



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com).

## UNIT 1

### 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. apparel**  
(ə par' əl)

(*n.*) clothing, that which serves as dress or decoration; (*v.*) to put clothes on, dress up

Winter \_\_\_\_\_ should be warm and cozy.

Let's \_\_\_\_\_ our cats for the party.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) attire, garments; (*v.*) deck out

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) undress, unclothe, strip, denude

**2. besiege**  
(bi sēj')

(*v.*) to attack by surrounding with military forces; to cause worry or trouble

If troops \_\_\_\_\_ their stronghold, the rebel forces may be forced to surrender.

SYNONYMS: blockade, encircle, pressure, hound

**3. compress**  
(*v.*, kəm pres',  
*n.*, kām' pres)

(*v.*) to press together; to reduce in size or volume; (*n.*) a folded cloth or pad applied to an injury

The editor helped to \_\_\_\_\_ my rambling 25-page mystery into an 8-page thriller.

A cold \_\_\_\_\_ may soothe headache pain.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) condense, shrink, shorten

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) expand, enlarge

**4. denounce**  
(di naŭns')

(*v.*) to condemn openly; to accuse formally

The United Nations decided to publicly \_\_\_\_\_ the tyrant's crimes against his people.

SYNONYMS: criticize, censure

ANTONYMS: hail, acclaim

**5. dispatch**  
(dis pach')

(*v.*) to send off or out for a purpose; to kill; (*n.*) an official message; promptness, speed; the act of killing

We'll \_\_\_\_\_ a repair crew right away.

He approved the request with \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) slay; (*n.*) report, communication

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) recall, withhold

**6. douse**  
(daŭs)

(*v.*) to plunge into a liquid, drench; to put out quickly, extinguish

I'll \_\_\_\_\_ the flames with the hose.

SYNONYMS: submerge, soak, dunk, immerse

ANTONYMS: dry out, dehydrate, kindle, ignite



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- 7. expressly**  
(ek spres' lē)  
(adv.) plainly, in so many words; for a particular purpose  
At the meeting, parents \_\_\_\_\_  
stated their approval of students wearing school uniforms.  
SYNONYMS: clearly, pointedly, explicitly  
ANTONYMS: implicitly, accidentally
- 8. famished**  
(fam' isht)  
(adj., part.) suffering severely from hunger or from lack of something  
The Vietnamese immigrants, new to a strange American city,  
were \_\_\_\_\_ for news of home.  
SYNONYMS: hungry, starving, ravenous  
ANTONYMS: well fed, full, satisfied, satiated
- 9. forsake**  
(fôr sāk')  
(v.) to give up, renounce; to leave, abandon  
I will never \_\_\_\_\_ my children, no  
matter what they do or say.  
SYNONYMS: desert, disown  
ANTONYMS: keep, hold on to, stand by
- 10. gainful**  
(gān' fəl)  
(adj.) profitable; bringing in money or some special advantage  
I hope to find \_\_\_\_\_ employment  
that is pleasing to me.  
SYNONYMS: moneymaking, paying  
ANTONYMS: unprofitable, unrewarding, nonpaying
- 11. immense**  
(i mens')  
(adj.) very large or great; beyond ordinary means of measurement  
Alaska enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ natural  
resources, but its severe climate makes those resources  
difficult to use.  
SYNONYMS: vast, enormous, immeasurable, gigantic  
ANTONYMS: small, tiny, minute, infinitesimal
- 12. inept**  
(in ept')  
(adj.) totally without skill or appropriateness  
The scientist is brilliant in the research laboratory but is  
\_\_\_\_\_ at dealing with people.  
SYNONYMS: clumsy, unskilled, bungling, incompetent  
ANTONYMS: skillful, accomplished, adroit
- 13. ingenious**  
(in jēn yəs)  
(adj.) showing remarkable originality, inventiveness, or resourcefulness; clever  
The students found an \_\_\_\_\_  
solution to the math problem.  
SYNONYMS: imaginative, inventive, resourceful  
ANTONYMS: unimaginative, unoriginal, uninventive



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- 14. instantaneous**  
(in stən tā' nē əs) (*adj.*) done in an instant; immediate  
Most computer software is designed so that users can obtain nearly \_\_\_\_\_ responses.  
SYNONYMS: prompt, quick, speedy  
ANTONYMS: delayed, slow, gradual
- 15. irk**  
(ərk) (*v.*) to annoy, trouble, make weary  
Questions that show a student's lack of attention \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher.  
SYNONYMS: bother, irritate, vex  
ANTONYMS: please, delight, cheer, gladden
- 16. libel**  
(lī' bəl) (*n.*) a written statement that unfairly or falsely harms the reputation of the person about whom it is made; (*v.*) to write or publish such a statement  
The celebrity accused her biographer of \_\_\_\_\_.  
It is a crime to \_\_\_\_\_ others, no matter how you feel about them.  
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) slur; (*v.*) smear, defame
- 17. misgiving**  
(mis giv' in) (*n.*) a feeling of fear, doubt, or uncertainty  
They had \_\_\_\_\_ about joining the chorus because of its demanding schedule.  
SYNONYMS: worry, qualm, hesitation  
ANTONYMS: feeling of confidence, assurance
- 18. oaf**  
(ōf) (*n.*) a stupid person; a big, clumsy, slow individual  
He generally moved like an \_\_\_\_\_, so I was surprised to see how graceful he was on the dance floor.  
SYNONYMS: bonehead, dunce, clod, lout
- 19. recede**  
(ri sēd') (*v.*) to go or move backward; to become more distant  
The town residents must wait for the flood waters to \_\_\_\_\_ before they can deal with the terrible mess left behind.  
SYNONYMS: retreat, go back, back up, ebb  
ANTONYMS: advance, come closer
- 20. repast**  
(ri past') (*n.*) a meal, food  
Let's get together after the show at Callie's Café for a late-night \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYM: victuals



