

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. accelerate**
(ak 'sel e rat)
(v.) to speed up, cause to move faster; to bring about more quickly
_____ our pace
- 2. bystander**
('bi stan der)
(n.) one who looks on or observes, a person present but not taking part
a group of curious _____
- 3. canvass**
('kan vas)
(v.) to go through an area in order to procure votes, sales, or opinions; to go over in detail; to discuss
_____ the neighborhood for support
- 4. casual**
('kazh e wal)
(adj.) happening by chance or on an irregular basis; showing little concern; informal
a _____ remark
- 5. downtrodden**
('daun träd en)
(adj.) treated unfairly and cruelly, oppressed
_____ masses longing to be free
- 6. entice**
(en 'tis)
(v.) to attract, tempt
_____ shoppers into the store
- 7. erode**
(i 'rod)
(v.) to wear away gradually, eat away
where the ground has been _____
- 8. flounder**
('flaun der)
(v.) to thrash about in a clumsy or ineffective way
_____ about hopelessly for days
- 9. graphic**
('graf ik)
(adj.) lifelike, vivid; relating to the pictorial arts
a _____ description
- 10. gruesome**
('grü sem)
(adj.) horrible, revolting, ghastly
a _____ murder
- 11. melancholy**
('mel an käl e)
(adj.) sad, gloomy, unhappy; (n.) sadness, gloominess
the _____ days of autumn
- 12. ordeal**
(ör 'däl)
(n.) a difficult or painful experience, a trial
exhausted by the _____
- 13. parch**
(pärch)
(v.) to make dry and thirsty; to shrivel with heat
left _____ by the drought
- 14. persist**
(pär 'sist)
(v.) to continue steadily in a course of action, refuse to stop or be changed; to last, remain
_____ in their bad habits

- 15. puny**
('pyü ne)
(adj.) of less than normal strength or size; weak, sickly; of no importance
a _____ opponent
- 16. quibble**
('kwib el)
(v.) to evade or belittle a point by twisting words or raising minor objections; (n.) a petty objection
_____ over details
- 17. ratify**
('rat e fi)
(v.) to approve, give formal approval to, confirm
_____ an amendment
- 18. regal**
('riē gal)
(adj.) royal, kinglike; fit for a king
a truly _____ gift
- 19. stifle**
('sti fal)
(v.) to smother, prevent from breathing; to hold back or choke off
_____ one's anger
- 20. vital**
('vit el)
(adj.) having life, living; necessary to life, essential; key, crucial
a matter of _____ importance

Completing the Sentence

Choose the word from this unit that best completes each of the following sentences. Write it in the space given.

- As we fought the forest fire, we were almost _____ by the extreme heat and heavy smoke.
- According to Greek mythology, the Sirens used their remarkable singing voices to _____ unwary sailors to watery graves.
- If you were spending your own money, rather than mine, you would be more inclined to _____ over the price of the repairs.
- When the inexperienced swimmer realized that he was in really deep water, he panicked and began to _____ around wildly.
- These immigrants were _____ in their native land, but in America they enjoy all the rights and privileges of free people.
- Regular visits to the dentist are _____ if you wish to have healthy, good-looking teeth.
- A group of reporters from the local TV station _____ our district for reactions to the proposed changes in the law.
- How can he _____ in denying that he was at the scene of the crime when a number of people saw him there?
- The sled _____ with alarming speed as it went down the steep slope.

10. The President's powers in foreign affairs are limited by the fact that any treaty he may negotiate must be _____ by the Senate.
11. After an hour of trudging along the dusty road under the hot sun, we were so _____ that all we could think of was cold water.
12. At that tender age I was so shy that I found it a(n) _____ to be introduced to people I'd never met before.
13. In our environment class, we learned that in much of the United States the topsoil has been badly _____ by natural forces.
14. The _____ sight that greeted my eyes at the scene of that awful traffic accident gave me nightmares for weeks.
15. Some poets are at their best when dealing with happy events, while others seem to prefer the more _____ side of life.
16. She gave us a clear, detailed, and _____ picture of what is likely to happen if we fail to come to grips with the pollution problem.
17. Since Deborah's party is by no means a formal affair, _____ clothing is in order.
18. He now claims that he was just an innocent _____, but I saw him actually taking part in the fight.
19. As soon as he learned that he was to play the King in the play, his whole personality took on an almost _____ air.
20. Though the new haircut looked a little _____ to us, he managed to hold his own against players twice his size and build.

