longer help to solve his problems!
- Even when economic conditions improve, there will still be a large number of _____ families in urgent need of our assistance.

- It is a truly sobering thought to realize that when one has reached the _____ of a mountain, there is nowhere to go but down.
- Who can forget the sight of those _____ "tall ships" with their lofty masts and graceful lines as they sailed past the Statue of Liberty on the Fourth of July?
- I vowed that I would _____ every weed that dared to show itself in our newly seeded lawn.
- Whether your act was _____ or the result of carelessness, the fact remains that you have caused great pain to someone who has always been very good to you.
- Try as we might, we could not _____ our laughter at his clumsy attempts to breakdance to waltz music.
- The referee showed good judgment in giving a(n) _____ warning that if either team protested his decisions, he would be forced to call a technical foul.
- I love to watch the _____ movements of little Billy Gomez as he dribbles the ball downcourt and passes off to the taller players.
- Can I ever forget that _____ clerk in the customs office who insisted that I empty every piece of luggage before him!

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.

- distinct, forthright, unambiguous _____
- preplanned, rehearsed, calculated _____
- widespread, unrestrained, extravagant _____
- meddlesome, prying, impertinent _____
- dexterous, adroit, proficient _____
- ill-timed, inconvenient, inappropriate _____
- to soothe, reassure, console, comfort _____
- stale, hackneyed, antiquated _____
- to swing, shake, flourish _____
- flexible, limber, pliable _____
- unpropitious, inauspicious, portentous _____
- bribable, corruptible; mercenary _____
- an apex, acme, summit, apogee _____

14. to uproot, eradicate, wipe out
15. incongruous, poignant; satiric, sardonic, wry, tongue-in-cheek
16. to subdue, crush, stifle, squelch, quash
17. to consent, concur, comply
18. grand, magnificent, imposing
19. wanting, devoid, impoverished
20. to compose, constitute, encompass

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.

1. fresh, sweet-smelling; up-to-date, brand-new
2. to provoke, spur, arouse, incite, instigate
3. auspicious, propitious, promising
4. a low point, nadir, perigee
5. controlled, restrained, held in check
6. timely, convenient, felicitous
7. honest, scrupulous, incorruptible
8. rich, wealthy; luxurious, bountiful; full, replete
9. lowly, humble; servile, abject
10. to withhold consent, demur, balk at
11. unplanned, spontaneous, impromptu
12. vague, ambiguous; implied, implicit
13. straightforward, unequivocal, artless
14. stiff, rigid; unbending, hidebound
15. clumsy, awkward, bungling, inept
16. to vex, aggravate, upset
17. to implant, sow: to foster, nourish
18. to exclude
19. reserved, diffident, timid, aloof

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

1. He is in for a rude awakening if he thinks that, as the son of a rich family, he will simply (**accede**, **suppress**) to a position of wealth and power.
2. No doubt there are some dishonest officials, but it is a gross exaggeration to say that graft and corruption are (**rampant**, **explicit**) in our government.
3. Someone who insists that everyone has a price believes that human beings are (**premeditated**, **venal**) by nature.
4. Was Oscar Wilde being (**ironic**, **explicit**) when he said that he could resist everything except temptation?
5. And there was good old Dan, shouting orders, handing out papers, and generally making a(n) (**musty**, **officious**) nuisance of himself!
6. She may be the daughter of a factory worker, but in that evening gown she has the (**ominous**, **stately**) bearing of a princess.
7. His idea of debate is to shout at the top of his lungs and (**brandish**, **comprise**) papers with "all the facts and figures."
8. No matter how ticklish the situation, the hero always devised some (**deft**, **rampant**) maneuver to avoid capture.
9. Alice felt that she had reached the (**pinnacle**, **solace**) of fame when the principal of her former school asked for her autograph.
10. The only sure way to (**suppress**, **brandish**) social unrest is to make possible a decent, secure life for the people.
11. His speech at first seemed highly dramatic and impressive, but we soon realized that he was quite (**destitute**, **musty**) of new ideas.
12. Vivian has the kind of (**supple**, **stately**) personality that can easily adapt itself to a wide variety of needs and conditions.
13. They tried to "explain away" their racial slur as a slip of the tongue, but in my opinion it was deliberate and (**premeditated**, **ominous**).
14. Let's prepare a joint statement that will (**accede**, **comprise**) the various objections of all civic groups to the freeway plan.
15. Ted and I were prepared for a sharp scolding but not for the (**ominous**, **inopportune**) silence with which Mr. Fenno greeted us.
16. Coming at a time when I was flat broke, Molly's suggestion that we "have a bite and go to the movies" was highly (**premeditated**, **inopportune**).
17. Surely you can find some (**solace**, **pinnacle**) in the knowledge that your father had the love and respect of everyone in this community.
18. I have no patience with the (**musty**, **stately**) old idea that young women are not "naturally equipped" to study medicine.
19. Even in the concentration camps, some basic feelings of decency and humanity were not completely (**brandished**, **extirpated**).
20. If the law is intended to limit non-essential use of gasoline and heating oil, it should state this (**explicitly**, **ironically**).