

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. **amiss** (ə 'mis)
(adj.) faulty, imperfect, not as it should be; (adv.) in a mistaken or improper way, wrongly
when things have gone _____
2. **brawl** (brɔ:l)
(n.) a noisy quarrel or fight; (v.) to quarrel or fight noisily
a barroom _____
3. **detest** (di 'test)
(v.) to hate, dislike very much, loathe
_____ spinach
4. **domestic** (də 'mes tik)
(adj.) native to a country, not foreign; relating to the life or affairs of a household; (n.) a household servant
a pleasant _____ setting
5. **flagrant** ('flæ grənt)
(adj.) extremely bad, glaring; scandalous, notorious
_____ disregard for the law
6. **flaw** (flɔ:
(n.) a slight fault, defect, crack
a _____ in the plan
7. **fledgling** ('fleʒ lɪŋ)
(n.) an inexperienced person, beginner; a young bird about to leave the nest; (adj.) inexperienced, budding
a _____ officer
8. **fluster** ('flʌs tər)
(v.) to make or become confused, agitated, or nervous;
(n.) a state of confusion or agitation
became _____ and tongue-tied
9. **foremost** ('fɔ: mɔ:st)
(adj.) chief, most important, primary; (adv.) in the first place
_____ among my interests
10. **momentum** (mə 'ment əm)
(n.) the force or speed with which something moves
began to gain _____
11. **notable** ('nəʊ ə bəl)
(adj.) striking, remarkable; (n.) a person who is well known, distinguished; or outstanding in some way
a _____ event in our lives
12. **nurture** ('nər tʃər)
(v.) to bring up, care for, train, nourish; (n.) rearing, training, upbringing
_____ the young
13. **paradox** ('pær ə dɔ:ks)
(n.) a self-contradictory statement that on closer examination proves true; a person or thing with seemingly contradictory qualities
a total _____ as a person

14. **perjury** ('per jə re)
(n.) the act of swearing to a lie
convicted of _____
15. **presume** (pri 'zʊm)
(v.) to take for granted, assume or suppose; to dare, take upon oneself, take liberties
_____ on our hospitality
16. **prior** ('pri ə r)
(adj.) earlier, former
a _____ appointment
17. **proficient** (pre 'fɪʃ ə nt)
(adj.) skilled, expert, or capable in any field or activity
a _____ cook
18. **salvo** ('sai vɔ)
(n.) a burst of gunfire or cannon shot, often as a tribute or salute; a sudden burst of anything; a spirited verbal attack
a _____ of laughter
19. **vigilant** ('vij ə lə nt)
(adj.) wide-awake, alert, watchful
_____ guards
20. **wrath** (trəθ)
(n.) intense anger
fear the _____ of God

Completing the Sentence. Choose the word from this unit that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. I wouldn't call such a(n) _____ and premeditated lie merely a "minor lapse of memory."
2. Like a(n) _____ eagle about to leave the nest for the first time, our son is preparing to spend his first summer away from home.
3. Though his career as a whole was not particularly distinguished, he did score one _____ success on Broadway a few years ago.
4. Her parents _____ her musical talents by hiring the finest teachers and taking her to hear the performances of great musicians.
5. We suspected that something was _____ when he did not return home from school at the usual time.
6. I must warn you again that if you fail to tell the truth, you may lay yourself open to a charge of _____.
7. The biggest financier in the United States is the housewife who controls the _____ food budget.
8. At what point does a spinning top lose sufficient _____ to topple over?

- 9. Some people truly love the music of such modern composers as Arnold Schoenberg or Igor Stravinsky; others absolutely _____ it.
- 10. In most respects she is a fine person, but excessive stubbornness is the one important _____ in her character.
- 11. We must be _____ in recognizing the early signs of decay in our community and move quickly to improve conditions.
- 12. That terrible instruments of war should in fact prove useful as guardians of the peace is one of the _____ of modern life.
- 13. I have no way of knowing for sure why she left, but I _____ that she had a good reason for doing so.
- 14. When two players suddenly started to throw punches at each other during last night's game, an ugly bench-clearing _____ ensued.
- 15. It's a fact that some important battles of the American Revolution occurred _____ to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- 16. In the old days, wooden battleships saluted their victorious admiral by repeatedly firing _____ of cannon shot from their decks.
- 17. First and _____ among her many outstanding qualities is her ability to understand the points of view of other people.
- 18. How do you explain the fact that some students who do poorly in math are highly _____ in figuring out batting averages?
- 19. I well remember how often during my childhood I felt the full force of my parents' _____ when I had done something wrong.
- 20. The speaker went right on with his speech, in no way _____ or disturbed by the jeers and catcalls of a few rowdy hecklers.

Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly the same in meaning as each of the following groups of expressions. Write the word on the line given.

- 1. an imperfection, defect, fault, blemish _____
- 2. rage, fury, ire, choier, indignation _____
- 3. drive, thrust, force, impetus _____
- 4. alert, watchful, attentive, on one's toes _____
- 5. to agitate, rattle, disconcert _____
- 6. household; native; tame; a servant _____
- 7. earlier, previous, before, anterior _____

- 8. to despise, loathe, abhor _____
- 9. a scuffle, donnybrook; to spar, lock horns _____
- 10. false witness, lying under oath _____
- 11. noteworthy, remarkable, impressive _____
- 12. competent, adept, able, skilled, expert _____
- 13. a beginner, novice, tyro, neophyte _____
- 14. chief, leading, principal, paramount _____
- 15. to suppose, surmise; to trespass, infringe _____
- 16. to raise, rear, bring up; to foster _____
- 17. a riddle, enigma, anomaly, absurdity _____
- 18. faulty, awry, not as it should be _____
- 19. a barrage, volley, burst _____
- 20. glaring, blatant, gross, outrageous _____

Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to each of the following groups of expressions. Write the word on the line given.

- 1. to relish, love, admire, esteem _____
- 2. sleepy, inattentive, unobservant _____
- 3. undistinguished, unremarkable, unknown _____
- 4. subsequent, later, ensuing, following _____
- 5. properly, as it should be, in order _____
- 6. favor, approval, pleasure, blessing _____
- 7. petty, piddling, trifling, inconsequential _____
- 8. a pro, past master, expert, veteran _____
- 9. incompetent, inept, unskilled, ignorant _____
- 10. to reassure, put at ease, soothe, quiet _____
- 11. foreign, alien; wild, untamed _____
- 12. to know for sure, know for certain _____
- 13. faultlessness, perfection _____
- 14. to neglect, ignore; to discourage, hinder _____
- 15. hindmost, last; secondary _____



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

1. She may have given wrong information in court, but this was an honest mistake and certainly does not make her guilty of (**perjury, wrath**).
2. I am disturbed by the (**momentum, paradox**) of impoverished people in the richest land on earth.
3. No parent can ever be (**vigilant, amiss**) enough to prevent a small child from taking many a painful tumble.
4. Since there had been no (**prior, proficient**) notice of the scholarship competition, we had practically no time to prepare for it.
5. It was hard to believe that the small, rather ordinary-looking person who was standing before us was a world-famous (**notable, fledgling**).
6. To say that the U.S. Constitution is one of the greatest documents of all time does not mean that it is entirely without (**momentum, flaws**).
7. I can forgive an honest mistake, but I (**presume, detest**) any attempt to cover up errors by lying.
8. The charges of incompetence the candidate leveled at her opponent were but the opening (**brawf, salvo**) in her campaign to become mayor.
9. Please don't take it (**amiss, notably**) if I suggest that your French accent sounds more like Paris, Texas, than Paris, France.
10. The rather skinny boy whom we had noticed only two years before as a (**prior, fledgling**) quarterback was now an all-American!
11. Abraham Lincoln had very little formal schooling, but his mind was (**nurtured, flawed**) by such great works as the Bible and Shakespeare.
12. Under the American system of justice, any person accused of a crime is (**presumed, flawed**) to be innocent until proven guilty.
13. Though I hadn't expected to be treated quite so unkindly by the audience, I didn't become (**flustered, nurtured**) or lose my professional cool.
14. The easternmost tip of Cuba was the first populated area in the region to feel the (**paradox, wrath**) of Hurricane Zaida.
15. As support for our candidate continued to gain (**momentum, salvo**), it soon became clear that he would win the election by a landslide.
16. Her happy (**domestic, nurture**) life gives her a great deal of relief from the everyday strains of running a large company.
17. *Romeo and Juliet* opens with members of the rival houses of Montague and Capulet (**brawling, perjuring**) like drunkards in the streets of Verona.
18. She worked so easily and quietly that at first we did not realize quite how remarkably (**proficient, amiss**) she was in the laboratory.
19. (**Foremost, Flagrant**) among the reasons that so many millions of immigrants have come to the United States is the desire for freedom.
20. How can you expect the court to excuse your repeated and (**flagrant, vigilant**) violations of the traffic laws?