



## Definitions

*Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.*

- 1. approbation**  
(ap rə bā' shən)  
(n.) the expression of approval or favorable opinion, praise; official approval  
My broad hint that I had paid for the lessons myself brought smiles of \_\_\_\_\_ from all the judges at the piano recital.  
SYNONYMS: commendation, sanction  
ANTONYMS: disapproval, condemnation, censure
- 2. assuage**  
(ə swāj')  
(v.) to make easier or milder, relieve; to quiet, calm; to put an end to, appease, satisfy, quench  
Her eyes told me that more than a few well-chosen words would be needed to \_\_\_\_\_ her hurt feelings.  
SYNONYMS: mitigate, alleviate, slake, allay  
ANTONYMS: intensify, aggravate, exacerbate
- 3. coalition**  
(kō ə lish' ən)  
(n.) a combination, union, or merger for some specific purpose  
The various community organizations formed a \_\_\_\_\_ to lobby against parking laws.  
SYNONYMS: alliance, league, federation, combine  
ANTONYM: splinter group
- 4. decadence**  
(de' kə dəns)  
(n.) decline, decay, or deterioration; a condition or period of decline or decay; excessive self-indulgence  
Some characterized her love of chocolate as \_\_\_\_\_ because she ate at least two candy bars a day.  
SYNONYMS: degeneration, corruption  
ANTONYMS: rise, growth, development, maturation
- 5. elicit**  
(ē lis' it)  
(v.) to draw forth, bring out from some source (such as another person)  
My attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ information over the phone was met with a barrage of irrelevant recordings.  
SYNONYMS: call forth, evoke, extract, educe  
ANTONYMS: repress, quash, squelch, stifle
- 6. expostulate**  
(ik späs' chə lāt)  
(v.) to attempt to dissuade someone from some course or decision by earnest reasoning  
Shakespeare's Hamlet finds it useless to \_\_\_\_\_ with his mother for siding with his stepfather.  
SYNONYMS: protest, remonstrate, complain





Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com).

- 7. hackneyed**  
(hak' nēd)  
(*adj.*) used so often as to lack freshness or originality  
*The Great Gatsby* tells a universal story without being marred by \_\_\_\_\_ prose.  
SYNONYMS: banal, trite, commonplace, corny  
ANTONYMS: new, fresh, novel, original
- 8. hiatus**  
(hī ā' tās)  
(*n.*) a gap, opening, break (in the sense of having an element missing)  
I was awakened not by a sudden sound but by a \_\_\_\_\_ in the din of traffic.  
SYNONYMS: pause, lacuna  
ANTONYMS: continuity, continuation
- 9. innuendo**  
(in yū en' dō)  
(*n.*) a hint, indirect suggestion, or reference (often in a derogatory sense)  
Those lacking the facts or afraid of reprisals often tarnish an enemy's reputation by use of \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: insinuation, intimation  
ANTONYM: direct statement
- 10. intercede**  
(in tər sēd')  
(*v.*) to plead on behalf of someone else; to serve as a third party or go-between in a disagreement  
She will \_\_\_\_\_ in the dispute between the two children, and soon they will be playing happily again.  
SYNONYMS: intervene, mediate
- 11. jaded**  
(jā' did)  
(*adj.*) wearied, worn-out, dulled (in the sense of being satiated by excessive indulgence)  
The wilted handclasp and the fast-melting smile mark the \_\_\_\_\_ refugee from too many parties.  
SYNONYMS: sated, surfeited, cloyed  
ANTONYMS: unspoiled, uncloyed
- 12. lurid**  
(lūr' əd)  
(*adj.*) causing shock, horror, or revulsion; sensational; pale or sallow in color; terrible or passionate in intensity or lack of restraint  
Bright, sensational, and often \_\_\_\_\_, some old-time movie posters make today's newspaper ads look tame.  
SYNONYMS: gruesome, gory, grisly, baleful, ghastly  
ANTONYMS: pleasant, attractive, appealing, wholesome
- 13. meritorious**  
(mer i tōr' ē əs)  
(*adj.*) worthy, deserving recognition and praise  
Many years of \_\_\_\_\_ service could not dissuade him from feeling that he had not chosen work that he liked.  
SYNONYMS: praiseworthy, laudable, commendable  
ANTONYMS: blameworthy, reprehensible, discreditable





