

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. **alliance** (ə 'lɪ əns)
(n.) a joining together for some common purpose
a wartime _____
2. **bewilder** (bi 'wi lder)
(v.) to puzzle completely, confuse
_____ by their behavior
3. **buffoon** (bu 'fʊn)
(n.) a clown; a coarse, stupid person
play the _____
4. **controversial** (kən tre 'vər shel)
(adj.) arousing argument, dispute, or disagreement
a _____ proposal
5. **dishearten** (dis 'hɑ:t ən)
(v.) to discourage
_____ by the poor results
6. **fruitless** ('fru:t ləs)
(adj.) not producing the desired results, unsuccessful
when their efforts proved _____
7. **hostile** ('hɔ:s tel)
(adj.) unfriendly; unfavorable; warlike, aggressive
a _____ attitude
8. **inflammable** (in 'fləm ə bəl)
(adj.) easily set on fire; easily angered or aroused
a highly _____ material
9. **inflict** (in 'flɪkt)
(v.) to give or cause something unpleasant, impose
_____ pain on others
10. **malignant** (mə 'lɪŋ nənt)
(adj.) deadly, extremely harmful, evil; spiteful, malicious
a _____ growth
11. **mortify** ('mɔ:t ə fɪ)
(v.) to hurt someone's feelings deeply; to cause embarrassment or humiliation; to subdue or discipline by self-denial or suffering
_____ by their behavior
12. **orthodox** ('ɔ:θ ə dɔks)
(adj.) in agreement with established or generally accepted beliefs or ways of doing things
an _____ belief
13. **procure** (prə 'kjʊə)
(v.) to obtain through special effort; to bring about
_____ the necessary funds
14. **scurry** ('sker ə)
(v.) to run quickly, scamper, hurry
_____ back to their seals
15. **sodden** ('sɔd ən)
(adj.) soaked with liquid or moisture; expressionless, dull; spiritless, listless
_____ marshlands

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16. **spirited** ('spɪə tɪd)
(adj.) full of life and vigor; courageous
a _____ defense
17. **virtual** ('vɜ:ʃ ə l)
(adj.) having a certain force or effect in fact but not in name; so close as to be equivalent to the real thing
a _____ dictator
18. **void** (vɔɪd)
(adj.) completely empty; having no legal force or effect;
(n.) empty or unfilled space; (v.) to cancel or nullify
left a great _____ in my life
19. **wayward** ('weɪ wɜ:d)
(adj.) disobedient, willful; unpredictable, capricious
the _____ path of a comet
20. **wince** (wɪns)
(v.) to draw back suddenly, as though in pain or fear;
(n.) the act of drawing back in this way
_____ in pain

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. Even though I'm an adult, I still _____ in discomfort at the thought of a trip to the dentist.
2. Though the gallant defenders of the Alamo were hopelessly outnumbered, they put up a truly _____ fight.
3. Despite the fact that she has no official title of any kind, she has become the _____ director of the company.
4. When the naughty children heard their mother's footsteps approaching, they quickly _____ back to bed.
5. I was thoroughly _____ when I suddenly stumbled and spilled punch all over the hostess's new gown.
6. The frozen wastes of the Arctic may seem _____ to human life, but in fact thousands of Eskimos are able to survive there.
7. If it is allowed to spread unchecked, the poison of racial prejudice will have a decidedly _____ effect on our community.
8. The court of many a medieval king or prince was enlivened by the pranks and antics of jesters and other _____.
9. Their behavior is so _____ and unpredictable that I never know what they are going to do next.
10. The directions he gave us for driving to the beach were so complicated that I was completely _____ by them.

11. Before we set out on the camping trip, I was given sole responsibility for _____ all the necessary equipment and supplies.

