

## Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

**1. allot**  
(ə lāt')

(v.) to assign or distribute in shares or portions

The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ books and supplies to each student on the first day of school.

SYNONYMS: apportion, parcel out, allocate

**2. amass**  
(ə mas')

(v.) to bring together, collect, gather, especially for oneself; to come together, assemble

A prudent investor can \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune in the stock market over the long run.

SYNONYMS: pile up, garner

ANTONYMS: scatter, dissipate, squander, waste

**3. audacious**  
(ô dâ' shəs)

(adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring

The audience cheered the \_\_\_\_\_ feats of the trapeze artists.

SYNONYMS: enterprising, brave

ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly

**4. comply**  
(kəm plī')

(v.) to yield to a request or command

Employees who fail to \_\_\_\_\_ with a company's rules may lose their jobs.

SYNONYMS: consent, acquiesce

ANTONYMS: reject, refuse, decline

**5. devoid**  
(di void')

(adj.) not having or using, lacking

The old well on my grandparents' property has long been \_\_\_\_\_ of water.

SYNONYMS: wanting, bereft

ANTONYMS: full, abounding

**6. elite**  
(ā lēt')

(n.) the choice part of a group of people or things;

(adj.) superior

Each year, the social \_\_\_\_\_ of the community sponsors several events to benefit local charities.

You can get a fine education regardless of whether you attend an \_\_\_\_\_ school.

SYNONYMS: (n.) cream of the crop, upper crust

ANTONYMS: (n.) rank and file, dregs of society

**7. grapple**  
(grap' əl)

(*n.*) an iron hook used to grab and hold; (*v.*) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with

A ship equipped with \_\_\_\_\_ may be used to recover large pieces of wreckage from the ocean floor.

Store employees \_\_\_\_\_ with the thieves and held them until the police arrived.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) tackle, confront, struggle with

**8. incapacitate**  
(in kə pas' ə tāt)

(*v.*) to deprive of strength or ability; to make legally ineligible

In the 1940s and 1950s, polio \_\_\_\_\_ many thousands of people each year all over the world.

SYNONYMS: debilitate, paralyze, cripple

ANTONYMS: rehabilitate, renew

**9. instigate**  
(in' stə gāt)

(*v.*) to urge on; to stir up, start, incite

Several demonstrators in the angry crowd did their best to \_\_\_\_\_ a riot.

ANTONYMS: stop, quell, squelch, quash

**10. longevity**  
(län jəv' ə tē)

(*n.*) long life, long duration, length of life

The sea turtle is known for its \_\_\_\_\_.

ANTONYMS: shortness, transience

**11. myriad**  
(mir' ē əd)

(*adj.*) in very great numbers; (*n.*) a very great number

Scientists continue to make new discoveries in their studies of the \_\_\_\_\_ life-forms of the jungle.

You will find information about a \_\_\_\_\_ of subjects on the Internet.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) innumerable, countless

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) few, scant, sparse

**12. perspective**  
(pər spek' tiv)

(*n.*) a point of view or general standpoint from which different things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance to the eye of various objects at a given time, place, or distance

The designs for the children's playhouse were drawn to scale and in the right \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: viewpoint, sense of proportion

**13. perturb**  
(pər tərb')

(*v.*) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into confusion

The rude and disruptive behavior of several party guests \_\_\_\_\_ the host and hostess.

SYNONYMS: upset, agitate, anger

ANTONYMS: delight, gladden, please

**14. prodigious**  
(prə dij' əs)

(*adj.*) immense; extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree

Few intellects have rivaled the \_\_\_\_\_ mind of Albert Einstein.

SYNONYMS: gigantic, tremendous, astounding

ANTONYMS: puny, minuscule, insignificant

**15. relevant**  
(rel' ə vənt)

(*adj.*) connected with or related to the matter at hand

I found several Web sites that provided information \_\_\_\_\_ to the topic of my research paper.

SYNONYMS: pertinent, germane, applicable

ANTONYMS: unconnected, extraneous

**16. skittish**  
(skit' ish)

(*adj.*) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid; extremely cautious; unstable, undependable

Only an experienced and confident rider should mount a \_\_\_\_\_ horse.

SYNONYMS: jumpy, restive, capricious, fickle

ANTONYMS: bold, daring, reckless, cool, unflappable

**17. tether**  
(teth' er)

(*n.*) a rope or chain used to fasten something to a fixed object; the outer limit of strength or resources; (*v.*) to fasten with a rope or chain

Some young people find it difficult to break the emotional and financial \_\_\_\_\_ that bind them to their parents.

Before the storm, I \_\_\_\_\_ the boat securely to the dock.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) tie up, chain up, leash

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) untie, let loose

**18. unison**  
(yū' nə sən)

(*n.*) a sounding together; agreement or accord

The members of our new student orchestra need to practice playing in \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: harmony, concord, assent

**19. vie**  
(vi)

(*v.*) to compete; to strive for victory or superiority

Many actors \_\_\_\_\_ for the leading role in the famous director's new film.

SYNONYMS: contend, rival

**20. willful**  
(wil' fəl)

(*adj.*) stubbornly self-willed; done on purpose, deliberate

After lengthy deliberations, the jury found the defendant guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ murder.

SYNONYMS: headstrong, obstinate, premeditated

ANTONYMS: docile, obedient, tractable