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- 14. petulant**  
(pech' ə lənt)  
(*adj.*) peevish, annoyed by trifles, easily irritated and upset  
An overworked parent may be unlikely to indulge the complaints of a \_\_\_\_\_ child.  
SYNONYMS: irritable, testy, waspish  
ANTONYMS: even-tempered, placid, serene, amiable
- 15. prerogative**  
(prē räg' ə tiv)  
(*n.*) a special right or privilege; a special quality showing excellence  
She seemed to feel that a snooze at her desk was not an annoying habit but the \_\_\_\_\_ of a veteran employee.  
SYNONYMS: perquisite, perk
- 16. provincial**  
(prə vin' shəl)  
(*adj.*) pertaining to an outlying area; local; narrow in mind or outlook, countrified in the sense of being limited and backward; of a simple, plain design that originated in the countryside; (*n.*) a person with a narrow point of view; a person from an outlying area; a soldier from a province or colony  
The banjo, once thought to be a \_\_\_\_\_ product of the Southern hills, actually came here from Africa.  
At first, a \_\_\_\_\_ may do well in the city using charm alone, but charm, like novelty, wears thin.  
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) narrow-minded, parochial, insular, naive  
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) cosmopolitan, catholic, broad-minded
- 17. simulate**  
(sim' yə lāt)  
(*v.*) to make a pretense of, imitate; to show the outer signs of  
Some skilled actors can \_\_\_\_\_ emotions they might never have felt in life.  
SYNONYMS: feign, pretend, affect
- 18. transcend**  
(tran send')  
(*v.*) to rise above or beyond, exceed  
A great work of art may be said to \_\_\_\_\_ time, and it is remembered for decades, or even centuries.  
SYNONYMS: surpass, outstrip
- 19. umbrage**  
(em' brəj)  
(*n.*) shade cast by trees; foliage giving shade; an overshadowing influence or power; offense, resentment; a vague suspicion  
She hesitated to offer her opinion, fearing that they would take \_\_\_\_\_ at her criticism.  
SYNONYMS: irritation, pique, annoyance  
ANTONYMS: pleasure, delight, satisfaction
- 20. unctuous**  
(əŋk' chü əs)  
(*adj.*) excessively smooth or smug; trying too hard to give an impression of earnestness, sincerity, or piety; fatty, oily; pliable  
Her constant inquiring about the health of my family at first seemed friendly, later merely \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: mealymouthed, servile, fawning, greasy  
ANTONYMS: gruff, blunt



## 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. I certainly appreciate your praise, but I must say that I can see nothing so remarkably \_\_\_\_\_ in having done what any decent person would do.
2. Since I don't like people who play favorites in the office, I have frequently \_\_\_\_\_ against such behavior with my superiors.
3. Various insects have a marvelous capacity to protect themselves by \_\_\_\_\_ the appearance of twigs and other objects in their environment.
4. In the question-and-answer session, we tried to \_\_\_\_\_ from the candidates some definite indication of how they proposed to reduce the national debt.
5. I feel that, as an old friend, I have the \_\_\_\_\_ of criticizing your actions without arousing resentment.
6. The only way to defeat the party in power is for all the reform groups to form a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and back a single slate of candidates.
7. Although we tried to express our sympathy, we knew that mere words could do nothing to \_\_\_\_\_ her grief.
8. Their tastes have been so \_\_\_\_\_ by luxurious living that they seem incapable of enjoying the simple pleasures of life.
9. Of course you have a right to ask the waiter for a glass of water, but is there any need to use the \_\_\_\_\_ tone of a spoiled child?
10. His confidence grew as he received clear signs of the \_\_\_\_\_ of his superiors.
11. During the brief \_\_\_\_\_ in the music, someone's ringing cell phone split the air.
12. I take no \_\_\_\_\_ at your personal remarks, but I feel you would have been better advised not to make them.
13. The midnight fire in our apartment building cast a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, unearthly light on the faces of the firefighters struggling to put it out.
14. The issue of good faith that your conduct raises far \_\_\_\_\_ the specific question of whether or not you are responsible for the problem.
15. If you cannot meet the college's entrance requirements, it will be futile to have someone \_\_\_\_\_ on your behalf.
16. If you take pride in expressing yourself with force and originality, you should not use so many \_\_\_\_\_ phrases.
17. In an age when the United States has truly global responsibilities, we cannot afford to have leaders with \_\_\_\_\_ points of view.



18. The manager expressed her unfavorable opinion of the job applicant by \_\_\_\_\_ rather than by direct statement.
19. Weakened militarily, and with a large part of the population living on free "bread and circuses," the once mighty Roman Empire now entered a period of \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Forever humbling himself and flattering others, Dickens' Uriah Heep is famously \_\_\_\_\_.

## Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **the same** or **most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. **pause** in the hectic workday
2. **insinuation** not supported by fact
3. **wearied** by too many compliments
4. impolite and **peevish** questions
5. a **perquisite** of her rank
6. exploding in **annoyance**
7. unceasing and **servile** modesty
8. **feign** a reconciliation
9. **alleviate** his worst fears
10. seeking the boss's **commendation**
11. **gruesome** tales of grave robbers
12. **protest** against a course of action
13. to **exceed** one's limitations
14. finding strength through an **alliance**
15. **mediate** in a dispute

## Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

16. the **development** of a civilization
17. a **broad-minded** approach to education
18. trying to **squelch** suggestions
19. a record of **discreditable** actions
20. a series of **novel** magic tricks



## Choosing the Right Word

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

1. The magnificence of the scene far (**simulated, transcended**) my ability to describe it in words.
2. The most (**meritorious, lurid**) form of charity, according to the ancient Hebrew sages, is to help a poor person to become self-supporting.
3. The American two-party system almost always makes it unnecessary to form a (**hiatus, coalition**) of minority parties to carry on the government.
4. To impress her newly made friends, she (**simulated, assuaged**) an interest in modern art, of which she knew nothing.
5. Apparently mistaking us for the millionaire's children, the hotel manager overwhelmed us with his (**petulant, unctuous**) attentions.
6. I see no point in (**expostulating, simulating**) with a person who habitually refuses to listen to reason.
7. After watching four TV football games on New Year's Day, I was (**jaded, hackneyed**) with the pigskin sport for weeks to come.
8. Anyone who thinks that it is still a gentleman's (**prerogative, hiatus**) to ask a lady to dance didn't attend our Senior Prom.
9. We cannot know today what sort of accent Abraham Lincoln had, but it may well be that there was a decidedly (**meritorious, provincial**) twang in his speech.
10. Who would have thought he would take (**prerogative, umbrage**) at an e-mail from a friend who wanted only to help?
11. My teacher is so accomplished that she can (**simulate, elicit**) some degree of interest and attention from even the most withdrawn children.
12. When the (**umbrage, hiatus**) in the conversation became embarrassingly long, I decided that the time had come to serve the sandwiches.
13. His skillful use of academic jargon and fashionable catchphrases could not conceal the essentially (**hackneyed, meritorious**) quality of his ideas.
14. On the air the star seemed calm, but he privately sent (**petulant, jaded**) notes to those who gave him bad reviews.
15. I truly dislike the kind of sensational popular biography that focuses solely on the more (**lurid, hackneyed**) or scandalous aspects of a superstar's career.
16. How can you accuse me of employing (**umbrage, innuendo**) when I am saying in the plainest possible language that I think you're a crook?
17. If you try to (**elicit, intercede**) in a lovers' quarrel, the chances are that you will only make things worse.
18. Popularity polls seem to be based on the mistaken idea that the basic task of a political leader is to win immediate (**approbation, coalition**) from the people.
19. They try to "prove" the (**umbrage, decadence**) of modern youth by emphasizing everything that is bad and ignoring whatever is good.
20. Perhaps it will (**expostulate, assuage**) your fright if I remind you that everyone must have a first date at some time in his or her life.



## Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

(Line)

### Screen Time

- Americans' love of the movies goes back to the early years of the twentieth century, when shabby little theaters charged a nickel to see a film about a **lurid** crime, a **meritorious** deed, or a thrilling chase. These twenty-minute "flickers," as many called them, offered a short but exciting **hiatus** from everyday life. By the (5) 1920s the movies had become big business, and cities bragged of cinema palaces three stories tall, their lobbies embellished with splendid carpeted stairways, plaster statues, and colorful lighting. Built in the center of town, these theaters showed brand-new, less **hackneyed**, and longer films, which were later shown (10) at smaller neighborhood theaters and in **provincial** towns.

- In the 1930s the Great Depression hit. Banks closed, businesses failed, and ten percent of Americans lost their jobs, while (15) many others accepted wage cuts and feared they would be next. By now it cost twenty cents to go to the movies, which was more than the price of a loaf of bread. Why should frightened people short of (20) cash spend money unnecessarily?

- Movie-makers came up with clever answers. For many years they had made films in which poor people proved themselves smarter, kinder, or braver (25) than the rich and **jaded**. To these they now added movies made from novels set in faraway times and places unlike the alarming here and now. Theaters began showing two full-length films for the price of one, added a cartoon, gave away dishes, and awarded money to the holder of the lucky ticket on "bank night." Ticket sales climbed, and going to the movies (30) every week became an American pastime.



Hollywood Premiere of "The Robe," 1953

1. The meaning of **lurid** (line 2) is
  - a. unsolved
  - b. ghastly
  - c. true
  - d. ridiculous
2. **Meritorious** (line 3) most nearly means
  - a. difficult
  - b. praiseworthy
  - c. wicked
  - d. unusual
3. **Hiatus** (line 4) is best defined as
  - a. story
  - b. excerpt
  - c. pause
  - d. lesson
4. The meaning of **hackneyed** (line 8) is
  - a. ragged
  - b. exciting
  - c. noisy
  - d. trite
5. **Provincial** (line 11) most nearly means
  - a. outlying
  - b. prosperous
  - c. deserving
  - d. middle-size
6. **Jaded** (line 25) is best defined as
  - a. famous
  - b. notorious
  - c. disappointed
  - d. surfeited