

Vocabulary: List #4

1. Atrophy (n.) the wasting away of a body organ or tissue; any progressive decline or failure; (v.) to waste away

Synonyms: (n.) degeneration, deterioration; (v.) wither

Antonyms: (n.) growth, development; (v.) mature, develop

→ The _____ of the downtown business district began when two _____ huge malls opened.

2. Bastion (n.) a fortified place, stronghold

Synonyms: citadel, rampart, bulwark

→ Contrary to popular belief, the military is not always a _____ of political conservatism.

3. Concord (n.) a state of agreement, harmony, unanimity; a treaty, pact, covenant

Antonyms: disagreement, strife, discord

→ A spirit of _____ was restored when the company compensated its employees.

4. Consummate (adj.) complete or perfect in the highest degree; (v.) to bring to a state of completion or perfection

Synonyms: (adj.) masterful; (v.) clinch, conclude

Antonyms: (v.) launch, initiate, begin, kick off

→ Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican are _____ works of _____ artistry.

5. Disarray (n.) disorder, confusion; (v.) to throw into disorder

Synonyms: (n.) disorganization; (v.) dishevel, mess up

Antonyms: (n.) organization, order, tidiness

→ The burgled apartment was in a state of _____.

If you leave the window open, a breeze may _____ the papers on the desk.

6. Exigency (n., often pl.) urgency, pressure; urgent demand, pressing need; an emergency

Synonym: requirement, crisis

→ The governor emphasized the _____ of the situation by requesting the immediate dispatch of rescue teams.

7. Flotsam (n.) floating debris; homeless, impoverished people

Synonym: floating wreckage

→ After the two ships collided, the survivors clung to various pieces of _____ and hoped for rescue.

8. Frenetic (adj.) frenzied, highly agitated

Synonyms: frantic, overwrought

Antonyms: calm, controlled, relaxed, leisurely

→ When a court order was issued, the social services department made a _____ search for the missing report.

9. Glean (v.) to gather bit by bit; to gather small quantities of grain left in a field by the reapers

Synonyms: collect, cull, pick up

→ By means of painstaking investigation, the detectives will eventually _____ the truth

10. Grouse (n.) a type of game bird; a complaint; (v.) to complain, grumble

Synonyms: (v.) gripe, bellyache

→ The patient's latest _____ was that he did not get any dessert with his dinner the night before.

→ Those who just stand around and _____ about their low salaries are not likely to get raises.

11. Incarcerate (v.) to imprison, confine, jail

Synonyms: intern, immure

Antonyms: liberate, release, free

→ They will _____ the convicted felon at the state penitentiary.

12. Incumbent (adj.) obligatory, required; (n.) one who holds a specific office at the time spoken of

Synonyms: mandatory, necessary

Antonyms: optional, unnecessary

→ Voting on election day is a duty _____ on all Americans who value a democratic government.

→ The _____ has the advantage when standing for reelection but does not have a guarantee of victory.

13. Jocular (adj.) humorous, jesting, jolly, joking

Synonyms: waggish, facetious, witty

Antonyms: solemn, grave, earnest, grim

→ After receiving the news that she was ahead in the polls, the candidate was in a delightfully _____ mood.

14. Ludicrous (adj.) ridiculous, laughable, absurd

Synonyms: preposterous

Antonyms: poignant

→ Her comment was so _____ that we finally understood that she was joking

15. Mordant (adj.) biting or caustic in thought, manner, or style; sharply or bitterly harsh

Synonyms: scathing

Antonyms: bland, mild, gentle, soothing

→ The actor was upset by the _____ criticism of the gossip columnist who seemed out to ruin his reputation.

16. Nettle (n.) a prickly or stinging plant; (v.) to arouse displeasure, impatience, or anger; to vex or irritate severely

Synonyms: peeve, annoy, incense, gall, irk

Antonyms: please, delight, soothe pacify

→ If you are pricked but a _____, aloe cream will soothe and reduce the sting.

→ The principal was _____ by the student's disrespectful behavior

17. Pecuniary (adj.) consisting of or measured in money; of or related to money

Synonyms: monetary, financial

→ The couple was forced by _____ considerations to sell their large home and buy a smaller one.

18. Pusillanimous (adj.) contemptibly cowardly or mean spirited

Synonyms: craven, lily-livered

Antonyms: stouthearted, courageous, daring

→ It is often said that bullies, when tested, are the most _____ people of all.

19. Recumbent (adj.) in a reclining position, lying down, in the posture of one sleeping or resting

Synonyms: prone, prostrate, supine, inactive

Antonyms: erect, upright, energetic, dynamic

→ The tired toddlers were _____ on the couch after playing all afternoon in the yard.

20. Stratagem (n.) a scheme to outwit or deceive an opponent or to gain an end

Synonyms: ruse, trick, ploy, subterfuge

→ The defense attorney used a clever _____ to curry sympathy for her client.