

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. **abound**
(ə 'baʊnd)
(v.) to be plentiful, be filled
_____ with ideas
2. **braggart**
('bræg ɔ:rt)
(n.) a boaster; (adj.) boastful in a loud, annoying way
a cocky _____
3. **cache**
(kæʃ)
(n.) a hiding place; something hidden or stored
a _____ of food
4. **clarification**
(kla:ə fei 'kæʃən)
(n.) the act of making clear or understandable, an explanation
a _____ of the statement
5. **despondent**
(di 'spɒndənt)
(adj.) sad, without hope, discouraged
in a _____ mood
6. **embezzle**
(em 'beiz əl)
(v.) to steal property entrusted to one's care
_____ campaign funds
7. **heartrending**
('hɑ:rt ren dɪŋ)
(adj.) causing mental pain or grief
a _____ sight
8. **leisurely**
(li 'ʒɜ:li ə)
(adj.) unhurried, taking plenty of time; (adv.) in an easygoing or unhurried way
a _____ stroll through the park
9. **lethargic**
(le 'θɑ:rdʒɪk)
(adj.) unnaturally sleepy; dull, slow-moving; indifferent
became _____ after dinner
10. **malady**
('mæl əd ə)
(n.) a sickness, illness, disease, disorder
a childhood _____
11. **mellow**
('mel ə)
(adj.) ripe, well matured; soft, sweet, and rich; gentle, pleasant; (v.) to become gentle and sweet
became more _____ with age
12. **nomadic**
(nə 'mædɪk)
(adj.) wandering, moving about from place to place
lead a _____ life
13. **piecemeal**
(pi:əs meɪl)
(adj.) one piece at a time; (adv.) gradually
do the job _____
14. **quest**
(kwesɪt)
(n.) a search, hunt; (v.) to search, seek, ask
the _____ for peace
15. **random**
('rændəm)
(adj.) by chance, not planned or prearranged; irregular
a _____ sampling of voters

- 16. **rant** (rant) (v.) to speak wildly and noisily; (n.) loud, violent talk
like a rabble-rouser
- 17. **reinforce** (re in 'fɔrs) (v.) to make stronger with new materials or support
a building
- 18. **seclusion** (si 'kiu zhan) (n.) isolation from others, solitude
live in _____
- 19. **status** ('sta tes) (n.) a person's condition or position in the eyes of the law; relative rank or standing, especially in society; prestige
boosted her _____
- 20. **turmoil** ('ter moll) (n.) a state of great confusion or disorder; mental strain or agitation
a society in _____

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. The two brothers are both fine athletes, but Tom is quiet and modest, while Hal is an awful _____.
- 2. Instead of trying to decide which applicants were best suited for the job, he selected two of them at _____.
- 3. Arthritis is a(n) _____ that attacks many millions of people, especially in middle and old age.
- 4. Though I am always full of pep during the morning, I start to become a little _____ as the day wears on.
- 5. After putting up all week with the noise and confusion of life in the big city, I enjoy the _____ of my mountain retreat on weekends.
- 6. The park is always full of soapbox orators _____ and raving about the sins of government, society, or the human condition.
- 7. Apparently the man could pay off his staggering gambling debts only by _____ funds from the company that employed him.
- 8. The _____ of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era was succeeded by 100 years of relative peace and quiet in Europe.
- 9. Modern-day terrorists are known to secrete sizable _____ of weapons and other essentials in many cities throughout the world.

- 10. Most detectives solve crimes in a(n) _____ fashion, as clues come to light, rather than all at once.
- 11. The tenor's voice was rich and _____, but the baritone's sounded somewhat harsh and unpleasant.
- 12. The lake so _____ with trout and pickerel that even a person with my limited skill in fishing can catch them easily.
- 13. Yesterday I read a truly _____ account of the plight of millions of Africans suffering from the effects of a severe famine.
- 14. When I couldn't at first make out what she wanted me to do, I asked her for some _____ of her instructions.
- 15. In order to prevent the illegal entry of aliens into the United States, it has been necessary to _____ our border patrols.
- 16. It's natural to feel a little _____ about not getting the job, but don't let that prevent you from applying for others.
- 17. Though Ponce de León's _____ for the Fountain of Youth proved futile, he did discover Florida.
- 18. Hundreds of homeless people now lead essentially _____ lives on the streets of cities all across this country.
- 19. When I first entered this country, I was classified as a "resident alien," but my _____ has changed since then.
- 20. Every once in a while, I like to take time out from my busy schedule to have a(n) _____ dinner with old friends.

