

Definitions

From the words in Group A and Group B following, choose the one that most nearly corresponds to each definition below. Write the word in the space at the right of the definition and in the illustrative phrase below it.

Group A

acuity (ə 'kyü ə iē)
delineate (di 'lin ē āt)
depraved (di 'prāvəd)
emend (ē 'mend)
enervate ('en əv 'vāt)
esoteric (es ə 'ter ik)

fecund ('fek ənd)
fiat ('fi at)
figment ('fig ment)
garner ('gār nər)
hallow ('hal ə)

- (v.) to portray, sketch, or describe in accurate and vivid detail; to represent pictorially _____
- (v.) to set apart as holy or sacred, sanctify, consecrate; to honor greatly, revere _____
- (v.) to correct; to alter to serve a new or different purpose _____
- (n.) a fabrication of the mind; an arbitrary notion just a(n) _____ of your imagination _____
- (n.) an arbitrary order or decree; a command or act of will or consciousness _____
- (adj.) intended for or understood by only a select few, private, secret _____
- (n.) sharpness (particularly of the mind or senses) the _____ of one's hearing _____
- (v.) to acquire as the result of effort; to gather and store away, as for future use _____
- (adj.) fruitful in offspring or vegetation; intellectually productive _____
- (v.) to weaken, lessen the mental, moral, or physical vigor of, enfeeble, hamstring _____

a mind that has been _____ by disease

- (adj.) brought to a state of evil and corruption, devoid of moral principles _____
- led a(n) _____ life

Group B

idiosyncrasy (id ē ə 'sjin krə sē)
ignominy ('ig nə min ē)
malediction (mal ə 'dik shən)
mundane (men 'dān)
nuance ('nü āns)
overweening (ōv 'wē niŋ)

penchant ('pen chənt)
reputed (ri 'pyüt id)
sophistry ('sáf ə stre)
sumptuous ('səmp chü əs)
ubiquitous (yü 'bik wə təs)

- (adj.) earthly, worldly, relating to practical and material affairs; concerned with what is ordinary _____
- (n.) a strong attraction or inclination a(n) _____ for belaboring the obvious _____
- (adj.) present or existing everywhere the _____ eye of the TV camera _____
- (adj.) according to reputation or general belief; having widespread acceptance and good reputation; (part.) alleged _____
- (n.) a curse, expression of hatred and condemnation the _____ head of a crime syndicate _____
- (adj.) conceited, presumptuous; excessive, immoderate _____
- (n.) reasoning that seems plausible but is actually unsound; a fallacy _____
- (n.) a subtle or slight variation (as in color, meaning, quality), delicate gradation or shade of difference a(n) _____ of meaning _____
- (adj.) costly, rich, magnificent a(n) _____ feast _____
- (n.) shame and disgrace the _____ resulting from the scandal _____
- (n.) a peculiarity that serves to distinguish or identify the _____ of English grammar _____

Completing the Sentence

Choose the word for this unit that best completes each of the following sentences. Write it in the space given.

- May I interrupt this abstruse discussion and turn your attention to more _____ matters—like what's for dinner?
- American-style fast-food shops have gained such popularity all over the world that they are now truly _____.
- You have many good traits, but I do not admire your _____ for borrowing things and failing to return them.
- His constant use of the word *fabulous*, even for quite ordinary subjects, is a(n) _____ that I could do without.
- The artist's sketch not only _____ the model's appearance accurately but also captured something of her personality.
- The passing years lessened her physical vigor but in no way diminished the _____ of her judgment.
- "Your suspicion that I am constantly making fun of you behind your back is a mere _____ of your overheated brain," I replied.
- I was so _____ by the oppressive heat and humidity of that awful afternoon that I could barely move.
- There is quite a difference between the austere furnishings of my little apartment and the _____ accommodations of a luxury hotel.
- Music can often express a(n) _____ of mood or feeling that would be difficult to put into words.
- He was a changed young man after he suffered the _____ of expulsion from West Point for conduct unbecoming a gentleman.
- The ground in which those soldiers are buried was _____ by the blood they shed on it.
- Most people I know are so busy dealing with the ordinary problems of life that they have no time for _____ philosophical speculation.
- Beneath the man's cultivated manner and impeccable grooming there lurked the _____ mind of a brutal sadist.
- Analysis will show that his "brilliant exposition" of how we can handle the pollution problem without cost to anyone is the merest _____.
- Her report is in general accurate and well written, but there are several respects in which I think it should be _____.

17. The man is _____ to have mob connections, but so far no one has actually substantiated the allegation.

18. There he stood like some grim Old Testament prophet, impotently hurling _____ at the rival who had so cleverly outfoxed him.

19. During the eleven years of his "personal rule," King Charles I bypassed Parliament and ruled England by royal _____.

20. The phonograph is but one of the wonderful new devices that sprang from the _____ mind of Thomas Edison, our most prolific inventor.

