

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



See page T21 for information.

**UNIT 1**

**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. admonish**  
(ad män' ish)

(v.) to caution or advise against something; to scold mildly; to remind of a duty

The librarian had to \_\_\_\_\_ the noisy students several times before they settled down.

SYNONYMS: warn, call on the carpet  
ANTONYMS: praise, pat on the back
- 2. breach**  
(brēch)

(n.) an opening, gap, rupture, rift; a violation or infraction; (v.) to create an opening, break through

Because of a serious \_\_\_\_\_ of the rules, two players were ejected from the game.

Our troops were unable to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy's lines during the battle.

ANTONYMS: (v.) close, seal
- 3. brigand**  
(brig' ənd)

(n.) a bandit, robber, outlaw, highwayman

Ancient caravans passing through desolate areas were sometimes attacked by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. circumspect**  
(sər' kəm spekt)

(adj.) careful, cautious

It is important for a diplomat to behave in a manner that is both discreet and \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: wary, prudent, guarded  
ANTONYMS: incautious, rash, reckless, heedless
- 5. commandeering**  
(käm ən dēr')

(v.) to seize for military or official use

Under certain circumstances the U.S. government has the right to \_\_\_\_\_ private property.

SYNONYMS: take over, requisition, expropriate
- 6. cumbersome**  
(kəm' bər səm)

(adj.) clumsy, hard to handle; slow-moving

The bus was filled to capacity with holiday shoppers carrying large and \_\_\_\_\_ packages.

SYNONYMS: unwieldy, ponderous  
ANTONYMS: manageable, easy to handle
- 7. deadlock**  
(ded' läk)

(n.) a standstill resulting from the opposition of two equal forces or factions; (v.) to bring to such a standstill

After fifteen innings, the score remained a frustrating 3-to-3 \_\_\_\_\_.

The refusal of labor and management to modify their demands  
\_\_\_\_\_ the contract negotiations.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) standoff, stalemate, impasse

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) agreement, accord, breakthrough

**8. debris**  
(də brē')

(*n.*) scattered fragments, wreckage

After the storm, the beach was littered with driftwood and other \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: rubble, detritus, flotsam and jetsam

**9. diffuse**  
(*v.*, dif yūz';  
*adj.*, dif yūs')

(*v.*) to spread or scatter freely or widely; (*adj.*) wordy, long-winded, or unfocused; scattered or widely spread

The scent of lilacs slowly \_\_\_\_\_ through the open window.

The speech was so long and \_\_\_\_\_ that most members of the audience were thoroughly confused by it.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) disperse; (*adj.*) rambling, verbose, prolix

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) concentrate; (*adj.*) brief, concise, succinct

**10. dilemma**  
(di lem' ə)

(*n.*) a difficult or perplexing situation or problem

During the crisis the President found himself caught in a painful \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: predicament, quandary, pickle, bind

ANTONYM: cinch

**11. efface**  
(e fās')

(*v.*) to wipe out; to keep oneself from being noticed

Time had \_\_\_\_\_ almost all signs of the struggle that took place on that famous battlefield.

SYNONYMS: blot out, erase, obliterate, expunge

**12. muddle**  
(məd' əl)

(*v.*) to make a mess of; *muddle through*: to get by; (*n.*) a hopeless mess

Too much stress and too little sleep will almost certainly \_\_\_\_\_ a person's ability to concentrate.

The \_\_\_\_\_ was principally caused by their failure to carry out the general's orders properly.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) jumble, mess up; (*n.*) confusion, disorder

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) orderliness, tidiness, neatness

**13. opinionated**  
(ə pin' yən āt id)

(*adj.*) stubborn and often unreasonable in holding to one's own ideas, having a closed mind.

My boss is not too \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to a reasonable proposal.

SYNONYMS: obstinate, pigheaded, inflexible

ANTONYMS: open-minded, reasonable



**14. perennial**  
(pə ren' ē əl)

(*adj.*) lasting for a long time, persistent; (*n.*) a plant that lives for many years

Pizza is a \_\_\_\_\_ favorite of young and old alike in the United States.

A garden of \_\_\_\_\_ is relatively easy to maintain.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) enduring, recurring

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) brief, short-lived, fleeting, ephemeral

**15. predispose**  
(prē dis pōz')

(*v.*) to incline to beforehand

My genetic makeup seems to \_\_\_\_\_ me to colds and sore throats.

SYNONYM: make susceptible to

ANTONYMS: immunize against, shield from

**16. relinquish**  
(rē liŋ' kwish)

(*v.*) to let go, give up

Severe illness forced me to \_\_\_\_\_ my role in the school play.

SYNONYMS: surrender, abandon

ANTONYMS: hold on to, keep, retain, cling to

**17. salvage**  
(sal' vij)

(*v.*) to save from fire or shipwreck; (*n.*) property thus saved

Fortunately, we were able to \_\_\_\_\_ a few things from the fire.

\_\_\_\_\_ from sunken ships can be of great value to archaeologists and historians.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) rescue, recover, retrieve, reclaim

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) abandon, scrap, junk

**18. spasmodic**  
(spaz mād' ik)

(*adj.*) sudden and violent but brief; fitful; intermittent

\_\_\_\_\_ flashes of lightning and booming thunderclaps were accompanied by torrential rain.

SYNONYMS: irregular, occasional

ANTONYMS: steady, continuous, chronic

**19. spurious**  
(spyū' rē əs)

(*adj.*) not genuine, not true, not valid

Manufacturers who make \_\_\_\_\_ claims for their products may face fines or lawsuits.

SYNONYMS: false, counterfeit, fraudulent, bogus

ANTONYMS: genuine, authentic, bona fide, valid

**20. unbridled**  
(ən brīd' əld)

(*adj.*) uncontrolled, lacking in restraint

Sometimes the \_\_\_\_\_ enthusiasm of sports fans can get a little out of hand.

SYNONYMS: unrestrained, unchecked

ANTONYMS: restrained, held in check, muted