12. Some parts of the President's proposal were agreeable to everyone; others proved highly _____ with eleven

13. In 1949, the United States formed a(n) _____ other nations, organized into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

14. We _____ such heavy casualties on the enemy that they were forced to break off the engagement and retreat.

15. After four days of steady rainfall, the _____ ground actually gurgled as we trudged wearily over it.

16. Since the gas did not burn when we brought a flame to it, the experiment showed that carbon dioxide is not _____

17. When the Supreme Court finds a law unconstitutional, that law is said to be null and _____

18. Even though you like to do things in your own way, I suggest that you first learn the _____ method of bathing.

19. Would it be a bad pun if I were to say that our attempts to set up an apple orchard have proved to be _____?

20. Refusing to be _____ by her early failures to find a summer job, Lucy made up her mind to try again.

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. to flinch, shudder, recoil _____
- 2. disobedient, perverse; unpredictable _____
- 3. to rush, dash, scamper, scramble _____
- 4. lively, animated; courageous, gallant _____
- 5. useless, vain, unproductive, futile _____
- 6. walllike; aggressive; unfriendly _____
- 7. invalid; empty, vacant, bare; to cancel _____
- 8. to confuse, baffle, perplex _____
- 9. drenched, waterlogged, saturated _____
- 10. to humiliate, embarrass, abash _____
- 11. combustible, easily ignited; excitable _____

12. to discourage, dismay _____

13. functioning as, equivalent to _____

14. deadly, lethal; wicked, malicious _____

15. a pact, league, coalition _____

16. to obtain, gain, acquire; to achieve _____

17. a jester, clown, "wise guy" _____

18. to deal out, visit upon, impose _____

19. disputed, arguable, debatable _____

20. traditional, standard; customary _____

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 encourage, raise one's spirits _____
- 2. fireproof, fire-resistant; calm _____
- 3. to trudge, plod, creep, crawl _____
- 4. lifeless, dull, lackluster _____
- 5. docile, well-behaved; predictable _____
- 6. parched, arid, dry as a bone _____
- 7. wholesome, beneficial, benign _____
- 8. productive, effective, having results _____
- 9. unusual, unconventional, heretical _____
- 10. in effect, teaming with; to confirm _____
- 11. not likely to cause a fuss _____
- 12. not to bat an eyelid at _____
- 13. to set straight; enlighten _____
- 14. friendly, cordial; peaceful _____
- 15. someone who is serious and dignified _____
- 16. to fail to obtain, come away empty-handed _____
- 17. a parting of the ways, rift, split _____
- 18. to suffer, undergo, sustain _____

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

1. Because I no longer go to high school, my student bus pass has been **(voided, disheartened)**.
2. Mr. Hall, our supervisor, gives the impression of being an easygoing man, but we have learned that he has a very **(orthodox, inflammable)** temper.
3. Being scolded for my shortcomings in front of the entire basketball squad was a truly **(mortifying, wayward)** experience for me.
4. "Whenever you find **(wayward, controversial)** children," the speaker said, "you also find ineffective parents."
5. Walking through the meadow at night, we could hear mice and other small animals **(scurrying, wincing)** about in the grass.
6. The scrappy coach's **(fruitless, spirited)** pep talk lifted the team out of its "losing-season blues" almost overnight.
7. I still **(scurry, wince)** when I think of the two bad errors that cost us the championship game.
8. In high school, young people should **(procure, void)** training in basic skills that they will need to qualify for good jobs in later life.
9. A severe cold spell in December **(inflicted, bewildered)** heavy losses on the Florida citrus crop.
10. "It's hard not to be a little **(procured, disheartened)** when your favorite team is in the cellar two weeks before the playoffs," I replied.
11. Instead of being so **(mortified, hostile)**, why don't you try to show some friendliness to those newcomers?
12. I can understand that you want to be witty and amusing, but take care not to give everyone the impression that you're a mere **(alliance, buffoon)**.
13. When his army seemed **(virtually, suddenly)** defeated by the British, George Washington crossed the Delaware and won a major victory.
14. I could see from the **(inflicted, bewildered)** expression on the child's face that he was quite lost.
15. Though her views about the role of women in society are far from **(hostile, orthodox)**, even conservatives and traditionalists listen to them.
16. Any **(fruitless, controversial)** political figure is likely to have as many critics as he or she has supporters.
17. **(Malignant, Virtual)** gossip has unjustly damaged their reputation.
18. We are going to form a broad **(void, alliance)** among all the groups that are working to improve life in our community.
19. On the hottest night of the whole summer, the sheets on my bed became so **(sodden, malignant)** with perspiration that I had to change them.
20. All our efforts to control pollution will be **(fruitless, inflammable)** unless we work out a careful, detailed plan in advance.