

Vocabulary List #1

1. **admonish** (v.) to caution or advise against something; to scold mildly; to remind of a duty

The librarian had to _____ the noisy students several times before they settled down.

SYNONYMS: warn, call on the carpet

ANTONYMS: praise, pat on the back

2. **breach** (n) an opening , gap, rupture, rift; a violation or infraction;(v) to create an opening, break through

Because of a serious _____ of the rules, the two players were ejected from the game.

Our troops were unable to _____ the enemy's lines during the battle.

ANTONYMS: (v) close, seal

3. **brigand** (n) a bandit, robber, outlaw, highwayman

Ancient caravans passing through desolate areas were sometimes attacked by _____.

4. **circumspect** (adj) careful, cautious

It is important for a diplomat to behave in a manner that is both discreet and _____.

SYNONYMS: wary, prudent, guarded

ANTONYMS: incautious, rash, reckless, heedless

5. **commandeer** (v) to seize for military or official use

Under certain circumstances the U.S. government has the right to _____ private property.

SYNONYMS: take over, requisition, expropriate

6. **cumbersome**(adj) clumsy, hard to handle; slow-moving

The bus was filled to capacity with holiday shoppers carrying large and _____ packages.

SYNONYMS: unwieldy, ponderous

ANTONYMS: manageable, easy to handle

7. **deadlock** (n) a standstill resulting from the opposition of two equal forces or factions; (v) to bring to such a standstill

After fifteen innings, the score remained a frustrating 3-3 _____.

The refusal of labor and management to modify their demands _____ the contract talks.

SYNONYMS: (n) standoff, stalemate, impasse

ANTONYMS: (n) agreement, accord, breakthrough

8. **debris** (n) scattered fragments, wreckage

After the storm, the beach was littered with driftwood and other _____.

SYNONYMS: rubble, detritus, flotsam and jetsam

9. **diffuse** (v) to spread or scatter freely or widely; (adj) wordy, long-winded, or unfocused; scattered or widely spread

The scent of lilacs slowly _____ through the open window.

The speech was so long and _____ that most listeners were thoroughly confused by it.

SYNONYMS: (v) disperse; (adj) rambling, verbose, prolix

ANTONYMS: (v) concentrate; (adj) brief, concise, succinct

10. **dilemma** (n) a difficult or perplexing situation or problem

During the crisis the President found himself caught in a painful _____.

SYNONYMS: predicament, quandary, pickle, bind
ANTONYMS: A cinch

11. **efface** (v) to wipe out; to keep oneself from being noticed

Time had _____ almost all signs of the struggle that took place on that famous battlefield.

SYNONYMS: blot out, erase, obliterate, expunge

12. **muddle** (v) to make a mess of; muddle through; to get by; (n) a hopeless mess.

Too much stress and too little sleep will almost certainly _____ a person's ability to concentrate.

The _____ was principally caused by their failure to carry out the orders properly.

SYNONYMS: (v) jumble, mess up; (n) confusion, disorder
ANTONYMS: (n) orderliness, tidiness, neatness

13. **opinionated** (adj) stubborn and often unreasonable in holding to one's own ideas, having a closed mind.

My boss is not too _____ to listen to a reasonable proposal.

SYNONYMS: obstinate, pigheaded, inflexible
ANTONYMS: open-minded, reasonable

14. **perennial** (adj) lasting for a long time, persistent; (n) a plant that lives for many years

Pizza is a _____ favorite of young and old alike.

A garden of _____ is relatively easy to maintain.

SYNONYMS: (adj) enduring, recurring
ANTONYMS: (adj) brief, short-lived, fleeting, ephemeral

15. **predispose** (v) to incline to beforehand

My genetic makeup seems to _____ me to colds and sore throats.

SYNONYMS: make susceptible to
ANTONYMS: immunize against, shield from

16. **relinquish** (v) to let go, give up

Severe illness forced me to _____ my role in the school play.

SYNONYMS: surrender, abandon
ANTONYMS: hold on to, keep, retain, cling to

17. **salvage** (v) to save from fire or shipwreck;(n) property thus saved

Fortunately, we were able to _____ a few things from the fire.

_____ from sunken ships can be of great value to archaeologists and historians.

SYNONYMS: (v) rescue, recover, retrieve, reclaim
ANTONYMS: (v) abandon, scrap, junk

18. **spasmodic** (adj) sudden and violent but brief; fitful; intermittent

_____ flashes of lightning and booming thunderclaps came before the rains.

SYNONYMS: irregular, occasional

ANTONYMS: steady, continuous, chronic

19. **spurious** (adj) not genuine, not true, not valid

Manufacturers who make _____ claims for their products may face fines or lawsuits.

SYNONYMS: false, counterfeit, fraudulent, bogus

ANTONYMS: genuine, authentic, bona fide, valid

20. **unbridled** (adj) uncontrolled, lacking in restraint

Sometimes the _____ enthusiasm of sports fans can get a little out of hand.

SYNONYMS: unrestrained, unchecked

ANTONYMS: restrained, held in check, muted.