

Vocabulary-Unit 1

Directions: Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words.

1. **acquisitive** (adj.) able to get and retain ideas or information; concerned with acquiring wealth or property

Synonyms: greedy, grasping, avaricious, retentive

Antonyms: altruistic

→ In an _____ society, there is a great deal of emphasis on buying and selling.

2. **arrogate** (v.) to claim or take without right.

Synonyms: expropriate, usurp, commandeer

Antonyms: relinquish, renounce, abdicate, abandon

→ The ambitious noblemen will put the young king under house arrest and _____ royal privileges to themselves.

3. **banal** (adj.) hackneyed, trite, commonplace

Synonyms: stale, insipid

Antonyms: fresh, novel, original, new

→ The new play's _____ dialogue made it seem more like a soap opera than a serious drama

4. **belabor** (v.) to work on excessively; to thrash soundly

Synonym: overwork

→ His tendency to _____ the small points often made him miss the big picture.

5. **carping** (adj.) tending to find fault, especially in a petty, nasty, or hairsplitting way; (n.) petty nagging criticism

→ The trainee resigned after a week rather than put up with the _____ complaints of the store manager.

6. **coherent** (adj.) holding or sticking together; making a logical whole; comprehensible, meaningful

Synonym: connected, unified, consistent, cohesive

→ The physics teacher gave a surprisingly _____ description of quantum mechanics.

7. **congeal** (v.) to change from liquid to solid, thicken; to make inflexible or rigid.

Synonym: harden, jell, coagulate, solidify

Antonym: melt, liquefy

→ If you do not wash your dishes right away, the food on them will _____.

8. **emulate** (v.) to imitate with the intent of equaling or surpassing the model.

Synonym: copy, mimic, rival, match

→ Most beginning writers try to _____ a great writer and later develop their own individual style.

9. **encomium** (n.) a formal expression of praise, a lavish tribute.

Synonym: eulogy, commendation

Antonym: condemnation, criticism

→ On Veteran's Day, the President delivered a heartfelt _____ to those who died for our country.

10. **eschew** (v.) to avoid, shun, keep away from

Synonym: abstain from, steer clear of, forgo

Antonym: embrace, adopt

→ The young athletes promised the coach that they would train vigorously and _____ bad habits.

11. germane (adj.) relevant, appropriate, fitting

Synonym: pertinent

Antonym: irrelevant, extraneous, inappropriate

→ Bringing up examples from the past is not _____ to present discussion.

12. insatiable (adj.) so great or demanding as not to be satisfied

Synonym: unquenchable, ravenous

→ People with an _____ appetite for gossip often do not have compelling stories of their own.

13. intransigent (adj.) refusing to compromise, irreconcilable

Synonym: uncompromising, unyielding

Antonym: lukewarm, halfhearted, yielding

→ Little will get accomplished if the legislators of both parties maintain their _____ attitudes.

14. invidious (adj.) offensive, hateful; tending to cause bitterness and resentment

Synonym: malicious, spiteful, prejudicial

Antonym: complimentary, flattering

→ Teachers should avoid making _____ comparisons between their students.

15. largesse (n.) generosity in giving; lavish or bountiful contributions

Synonym: liberality, bounty

Antonym: stinginess

→ The university was the fortunate beneficiary of the _____ of many of its graduates.

16. reconnaissance (n.) a survey made for military purposes; any kind of preliminary inspection or examination

Synonym: scouting expedition

→ The field officer required a thorough _____ before ordering any troop movements.

17. substantiate (v.) to establish by evidence, prove; to give concrete or substantial form

Synonym: verify, confirm, validate, authenticate

Antonym: refute, disprove, invalidate

→ The prospector was unable to _____ his claim to the land where the gold was found.

18. taciturn (adj.) habitually silent or quiet, inclined to talk very little

Synonym: tight-lipped, uncommunicative

Antonym: verbose

→ Abraham Lincoln has the reputation of having a dour and _____ personality.

19. temporize (v.) to stall or act evasively in order to gain time, avoid a confrontation, or postpone a decision; to compromise

Synonym: hedge, dillydally, procrastinate

→ For most of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, the portaged Hamlet chooses to _____ rather than act.

20. tenable (adj.) capable of being held or defended

Synonym: defensible, justifiable, maintainable

Antonym: indefensible, unjustifiable

→ The researchers put forth a _____ theory, but their conclusions would be reviewed carefully by others.