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. roving, roaming, vagrant, migratory, itinerant _____
- 2. rank, standing, situation; prestige _____
- 3. a search, hunt, pursuit _____
- 4. sleepy; lazy, sluggish; indifferent _____
- 5. solitude, isolation _____
- 6. moving, sad, heartbreaking, poignant _____
- 7. chance; haphazard, arbitrary _____
- 8. an explanation, elucidation, explication _____
- 9. slow, unhurried, relaxed _____
- 10. to steal, swindle, defraud _____

11. sweet, dulcet; gentle; ripe; rich, creamy
12. to rave, fume, get up on a soapbox
13. disorder, upheaval, tumult, chaos
14. a stockpile, hoard, store
15. dejected, discouraged, down in the dumps
16. to strengthen, bolster, prop up, support
17. a boaster, bigmouth, blowhard
18. bit by bit, a little at a time
19. an ailment, illness, disease
20. to burst with, overflow with, teem with

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. peace and quiet, order
2. wide-awake, alert; energetic, dynamic
3. all at once, in one fell swoop
4. jubilant, elated, on top of the world
5. to lack, want, be in short supply
6. planned, deliberate; systematic
7. to weaken, undermine, sap, impair
8. stationary, settled, rooted, fixed
9. hasty, hurried, rushed, hectic
10. amusing, funny, hilarious
11. unripe, green; harsh, grating, strident
12. the thick of things
13. health, well-being
14. to speak calmly and reasonably; to whisper
15. someone who doesn't blow his or her own horn

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

1. The eternal (**quest, seclusion**) for youth and beauty explains the huge sales of cosmetics, to men as well as women.
2. My experience on my summer job has (**reinforced, abounded**) many of the lessons I learned in the classroom.
3. There is a great difference between being quietly confident of your own ability and being an obnoxious (**nomad, braggart**).
4. Though he (**rants, embezzles**) on endlessly about the problems of the world, he has little to offer in the way of solutions to them.
5. As soon as I opened the book, I realized that I had stumbled on a rich (**cache, braggart**) of useful information for my report.
6. People who waste the natural resources of this country are in a sense (**embezzling, reinforcing**) the wealth of future generations.
7. Why would a world-famous writer choose to live in the (**quest, seclusion**) of a country village far from the "maddening crowd"?
8. She tried to appear calm and collected, but we could see that her mind was in a state of (**turmoil, status**).
9. Only the fact that they cannot see the seriousness of the emergency can explain their (**lethargic, nomadic**) response to our appeal for help.
10. Instead of such (**mellow, piecemeal**) efforts to prevent air pollution, we need a unified campaign that will be continued for as long as necessary.
11. I believe that education, understanding, and experience provide the only cure for the (**malady, status**) of racial prejudice.
12. Over the years I have learned one thing about rumors: Where the facts are few, fictions (**abound, clarify**).
13. In the (**heartrending, lethargic**) conclusion of the opera, the heroine dies in the arms of her beloved.
14. For weeks a gang of muggers wandered the streets aimlessly, choosing their victims at (**random, piecemeal**) from those who happened by.
15. Our present policy appears to be so contradictory that I believe some (**clarification, turmoil**) of it is in order.
16. At the time when this event happened, I was very angry, but over the years my emotions have (**mellowed, reinforced**).
17. The President went on the air to inform the general public of the present (**malady, status**) of the negotiations with the hijackers.
18. Since I was in no hurry to get where I was going, I decided to set a rather (**random, leisurely**) pace for myself.
19. (**Nomadic, Despondent**) tribes of horse breeders still wander the plains of Central Asia in search of pasturage for their herds.
20. Many doctors believe that when sick people become very (**heartrending, despondent**) about their health, it is more difficult for them to recover.