

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. **abnormal**
(ab 'nɔr meɪ)
(adj.) not usual, not typical, strange
an _____ situation
2. **capsize**
('kæp saɪz)
(v.) to turn bottom side up, upset
_____ a boat
3. **catastrophe**
(ke 'tæs trə feɪ)
(n.) a large-scale disaster, misfortune, or failure
a nuclear _____
4. **decrease**
(v., di 'kri:s;
n., 'di:kri:s)
(v.) to become or make less: (n.) a lessening
_____ in size
5. **disputations**
(dis pyu 'tā shəs)
(adj.) inclined to argue or debate; provoking debate
_____ baseball fans
6. **eject**
(i 'jekt)
(v.) to drive or throw out; evict
_____ the troublesome spectator
7. **flourish**
('flaɪ ɪʃ)
(v.) to grow, thrive, be prosperous; to wave in the air;
(n.) a dramatic gesture; a fanfare of horns
as long as the business _____
8. **incentive**
(in 'sen tiv)
(n.) a reason for doing something; something that stimulates action
an _____ to learn
9. **insubordinate**
(in se 'bɔrd ən et)
(adj.) disobedient, rebellious
an _____ junior officer
10. **legible**
('leɪ ə beɪ)
(adj.) easily read
handwriting that is _____
11. **nub**
(nɒb)
(n.) the central point or heart of a matter; a knob
the _____ of the argument
12. **onslaught**
('ɒn slɔ:t)
(n.) a violent attack; a sudden rush of something
the _____ of winter
13. **ordain**
(ɔ: 'dān)
(v.) to establish by law; to order or command; to appoint as a priest or minister; to destine
_____ by fate
14. **outstrip**
(aʊt 'stri:p)
(v.) to get ahead of, do better than, exceed
_____ their rivals
15. **pervade**
(pə 'væd)
(v.) to spread throughout
_____ the atmosphere

16. **prudent**
('prɪd ənt)
(adj.) cautious, careful, showing good sense
_____ investments
17. **quench**
(kwentʃ)
(v.) to put out, extinguish; end
_____ the flames
18. **remnant**
('rem nənt)
(n.) a small part remaining behind
the _____ of the army
19. **simultaneous**
(sɪ meɪ 'tæn ə s)
(adj.) happening or existing at the same time
a _____ translation of a speech
20. **swerve**
(swəv)
(v.) to turn aside sharply; (n.) a sharp or sudden turn
_____ sharply to the right

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. By landing the damaged plane in an open field, the pilot prevented a major _____ from occurring.
2. My brother was _____ a priest after he had completed his studies at the seminary.
3. When a deer suddenly ran out onto the road, the car _____ quickly to avoid hitting it.
4. When my canoe unexpectedly hit a tree stump and _____ I suddenly found myself neck-deep in some very cold and dirty water.
5. At the first shock of the enemy's _____, our lines wavered a bit, but they soon recovered and held firm.
6. Even the most _____ businessperson knows that there are times when it is necessary to take chances.
7. The writing on the curious old document had faded badly, but it was still perfectly _____ when held up to the light.
8. After our team won the last big game of the season, we all ran out onto the field, _____ our pennants and banners jubilantly.
9. As the holidays approached, a feeling of excitement and anticipation seemed to _____ the entire school.
10. "If that _____ young hothead had followed my orders to the letter," the general remarked sourly, "we wouldn't be in this fix!"

- 11. American farms continue to produce more and more food, even though the number of people working them has actually _____.
- 12. Although we are used to severe winters, a heavy snowfall this early in the season is quite _____.
- 13. Let's ignore minor side issues and get to the _____ of the problem as quickly as possible.
- 14. The only thing that ever really _____ my thirst on a stifling summer afternoon is a glass of ice-cold lemonade.
- 15. When you want to remove the cassette from the tape deck, just push this button, and the cartridge will _____ automatically.
- 16. The secret of the trick is to remove the first card and pick up the second so quickly that the two actions seem to be _____.
- 17. After I had eaten my fill, I threw the _____ of my dinner into my dog's dish.
- 18. Do you really believe that making money is the only _____ that leads people to work hard and try to excel?
- 19. Though we are still the leading producers of various industrial products, other countries are catching up fast and may soon _____ us.
- 20. Trying to avoid an argument with that _____ fellow is like trying to nail oatmeal to the wall.