21. His _____ sense of superiority dominates his personality in much the same way as his beetling brow dominates his face.

22. The marathon not only brought in huge sums of money for Africa's starving masses but also _____ much sympathy for their plight.

Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly the same in meaning as each of the following items. Write the word in the space provided.

- an eccentricity, quirk, mannerism _____
- ordinary, prosaic, humdrum, routine; earthly, sublimary _____
- an inclination, proclivity, propensity _____
- disgrace, dishonor, humiliation _____
- a command, decree, edict, ukase _____
- a fabrication, creation, invention _____
- lavish, munificent, opulent, splendid _____
- omnipresent, pervasive, universal _____
- a curse, imprecation, anathema _____
- corrupt, perverted, degenerated, vicious _____
- specious reasoning, casuistry _____
- sharpness, keenness, acuteness _____
- to consecrate, sanctify; to venerate _____
- unbridled, immoderate, inflated _____
- to correct, revise, rectify; to adapt _____
- occult; cryptic; arcane, recondite _____
- to impair; to hamstring, cripple, paralyze _____

18. to collect, gather, accumulate
19. a subtle variation, gradation, nicety
20. to depict, portray, sketch, picture
21. supposed, alleged, putative; reputable
22. fruitful, fertile, teeming, prolific

Antonyms

Choose the word for this unit that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to each of the following items. Write it in the space given.

1. moral, virtuous, upright; uncorrupted
2. a blessing, benediction
3. skimpy, meager, stingy, niggardly; spartan
4. dullness, obtuseness
5. barren, infertile, unproductive
6. honor, glory, acclaim
7. restricted, limited; rare, scarce
8. proven, corroborated, authenticated
9. to invigorate; to strengthen, buttress
10. to spoil, mar, botch, mess up, damage
11. to desecrate, defile, profane
12. restrained, understated; modest, meek
13. heavenly; unworldly, spiritual, transcendental
14. accessible, comprehensible, intelligible
15. to scatter, squander, waste, dissipate
16. a natural disinclination

Choosing the Right Word

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

1. Your language is indeed clever and amusing, but your argument is nothing but a piece of outright (**sophistry**, **idiosyncrasy**).
2. In that rarefied atmosphere, I was afraid to ask about anything quite so (**sumptuous**, **mundane**) as the location of the john.

3. Probably no complaint of young people is more (**ubiquitous**, **depraved**) than "My parents don't understand me!"
4. Two synonyms are rarely exactly the same because (**fiats**, **nuances**) of tone or applicability make each of the words unique.
5. Few writers have J.D. Salinger's remarkable ability to (**delineate**, **emend**) the emotions and aspirations of the average teenager.
6. It is only in superior mental powers, not in physical strength or (**ignominy**, **acuity**) of the senses, that human beings surpass other living things.
7. In a democracy, the government must rule by persuasion and consent — not by mere (**fiat**, **sophistry**).
8. Someone with a pronounced (**penchant**, **figment**) for saying the wrong thing might justly be described as a victim of "foot-in-mouth" disease.
9. How I'd love to knock the wind out of the sails of that lout's (**fecund**, **overweening**) conceit!
10. Like a true fanatic, he considers anyone who disagrees with him on any issue to be either feeble-minded or (**depraved**, **mundane**).
11. The conversation between the computer programmers was so (**esoteric**, **ubiquitous**) that I wasn't even sure whether they were speaking English.
12. We will never abandon a cause that has been (**garnered**, **hallowed**) by its achievements and sacrifices of so many noble people.
13. A true sign of intellectual maturity is the ability to distinguish the (**figment** **maledictions**) of wishful thinking from reality.
14. Cleopatra took her own life rather than suffer the (**figment**, **ignominy**) of being led through the streets of Rome in chains.
15. Though Saint Paul borrowed that vivid image from Plato, he (**emended**, **garnered**) it to suit his own needs.
16. The alert defense put up by our team completely neutralized their opponents' (**reputedly**, **sumptuously**) unstoppable passing attack.
17. Her imagination is like a (**fecund**, **depraved**) field in which new ideas spring up like so many ripe ears of corn.
18. The tyrant noted wistfully that he was the object, not of his subjects' accolades, but of their (**maledictions**, **penchants**).
19. I appreciate all those kind expressions of gratitude for my services, but I had hoped also to (**emend**, **garner**) some greenbacks.
20. Scandal and corruption may so (**enervate**, **emend**) an administration that can no longer function effectively.
21. He means well, but we cannot tolerate his highly (**idiosyncratic**, **fecund**) behavior in an organization that depends on discipline and teamwork.
22. The (**sumptuous**, **ubiquitous**) banquet was a pleasant change of pace from the spartan fare to which I had become accustomed.