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 confirm, endorse, sanction, uphold _____
2. vivid, lifelike, lively, colorful _____
3. necessary, indispensable, crucial _____
4. dejection, depression; depressed, dejected _____
5. to dry up, dehydrate, desiccate _____
6. to choke, strangle, smother, suppress _____
7. accidental, haphazard; offhand; informal _____
8. undersized, pint-size, small; weak _____
9. ghastly, gory, hideous, grisly, horrible _____

10. to keep going, persevere; to last, endure _____
11. mistreated, oppressed, ground underfoot _____
12. to wear away, corrode, abrade _____
13. majestic, stately, princely, august _____
14. to tempt, lure, beguile _____
15. an observer, spectator, onlooker _____
16. to nitpick, split hairs, cavil; to squabble _____
17. to poll, survey; to solicit _____
18. a trial, test, hardship _____
19. to speed up, step up, quicken, hasten _____
20. to thrash about, wallow; to struggle _____

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. an active participant _____
2. a pleasant experience, pleasure; a cinch _____
3. joy, elation; merry, happy, cheerful _____
4. to give up, discontinue, throw in the towel _____
5. to cancel, repeal, annul, veto _____
6. robust, brawny; mammoth, gigantic _____
7. dull, boring; unrealistic; colorless _____
8. to nauseate, sicken, revolt, repel _____
9. nonessential, unnecessary _____
10. to slow down, retard, decelerate _____
11. to nurture, promote, encourage _____
12. pleasant, delightful, appealing _____
13. formal; serious; premeditated, intentional _____
14. to soak, drench, saturate, waterlog _____
15. lowly, humble, abject, servile _____
16. uplifted, liberated, raised up from the dirt _____

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

1. Instead of continuing to (**flounder, accelerate**) helplessly, we must decide on a goal and start to move toward it. _____
2. "How can you compare a free American worker," the factory owner asked, "to the (**downtrodden, melancholy**) serfs and slaves of earlier times?" _____
3. When I asked you what you meant by those words, I wasn't (**quibbling, ratifying**) but trying to discover what the problem was. _____
4. I find your offer most (**gruesome, enticing**), but my better judgment tells me to have nothing to do with it. _____
5. The dictator used fear and violence to (**stifle, canvass**) discontent among the people he ruled. _____
6. Do her efforts to (**accelerate, flounder**) our departure mean that she is trying to help us, or just get rid of us? _____
7. After weeks of no rain, the (**parched, graphic**) earth turned to dust that was blown away by the strong winds. _____
8. It is hard to believe that this sturdy, six-foot basketball star was a (**vital, puny**) 100-pounder only a few years ago. _____
9. The soundness of the basic ideas of the Constitution has been (**ratified, enticed**) by the experience of over 200 years. _____
10. In a democracy, the average citizen should be an active participant in public affairs, not just a quiet (**bystander, enticer**). _____
11. You will never do well in school so long as your attitude toward your studies remains (**downtrodden, casual**) and unconcerned. _____
12. No doubt he has our best interests at heart, but my faith in him has been (**eroded, persisted**) by repeated evidence of his poor judgment. _____
13. I think it showed bad judgment on your part to tell such a (**gruesome, puny**) story to a child who is so easily frightened. _____
14. She made what proved to be a (**vital, parched**) mistake when she gave the job to one of the applicants without checking his references. _____
15. The chairwoman of the department (**canvassed, stilled**) the entire faculty for ideas on how to put the new program into effect. _____
16. In spite of all the setbacks we have had, we must (**persist, quibble**) in our efforts to achieve the goal we have set for ourselves. _____
17. With her (**regal, graphic**) bearing and imperious manner Elizabeth I looked every inch the queen she in fact was. _____
18. If you have prepared properly for the exams, there will be no reason to regard them as a terrible (**quibble, ordeal**). _____
19. Aided by diagrams on the blackboard, she gave a summary of her plan so clear and (**graphic, regal**) that it won the full support of the audience. _____
20. In spite of the bright sunshine and the happy crowds, a strange mood of (**ordeal, melancholy**) seemed to take possession of me. _____