



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at www.vocabularyworkshop.com.

UNIT 6

Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

1. abashed
(ə basht')

(*adj.*, *part.*) embarrassed, ashamed, or nonplussed
I was thoroughly _____ by the foolish mistake that I made at the dinner party.
ANTONYMS: unembarrassed, unashamed

2. aloof
(ə lüf')

(*adj.*) withdrawn, standing apart from others (usually as a matter of choice)
In almost every office or business, there are some people who keep decidedly _____ from their coworkers.
SYNONYMS: distant, cold, standoffish
ANTONYMS: involved, sociable

3. anguish
(anj' gwish)

(*n.*) great mental suffering, distress, or pain; (*v.*) to be deeply tormented by pain or sorrow
Survivors of a natural disaster often suffer great mental _____ long after their terrible ordeal is over.
The child's disappearance _____ every member of the community.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) misery, woe, torment
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) joy, delight, peace of mind

4. articulate
(*v.*, är tik' yü lät;
adj., är tik' yə lit)

(*v.*) to pronounce distinctly; to express well in words; to fit together into a system; (*adj.*) able to use language effectively; expressed clearly and forcefully
A successful candidate can _____ ideas in a way that makes them acceptable to voters.
To be successful as a professional lecturer, a person must, of necessity, be _____.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) enunciate, expound; (*adj.*) glib, eloquent
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) tongue-tied, mumbled, incoherent

5. bask
(bask)

(*v.*) to be in, or expose oneself to, pleasant warmth; to take pleasure in or derive enjoyment from
Because they are cold-blooded creatures, lizards and other reptiles must _____ in the sun to regulate their body temperature.
SYNONYMS: wallow, revel



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6. defect
(*n.*, dē' fekt;
v., di fekt')

(*n.*) an imperfection, flaw, or blemish of some kind; (*v.*) to desert a cause or organization

There is no one who does not have at least one serious character _____.

In 1948 the Dixiecrats _____ from the Democratic Party and held their own presidential nominating convention.

7. finesse
(fi nes')

(*n.*) delicate skill; tact and cleverness; (*v.*) to accomplish something by cleverness, good judgment, or skillful evasion

To become a champion, a tennis player needs to combine power with _____.

Skilled politicians know how to _____ their answers to embarrassing questions from reporters.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) delicacy, subtlety

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) clumsiness, awkwardness

8. flaunt
(flônt)

(*v.*) to wave or flutter showily; to display in a conceited, offensive way

Some people seem to need to _____ their wealth and good fortune in life.

SYNONYMS: show off, parade

ANTONYMS: hide, downplay

9. forthright
(fôrth' rīt)

(*adj.*) frank, direct, straightforward

I appreciate the _____ way in which you express your opinions, even when they do not agree with my own.

SYNONYMS: candid, blunt

ANTONYMS: indirect, evasive, deceitful, two-faced

10. genial
(jēn' yəl)

(*adj.*) cordial, pleasantly cheerful or warm

The _____ host and hostess made each party guest feel especially welcome.

SYNONYMS: friendly, amiable

ANTONYMS: cold, unfriendly, unsociable

11. instill
(in stil')

(*v.*) to add gradually; to introduce or cause to be taken in

How can parents best _____ in their children a love for reading?

SYNONYMS: implant, infuse, inculcate

ANTONYMS: root out, eradicate, extirpate

12. ostracize
(äs' trə sīz)

(*v.*) to exclude from a group, banish, send away

Society _____ those who commit acts of treason.

