

## 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. **agitation**  
(aɪ i 'tā shən)  
(n.) a violent stirring or movement; noisy confusion, excitement; a stirring up of public enthusiasm  
\_\_\_\_\_ for tax reform
2. **blurt**  
(blɜrt)  
(v.) to say suddenly or without thinking  
\_\_\_\_\_ out the truth
3. **chronological**  
(kriːn əl 'ɔ:l i keɪl)  
(adj.) arranged in order of time of occurrence  
in \_\_\_\_\_ order
4. **countenance**  
('kaun te nans)  
(n.) a face, facial expression; (v.) to tolerate or approve  
her smiling \_\_\_\_\_
5. **diminish**  
(di 'min ish)  
(v.) to make or become smaller, reduce in size  
\_\_\_\_\_ in popularity
6. **enchant**  
(en 'chant)  
(v.) to please greatly; to charm, put under a magic spell  
\_\_\_\_\_ everyone in the room
7. **fluctuate**  
('flik chū āl)  
(v.) to change continually; to move up and down  
prices that \_\_\_\_\_
8. **foster**  
('fɒs tər)  
(v.) to bring up, give care to; to promote, encourage;  
(adj.) in the same family but not related by birth  
a \_\_\_\_\_ child
9. **grovel**  
('græv əl)  
(v.) to humble oneself, act in a fearful and servile way; to lie face downward; to indulge in something base or unworthy  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the dirt
10. **handicraft**  
('han də krɑft)  
(n.) work done by hand; a trade requiring hand skill;  
(adj.) relating to skilled work done by hand  
a \_\_\_\_\_ shop
11. **hilarious**  
(hi 'lār ē əs)  
(adj.) extremely funny, causing loud amusement  
a \_\_\_\_\_ story
12. **ignite**  
(ɪg 'nɪt)  
(v.) to set on fire, cause to burn; to heat up, excite  
\_\_\_\_\_ the charcoal
13. **magnitude**  
('mæg nə tju:d)  
(n.) the great size or importance of something  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of the task
14. **massive**  
('mæs ɪv)  
(adj.) large and heavy; great in size or scope  
a \_\_\_\_\_ block of stone

15. **maternal**  
(me 'ter nəl)  
(adj.) of or like a mother  
\_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities
16. **pall**  
(pɔl)  
(v.) to lose in interest, attraction, or effectiveness; to become tiresome; (n.) a dark covering, something that conceals  
cast a \_\_\_\_\_ over the proceedings
17. **reputable**  
('rep yət ə beɪl)  
(adj.) well thought of, having a good reputation  
a \_\_\_\_\_ dealer
18. **revere**  
(ri 'vēr)  
(v.) to love and respect deeply, honor greatly  
\_\_\_\_\_ our flag
19. **saga**  
('sæg ə)  
(n.) a narrative of heroic exploits; a long, detailed account  
an Icelandic \_\_\_\_\_
20. **stodgy**  
('stɔ:dʒ ə)  
(adj.) dull, boring; old-fashioned, hidebound; lumpy, thick  
a \_\_\_\_\_ person

### 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. Our study of American history has taught us to \_\_\_\_\_ the great men and women who founded this nation.
2. Statements \_\_\_\_\_ out in anger may often be regretted for a long time afterward.
3. We had hoped to have a wonderful time at the party, but the sad news of Anne's accident cast a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ over the gathering.
4. We will donate the proceeds of the cake sale to any \_\_\_\_\_ charity you may select.
5. His attitudes are so incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ and hidebound that they would have been considered old-fashioned 100 years ago!
6. In the \_\_\_\_\_ of Eric the Red, there is a very interesting account of the Norse discovery of North America in A.D. 1000.
7. Can you imagine my \_\_\_\_\_ when I was told I would have to take over the lead role in the play immediately, with no rehearsals!
8. "When I was living among the Stone Age aborigines of Western Australia, I learned many curious skills and \_\_\_\_\_," the explorer said.
9. The number and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the problems faced by the President of the United States are almost beyond our imagination.

10. The two little girls playing "house" down in the basement fussed over the doll with all the \_\_\_\_\_ care and attention that their own mothers bestowed on them.
11. How can you \_\_\_\_\_ such rude behavior in a young child!
12. Even though I need a job badly, I still have my self-respect, and I am not going to \_\_\_\_\_ just to get work.
13. With no money coming in and my daily expenses continuing to mount, my savings have \_\_\_\_\_ at an alarming rate.
14. The pilot light of the stove will automatically \_\_\_\_\_ the burner when the handle is turned to the "on" position.
15. The audience was \_\_\_\_\_ not only by the lovely voice of the soprano but by her youthful good looks as well.
16. She was very fortunate to have talented and sympathetic teachers who \_\_\_\_\_ her career.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ towers of the World Trade Center rising more than 100 stories above us made us feel like ants.
18. Instead of moving steadily upwards or steadily downwards, the price of the stock I own has been \_\_\_\_\_ all year.
19. The waves of laughter from the audience indicated that those around me found the comedian's jokes \_\_\_\_\_, but I was bored silly.
20. Educators report that there is often a vast difference between a child's mental age and his or her \_\_\_\_\_ age.