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. the core, heart, kernel, nucleus, crux _____
- 2. to outdo, outperform, outdistance, surpass _____
- 3. a stimulus, spur, motive, inducement _____
- 4. to turn aside, veer, digress, sheer off _____
- 5. to prosper, thrive, burgeon _____
- 6. argumentative, quarrelsome, contentious _____
- 7. to evict, oust, expel, kick out _____
- 8. occurring at one and the same time _____
- 9. a disaster, calamity, tragedy, cataclysm _____
- 10. readable, c_____ decipherable _____

- 11. cautious, wary, sensible, judicious _____
- 12. freakish, unnatural, irregular, anomalous _____
- 13. to extinguish, douse, stifle; to slake _____
- 14. to overturn, upset, upend, tip over _____
- 15. a remainder, residue, leftover, fragment _____
- 16. to anoint, consecrate; to enact, decree _____
- 17. to lessen, reduce, dwindle, diminish _____
- 18. to saturate, permeate, diffuse, imbue _____
- 19. an assault, charge, foray; an onset _____
- 20. defiant, unruly, rebellious, mutinous _____

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 trail, lag behind, bring up the rear _____
- 2. to increase, grow, develop, wax _____
- 3. unreadable, indecipherable _____
- 4. to ignite, kindle, set on fire _____
- 5. obedient, submissive, docile, tractable _____
- 6. foolish, unwise; rash, reckless _____
- 7. the fringe, the periphery, the edge _____
- 8. to stay on the straight and narrow _____
- 9. a curb, check, restraint, hindrance _____
- 10. to wither, die, fade, shrivel up _____
- 11. to admit; let in; to insert _____
- 12. normal, usual, regular, typical _____
- 13. a triumph, victory, success _____
- 14. occurring at different times _____
- 15. to remain upright _____
- 16. nonargumentative, peaceable, pacific _____
- 17. to forbid, veto, cancel _____

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

1. I'm following a very strict study schedule, but I must admit that I (**swerved, flourished**) from it when that big TV special came along. _____
2. When the musicians failed to arrive and the air-conditioning conked out, we realized that the party was becoming a (**nub, catastrophe**). _____
3. Even though you may think your supervisor is wrong, you won't be able to hold your job if you act (**simultaneously, insubordinately**). _____
4. As (**ordained, flourished**) in the U.S. Constitution, the President must be a native-born American at least 35 years old when he takes office. _____
5. Has the ability of human beings to produce new inventions (**quenched, outstripped**) their ability to use them wisely? _____
6. The first (**onslaught, remnant**) of the disease is marked by a severe fever and the appearance of an ugly rash all over the body. _____
7. Doesn't it seem (**abnormal, insubordinate**) for a bright young person to show no interest in taking part in any school activities? _____
8. When the elderly pianist began to play, we were saddened to observe that he had only a(n) (**incentive, remnant**) of his once great skill. _____
9. We have made some progress in cleaning up the slums in our community, but that is certainly no reason to (**decrease, eject**) our efforts. _____
10. The train and the car approached the crossing almost (**simultaneously, prudently**), and a terrible accident seemed unavoidable. _____
11. After the officials had put a stop to the fight that had broken out, they (**ejected, ordained**) the offending players from the game. _____
12. All our hopes and plans were (**capsized, outstripped**) when we learned that we would not be able to attend the music festival. _____
13. The only advice I can give you is to take the problems one at a time and deal with each in a sensible and (**prudent, disputatious**) way. _____
14. With eager students and able teachers, learning will (**flourish, decrease**), even though the school building may be old and shabby. _____
15. To get a good grade, make sure that your composition is interesting in content, correct in grammar and spelling, and (**abnormal, legible**). _____
16. As we returned to the dressing room after that terrible first half, the whole atmosphere seemed to be (**pervaded, capsized**) by defeat. _____
17. The high spirits with which we had begun the hike were soon (**pervaded, quenched**) when it began to rain. _____
18. The possibility of getting a summer job in an air-conditioned office is all the (**incentive, onslaught**) I need to improve my typing. _____
19. Two of the more (**abnormal, disputatious**) members of the committee soon got into an argument about where to build the new facility. _____
20. "We have become so engrossed in the minor details of the situation that we have left no time to consider the (**nub, incentive**) of the matter," I said. _____