SYNONYMS: cast out, expel, blackball, snub

ANTONYMS: fraternize with, associate with



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- 13. premonition**
(prē mə nish' ən)
(*n.*) forewarning or foreboding of a future event
I felt a vague _____ of danger
as I entered the abandoned building.
SYNONYM: presentiment
- 14. pseudonym**
(sü' də nim)
(*n.*) a pen name, name assumed by a writer
It is wise to use a _____ to
protect your privacy when you chat on the Internet.
SYNONYM: nom de plume
- 15. purge**
(pəɹj)
(*v.*) to wash away impurities, clean up; (*n.*) the process of
getting rid of something or someone decisively
A soaking rainstorm will usually _____
the air of pollutants.
The change of government was achieved through a peaceful
election rather than a brutal _____.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) cleanse, purify
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) pollute, contaminate, defile
- 16. rehabilitate**
(rē hə bil' ə tāt)
(*v.*) to make over in good form; to restore to good condition or
to a former position
Over the years government agencies have spent a good deal
of money trying to _____ run-down
inner-city neighborhoods.
SYNONYMS: reclaim, rebuild, reform
- 17. repercussion**
(rē pər kəsh' ən)
(*n.*) an effect or consequence of some action or event, result;
an echo or reverberation
The _____ of the 1929 stock
market crash were felt all over the world.
ANTONYMS: cause, source
- 18. resolute**
(rez' ə lüt)
(*adj.*) bold, determined; firm
Commencement-day speakers generally urge new graduates
to be _____ in pursuit of their dreams.
SYNONYMS: steadfast, unflinching
ANTONYMS: weak, spineless, indecisive
- 19. retentive**
(ri tent' iv)
(*adj.*) able to hold, keep, or recall; retaining knowledge easily
A _____ memory is a great asset
for any actor, especially one who performs on stage.
ANTONYMS: porous, forgetful
- 20. scapegoat**
(skāp' gōt)
(*n.*) a person or thing carrying the blame for others
In ancient times, a messenger who brought bad news was
often made the _____ for it and killed.
SYNONYMS: fall guy, whipping boy

Completing the Sentence

From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. Good citizens don't try to remain _____ from the problems and troubles in their communities.
2. Although every form of government has its _____, democracy has more pluses and fewer minuses than any other.
3. I criticize him not because he makes mistakes but because he constantly looks for a(n) _____ to take the blame for them.
4. The defendant was found not guilty at his trial, but his punishment came when he was _____ by all his friends.
5. We learned that beneath the old man's quiet and withdrawn manner, there was a charming and _____ personality.
6. Although Hal was the only boy at the party wearing sneakers and an old sweatshirt, he did not seem at all _____.
7. Instead of a(n) _____ answer, all we got from her was, "In one sense, yes, but on the other hand, perhaps no."
8. It took four years of civil war to _____ this nation of the curse of slavery.
9. Since we all know that you sing and play the piano beautifully, what need is there for you to _____ your musical talents?
10. I have learned over the years that it is often possible to accomplish more by _____ than by brute force.
11. Even though I assured my dying grandfather that I would visit him soon, I had a strange _____ that I would never see him again.
12. I think you will know who William S. Porter was if I tell you that he used the _____ O. Henry.
13. The star basketball player _____ in the admiration of every small child in the neighborhood.
14. She has such a(n) _____ mind that she seems able to master complicated details without even taking notes.
15. The speaker could not be understood easily because he swallowed his words instead of _____ them clearly.
16. By the example of their own conduct, our parents _____ in us a deep respect for people of all races, nationalities, and religions.
17. In recent years, pollution of our waterways has had serious and sometimes fatal _____ on the wildlife that inhabits them.

18. The city planner said that in addition to building new housing, we should plan to _____ many old buildings.
19. Can anything equal the overwhelming _____ of a mother at the death of her child?
20. After the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, the American people were _____ in their determination to defeat the fascist powers.

Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **the same** or **most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. fortunate to have **amiable** traveling companions _____
2. **snubbed** the newcomers _____
3. prepared to deal with any and all **consequences** _____
4. **inculcate** discipline in the new recruits _____
5. welcomed **candid** comments on the plan _____
6. refuse to be made the **fall guy** again _____
7. **cleanse** the body of toxins _____
8. **showed off** an expensive new wardrobe _____
9. a rather **standoffish** disposition _____
10. **reveled** in the company of good friends _____
11. used a **pen name** to conceal my identity _____
12. filled with **presentiments** of doom _____
13. letters that revealed the depth of their **misery** _____
14. **restores** antique cars as a hobby _____
15. **imperfections** easily covered with a little makeup _____

Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

16. **unembarrassed** by their remarks _____
17. has a very **forgetful** mind _____
18. **indecisive** in moments of crisis _____
19. handled the matter with surprising **clumsiness** _____
20. gave an **incoherent** statement to reporters _____

Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. An actor who has (**basked, instilled**) for so long in the favor of the public finds it hard to realize that he is no longer popular.
2. It will be better if we all take responsibility for the mistake instead of letting one employee be the (**pseudonym, scapegoat**).
3. My (**anguish, finesse**) at the loss of a loved one was all the greater when I realized that my carelessness had caused the accident.
4. Many female authors once used male (**repercussions, pseudonyms**) because it was considered improper for women to write novels.
5. We should now be just as (**resolute, genial**) in fighting for peace as the Americans of two hundred years ago were in fighting for independence.
6. How can we ever forgive him for (**defecting, purging**) from our great cause at the very time we needed him most?
7. Although he was trying to look unconcerned, I could see that he was much (**abashed, aloof**) by the teacher's criticism.
8. Shakespeare tries to convey Brutus's (**defects, premonitions**) of defeat at Philippi by having Caesar's ghost appear to him the night before the battle.
9. His prejudices are so strong that he wants to (**ostracize, bask**) anyone who belongs to a minority religious group.
10. The purpose of our prison system is not just to punish offenders but to (**flaunt, rehabilitate**) them.
11. Fortunately, the soil is so (**resolute, retentive**) of moisture that the weeks of dry weather did not damage our crops.
12. It would be good taste on his part not to (**flaunt, ostracize**) all the honors and awards that he has won.
13. He's a clever man who has managed to (**anguish, finesse**) his way into a very important position in this company.
14. I did not think that such an innocent conversation could have such serious (**repercussions, scapegoats**) on the outcome of an election.
15. The new governor's address was an unusually (**articulate, abashed**) and effective description of the challenges facing the state in the years ahead.
16. She has lived (**aloof, retentive**) from other people for so long that it is hard for her to take part in everyday social affairs.
17. She is not the most (**forthright, genial**) person in the world, but in her own way she is at least trying to be friendly.
18. No matter how much time or effort it takes, I will (**purge, instill**) these unfair charges of disloyalty from my reputation!
19. It is possible to be honest and (**forthright, articulate**) in stating your views and opinions without being cruel or tactless.
20. Is it our duty to try to (**rehabilitate, instill**) a faith in democracy in the people of other lands?

Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

Ahead of Her Time

(Line)

Few people today have heard of Victoria Claflin Woodhull, one of America's most **resolute** crusaders for equality and the first woman to seek the presidency. Born to a large family that ran a traveling medicine show, she met people from all walks of life. She developed progressive social, spiritual, economic, and political views and (5) learned to express herself well. She soon gained widespread fame—and notoriety.

In 1870, with support from railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt, Woodhull and her sister Tennessee Claflin became Wall Street's first female stockbrokers. Woodhull reasoned that her ability to earn her own money would give her lifelong independence. Also in 1870, the sisters launched a

(10) newspaper, *Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly*. For six years, it provided Woodhull with a forum in which she **articulated** her ideas in **forthright** language.

To advance her beliefs, Victoria Woodhull took to making fiery public speeches. In 1871, Woodhull (15) addressed the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives on the subject of a woman's right to vote. In 1872, the Equal Rights Party of the National Woman Suffrage Association nominated Woodhull for U.S. president. She could not legally vote, yet no law (20) barred her from holding office! With noted abolitionist Frederick Douglass as her running mate, the first female presidential candidate faced Republican incumbent Ulysses S. Grant and Democrat Horace Greeley.

Woodhull had also been using her newspaper to (25) expose swindles and scandals. A few months before the 1872 presidential election, she revealed shocking secrets about a popular public figure. The **repercussions** were severe. Many former supporters **defected from** her cause. She faced serious legal and financial difficulties. She was, in effect, **ostracized**. Finally, in 1877, Woodhull and her sister left the United States (30) for England. There they succeeded in making new and prosperous lives for themselves.



Victoria Woodhull (1838–1927)

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|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The meaning of resolute (line 2) is | 4. Repercussions (line 27) means |
| a. experienced | a. causes |
| b. popular | b. origins |
| c. significant | c. consequences |
| d. determined | d. opinions |
| 2. Articulated (line 11) most nearly means | 5. Defected from (line 27) means |
| a. pondered | a. deserted |
| b. expressed | b. questioned |
| c. tested | c. joined |
| d. refined | d. ignored |
| 3. Forthright (line 12) is best defined as | 6. Ostracized (line 29) is best defined as |
| a. deceitful | a. publicized |
| b. original | b. cast out |
| c. frank | c. welcomed |
| d. tactful | d. criticized |