### 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. reliable, respectable, trustworthy \_\_\_\_\_
2. a manual art, manual skill; handiwork \_\_\_\_\_
3. to honor, admire, esteem, cherish \_\_\_\_\_
4. stuffy, hidebound; dull, boring \_\_\_\_\_
5. to promote, support, nurture \_\_\_\_\_
6. to inflame; light, kindle \_\_\_\_\_
7. bulky, huge, immense, monumental \_\_\_\_\_
8. gloom, a shadow; to bore, weary \_\_\_\_\_

9. a face; an expression; to tolerate \_\_\_\_\_
10. motherly; protective, sympathetic \_\_\_\_\_
11. to blab out, let slip \_\_\_\_\_
12. size, extent, importance, immensity \_\_\_\_\_
13. to lessen, reduce, decrease, dwindle \_\_\_\_\_
14. to waver, seesaw, oscillate \_\_\_\_\_
15. in sequence of time, consecutive \_\_\_\_\_
16. to delight, thrill; to bewitch \_\_\_\_\_
17. to crouch, cower, cringe; to wallow \_\_\_\_\_
18. excitement, disquiet, uneasiness, upset \_\_\_\_\_
19. very funny, highly amusing \_\_\_\_\_
20. a heroic tale, epic, chronicle \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 scorn, disdain; to mock, deride \_\_\_\_\_
2. smallness, unimportance, insignificance \_\_\_\_\_
3. boring, dull; humorless; heartrending \_\_\_\_\_
4. to bore; to nauseate, disgust \_\_\_\_\_
5. fatherly, paternal \_\_\_\_\_
6. to quench, extinguish, douse, put out \_\_\_\_\_
7. to stay put, remain unchanged \_\_\_\_\_
8. to increase, enlarge, augment \_\_\_\_\_
9. peace of mind, composure, calm \_\_\_\_\_
10. shady, unsavory, questionable \_\_\_\_\_
11. flimsy, frail, thin \_\_\_\_\_
12. forward-looking, avant-garde, progressive \_\_\_\_\_
13. to disapprove of, not to stand for \_\_\_\_\_
14. light, brightness; to intrigue, fascinate \_\_\_\_\_
15. to stifle, smother, quash, discourage \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Many professional and executive people today have made enjoyable hobbies of such (**handicrafts, sagas**) as carpentry and weaving.
2. The speaker alarmed us when he said that our whole system of handling lawbreakers has (**massive, stodgy**) faults that will be difficult to correct.
3. For more than a hundred years, the delightful adventures of Alice in Wonderland have been (**enchanting, palling**) readers young and old.
4. In my excitement, I accidentally (**blurted, agitated**) out the very thing that I was trying so hard to conceal.
5. For a long time my favorite TV entertainment was police and detective programs, but now they are beginning to (**pall, enchant**).
6. Any editorial about pollution appearing in such a (**maternal, reputable**) newspaper is bound to make a strong impression on many citizens.
7. The cowboy on his trusty quarter horse plays a prominent part in the (**saga, magnitude**) of the Old West.
8. Though there has of late been a good deal of (**countenance, agitation**) for reform in this area, nothing much has come of it so far.
9. The mood at the party was so (**massive, hilarious**) that everyone was laughing even when nothing particularly funny was going on.
10. The man was such a controversial figure in his own time that he was both (**fostered, revered**) as a saint and despised as an impostor.
11. Many older people complain that the warm spirit of neighborliness has greatly (**diminished, revered**) under the conditions of city living.
12. Like everyone else, I want to be well liked, but I will not (**grovel, fluctuate**) before public opinion when I am firmly convinced that it is wrong.
13. If it were not for the strong (**maternal, hilarious**) instinct to protect the young, many species of animals could not survive.
14. One of the sure signs of a country that is not free is that the people in power will not (**countenance, blurt**) any criticism of their acts.
15. As the game went on, and the lead continued to change hands, our feelings (**fostered, fluctuated**) from joy to despair and back again.
16. The Tea Act of 1773 was one of the sparks that helped (**ignite, enchant**) the American Revolution.
17. When the Wright brothers made the first successful airplane flight, few people realized the (**pall, magnitude**) of their achievement.
18. My love of reading, (**fostered, diminished**) by my parents since early childhood, has continued to grow through the years.
19. So many different battles took place during the Civil War that I often have difficulty remembering the correct (**chronology, handicraft**).
20. Her charming personality and sparkling wit brought a breath of fresh air into the (**stodgy, hilarious**) atmosphere of our stuffy old club.