

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. **admonish** (ad 'mān ish) (v.) to caution or advise against something; to scold mildly; to remind of a duty _____ the noisy students
- 2. **breach** (brēch) (n.) an opening, gap; a violation or infraction; (v.) to create an opening, break through _____ the enemy's lines
- 3. **brigand** ('brig ənd) (n.) a bandit assaulted on the way by _____
- 4. **circumspect** ('sər kəm spekt) (adj.) careful, cautious try to behave in a _____ fashion
- 5. **commandeer** (kām ən 'dēr) (v.) to seize for military or official use the right to _____ private property
- 6. **cumbersome** ('kəm bər səm) (adj.) clumsy, hard to handle; slow-moving a _____ package
- 7. **deadlock** ('ded lək) (n.) a complete standstill; (v.) to bring to a standstill a 3-to-3 _____ after 15 innings
- 8. **debris** (də 'brē) (n.) scattered fragments, wreckage _____ resulting from the explosion
- 9. **diffuse** (v., dif 'yüz; adj., dif 'yus) (v.) to spread or scatter freely or widely; (adj.) wordy, long-winded, or unfocused; scattered or widely spread slowly _____ through the room
- 10. **dilemma** (di 'lem ə) (n.) a difficult or perplexing situation or problem caught in a painful _____
- 11. **efface** (e 'fas) (v.) to wipe out; to keep oneself from being noticed _____ all signs of the struggle
- 12. **muddle** ('mud əl) (v.) to make a mess of; *muddle through*: to get by; (n.) a hopeless mess a _____ caused by failure to obey my directions
- 13. **opinionated** (ə 'pin yən ət id) (adj.) stubborn and often unreasonable in holding to one's own ideas, having a closed mind too _____ to listen to her proposal
- 14. **perennial** (pə 'ren ə əl) (adj.) lasting for a long time, persistent; (n.) a plant that lives for many years a _____ favorite of the young

- 15. **predispose** (prē dis 'pōz) (v.) to incline to beforehand _____ me to colds
 - 16. **relinquish** (rē 'lɪŋ kwɪʃ) (v.) to let go, give up _____ his role in the class show
 - 17. **salvage** ('sal vlj) (v.) to save from fire or shipwreck; (n.) property thus saved _____
 - 18. **spasmodic** (spaz 'mād ik) (adj.) sudden and violent but brief; fitful, intermittent _____ a few things from the fire
 - 19. **spurious** ('spjū rē əs) (adj.) not genuine, not true, not valid reject the _____ will
 - 20. **unbridled** (ən 'brɪd əld) (adj.) uncontrolled, lacking in restraint the _____ enthusiasm of the fans
- 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. Though his partner lost everything, he was able to _____ a few dollars from the wreckage of the bankrupt business.
 - 2. He is so _____ that he won't even consider the ideas or suggestions offered by other people.
 - 3. The doctor became more and more fearful that her patient's weakened condition would _____ him to pneumonia.
 - 4. The nurse rushed into the hospital corridor to _____ the visitors who were creating a disturbance.
 - 5. The idea of a(n) _____ like Robin Hood who helps the poor appeals strongly to the popular imagination.
 - 6. I added a few drops of food coloring to the liquid and watched as they slowly _____ through it.
 - 7. The poor animal was subject to sudden seizures, during which its head and legs would jerk about in a wild and _____ manner.
 - 8. Though all modern scholars accept *Macbeth* as Shakespeare's work, one or two of the scenes may be _____.
 - 9. If I don't get a job, I won't have the money to do what I want, and if I do get a job, I won't have the time. What a(n) _____!
 - 10. The rug made such a(n) _____ bundle that it took four of us to carry it to the basement.

- 10. a robber, bandit, highwayman, outlaw _____
- 11. a standoff, stalemate, impasse _____
- 12. to rescue, recover, retrieve, reclaim _____
- 13. to give up, let go, surrender, abandon _____
- 14. irregular, intermittent, occasional, fitful _____
- 15. a predicament, quandary, "pickle," "bind" _____
- 16. enduring, persistent, recurring _____
- 17. confusion, disorder; to jumble, mess up _____
- 18. a gap, rupture, rift; to break through _____
- 19. rubble, detritus, flotsam and jetsam _____
- 20. obstinate, pigheaded, inflexible _____