## 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. Some people hailed the man as a genius; others \_\_\_\_\_ him as a quack.
2. While all true vegetarians \_\_\_\_\_ animal meats, some do eat dairy products.
3. Your \_\_\_\_\_ can be neat and attractive without being expensive.
4. The terms of our agreement \_\_\_\_\_ forbade us to take any of the goods for our own use.
5. When you are really hungry, even the simplest foods will be a delicious \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Since it was well past their lunchtime by the time we arrived home, the children were \_\_\_\_\_.
7. You had no right to call me a clumsy \_\_\_\_\_ just because I spilled some water on you.
8. The laws of this land do not shield public figures from just criticism, but they do protect them against \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Far away on the horizon, we saw the tiny figures of a lonely traveler and his mule \_\_\_\_\_ into the sunset.
10. On my first baby-sitting job, I found that one must have \_\_\_\_\_ patience to take care of young children.
11. Let's make certain to \_\_\_\_\_ the fire before leaving camp.
12. When you play tennis for the first time, you are going to find that your attempts to hit the ball are very \_\_\_\_\_.
13. If you \_\_\_\_\_ all the items as much as possible, you will be able to get everything into a single suitcase.
14. As an inexperienced sailor, I had more than a few \_\_\_\_\_ about taking out the small boat in such rough weather.
15. Don't allow yourself to be \_\_\_\_\_ by every small trouble that may arise during the day.
16. Because I have reached an age at which I am unwilling to depend on my parents, I am out to find a \_\_\_\_\_ occupation.
17. None of us could figure out how the \_\_\_\_\_ magician had managed to escape from the trunk submerged in the tank of water.



18. How can we hope to \_\_\_\_\_ a city that is surrounded by such strong walls and has ample supplies of everything it needs?
19. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ will be sent to all our representatives in Latin America advising them how to handle the problem.
20. Some of life's rewards are \_\_\_\_\_; others are a long time in coming.

## 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. enjoyed the **meal** served to them \_\_\_\_\_
2. had to fire the **bungling** carpenter \_\_\_\_\_
3. thought the article **smeared** her reputation \_\_\_\_\_
4. **resourceful** use for lumber scraps \_\_\_\_\_
5. refused to invite the **lout** \_\_\_\_\_
6. fashionable hand-me-down **garments** \_\_\_\_\_
7. waiting until the crowds **ebb** \_\_\_\_\_
8. **qualms** about the leading candidate \_\_\_\_\_
9. is **clearly** forbidden for use by minors \_\_\_\_\_
10. sent them a top-secret **communication** \_\_\_\_\_
11. compelled to **desert** the leaky boat \_\_\_\_\_
12. were far too **hungry** to wait politely \_\_\_\_\_
13. can provide **speedy** results at home \_\_\_\_\_
14. chose a **profitable** career in advertising \_\_\_\_\_
15. **pressure** us with repeated phone calls \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. sailing across the **tiny** ocean \_\_\_\_\_
17. knew when to **kindle** the torch \_\_\_\_\_
18. **expand** the bundle to fit \_\_\_\_\_
19. was certain to **gladden** the passengers \_\_\_\_\_
20. reasons to **acclaim** the winner \_\_\_\_\_



## Choosing the Right Word

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

1. Which job would you take—one that is more (**ingenious, gainful**) right now or one that pays a small salary but offers a chance for valuable training?
2. We were pleasantly surprised to see that she completed the difficult task we had given her with neatness and (**irk, dispatch**).
3. As soon as she took over the office of Mayor, she was (**besieged, dispatched**) by dozens of people eager to get city jobs.
4. I will never (**recede, forsake**) the people who helped me in my hour of need!
5. (**Famished, Compressed**) for a chance to see her work in print, the young writer begged the magazine editor to publish her story.
6. After all the bad things he has done, I feel no (**dispatches, misgivings**) about telling him that I don't want him to be my "friend" anymore.
7. As soon as he began his long, boring speech, our excitement died down, as though we had been (**denounced, doused**) with cold water.
8. Each day, after she finishes her homework, she enjoys a light (**repast, misgiving**) of the detective stories she loves so well.
9. Her conscience forced her to (**denounce, libel**) the conspirators to the authorities.
10. His notebooks show that Leonardo da Vinci was not only a masterful artist but an (**inept, ingenious**) inventor as well.
11. Tom may not be as polished and clever as some of the other boys, but I think it is unfair of you to call him an (**apparel, oaf**).
12. We can (**compress, besiege**) the message of the sermon into one short sentence: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."
13. His conceit is so (**immense, gainful**) that he cannot imagine anyone voting against him in the election for class president.
14. Instead of feeling (**forsaken, irked**) because you did poorly on the exam, why don't you make up your mind to study harder in the future?
15. We are working hard to improve conditions in our community, but we cannot expect (**famished, instantaneous**) results.
16. He may claim that we have (**libeled, doused**) him, but we have facts to back up every statement made in the column about him.
17. You may criticize the roads and the lights, but the fact is that most car accidents are caused by (**inept, immense**) drivers.
18. When I realized that I was thoroughly prepared for the final exams, my fears quickly (**receded, irked**).
19. Where did he ever get the curious idea that we set up this volleyball court (**expressly, instantaneously**) for him and his friends?
20. I always feel sad at the end of the autumn, when the trees lose their beautiful (**repast, apparel**) of leaves.