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. genuine, authentic, bona fide, valid _____
- 2. incautious, rash, heedless, reckless _____
- 3. open-minded, reasonable _____
- 4. an easily solved problem, cinch _____
- 5. to keep, hold on to, retain, cling to _____
- 6. to praise, pat on the back _____
- 7. orderliness, tidiness, neatness _____
- 8. brief, short-lived, fleeting, ephemeral _____
- 9. continuous, steady; chronic _____
- 10. restrained, held in check, muted _____
- 11. to seal, close _____
- 12. easy to handle, manageable _____
- 13. to abandon; to scrap, junk _____
- 14. brief, concise, succinct; to concentrate _____
- 15. an agreement, accord; a breakthrough _____
- 16. to imprint permanently _____
- 17. to immunize against, shield from _____

- 11. Since we do not want to replace the plants in our garden every year, we favor _____ over annuals.
- 12. A man of towering pride and _____ ambition, he stopped at nothing to achieve his goals as quickly and directly as possible.
- 13. We had the heart-breaking task of clearing the _____ after the plane had crashed into the school building.
- 14. In order to capture the fleeing criminals, the police _____ our car and raced after the vanishing truck.
- 15. Once Great Britain had given up her vast overseas empire, she found that she had also _____ her position as a world power.
- 16. Though my memory is getting dimmer and dimmer with the slow passage of time, I doubt that the exciting events of my childhood will ever be totally _____ from my mind.
- 17. The water pouring through the _____ in the dam threatened to flood the entire valley.
- 18. The records of our club were in such a(n) _____ that we couldn't even determine which members had paid their dues.
- 19. The two sides in the labor dispute reached a(n) _____ when neither was willing to meet the other halfway.
- 20. Before Mrs. Kanner makes an investment, she studies all aspects of the situation in a most methodical and _____ manner.
- 21. The speech rambled on in such a(n) _____ and unfocused manner that, try as I might, I couldn't make out the speaker's point.

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.

- 1. take over, requisition, expropriate, seize _____
- 2. rambling, verbose, prolix; to disperse _____
- 3. cautious, wary, prudent, careful, guarded _____
- 4. to incline, make susceptible to _____
- 5. to blot out, erase, expunge, obliterate _____
- 6. false, counterfeit, fraudulent, bogus _____
- 7. to caution, warn, scold, call on the carpet _____
- 8. uncontrolled, unrestrained, unchecked _____
- 9. unwieldy, clumsy to handle; ponderous _____

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

1. His attempts to rid his administration of inefficiency were so **(unbridled, spasmodic)** that he came to be called the "reformer by fits and starts."
2. The "robber barons" were a group of 19th-century captains of industry who amassed wealth by means that a **(brigand, salvager)** might use.
3. The evidence intended to show that some races or nationalities are superior to others proved to be completely **(spurious, cumbersome)**.
4. How can you expect to succeed at your new job when you are **(diffused, predisposed)** to believe that it is "not right" for you?
5. The dean **(effaced, admonished)** the members of the team for neglecting their homework assignments.
6. The Senator refused to **(efface, relinquish)** the floor to any other speaker before he had finished his statement.
7. Instead of trying to **(commandeer, admonish)** the support of the student body, we must earn it by showing our sincerity and ability.
8. Like the rings a pebble makes in a pool of water, the good feelings generated by the speech **(diffused, relinquished)** through the crowd.
9. Since she is so convinced that there is only one right way—her way—I find her too **(circumspect, opinionated)** for my liking.
10. An economy in which the marketplace is considered "open" is one in which competition is more or less **(muddled, unbridled)**.
11. Is it too much to expect that I will be able to **(admonish, salvage)** a few shreds of self-respect from my humiliating failure?
12. Developing nations in all parts of the world face the **(perennial, spurious)** problem of gaining a higher level of economic growth.
13. Thus, the nation was faced with a **(dilemma, salvage)** in which either advance or retreat might endanger its vital interests.
14. My mother broke the **(debris, deadlock)** in the quarrel between my brother and me by saying that neither of us could use the car.
15. For the very reason that we are the most powerful nation in the world, we must be extremely **(circumspect, cumbersome)** in our foreign policy.
16. If only I could **(admonish, efface)** the memory of the look of shock and disappointment on my mother's face!
17. Our city government seems to have **(muddled, breached)** into a first-rate financial crisis.
18. The organization of the government is so **(cumbersome, spurious)** that it is all but impossible to know who is responsible for various activities.
19. After the fatal blaze, the fire patrol searched through the **(debris, breach)** for clues that might reveal the cause.
20. Even Sue's refusal to dance with him did not seem to make a **(deadlock, breach)** in his gigantic conceit.