

Vocabulary List #10

1. **Adept** (adj.) thoroughly skilled; (n.) an expert

Not only is the soloist an accomplished singer, but he is also _____ at playing the saxophone.
An _____ at chess, she hopes to compete in tournaments against top-rated players.

Synonyms: (adj.) masterful, accomplished, proficient

Antonyms: (adj.) clumsy, unskilled, maladroit; (n.) novice

2. **Aspire** (v.) to have ambitious hopes or plans, strive toward a higher goal, desire earnestly; to ascend

An early fascination with ants led the young naturalist to _____ to a career as an entomologist.

Synonyms: seek, yearn, aim for, soar

3. **Bleak** (adj.) bare, dreary, dismal

Urban renewal can turn a run-down city with _____ economic prospects into a flourishing metropolis.

Synonyms: grim, cheerless, gloomy, desolate, barren

Antonyms: rosy, cheerful, sunny, promising, encouraging

4. **Chide** (v.) to blame; scold

The teacher _____ the student for truancy and tardiness.

Synonyms: upbraid, reprimand, rebuke, chastise

Antonyms: approve, praise, compliment, pat on the back

5. **Despicable** (adj.) worthy of scorn, contemptible

Whatever the provocation, there is no justification for such _____ behavior.

Synonyms: low, vile, cheap, sordid, detestable

Antonyms: praiseworthy, commendable, meritorious

6. **Diminutive** (adj.) small, smaller than most others of the same type

The _____ lapdog was so small that it actually fit in the owner's purse.

Synonyms: undersized, miniature, tiny, compact

Antonyms: oversized, gigantic, huge, enormous

7. **Emancipate** (v.) to free from slavery; to release or liberate

Scientific knowledge can _____ humanity from blind superstition.

Synonyms: set loose, unchain, unshackle, unfetter

Antonyms: enslave, snare, chain, shackle

8. **Erroneous** (adj.) incorrect, containing mistakes

An _____ first impression is not easily corrected.

Synonyms: mistaken, fallacious, all wrong

Antonyms: accurate, correct, exact, unerring

9. **Exploit** (v.) to make use of, develop; to make improper use of for personal profit; (n.) a feat, deed

A good debater knows how to _____ weaknesses in an opponent's argument.

The _____ of Robin Hood and his men are so well known that they have become a part of Western culture.

Synonyms: (v.) utilize, turn to advantage, misuse

10. **Extemporaneous** (adj.) made or delivered on the spur of the moment

The stand-up comedian's outrageous act included about twenty minutes of completely _____ banter.

Synonyms: spontaneous, impromptu, off-the-cuff

Antonyms: planned, rehearsed, prepared

11. **Impair** (v.) to make imperfect, damage, harm

I am fortunate that the scratch on my eye will not permanently _____ my vision.

Synonyms: injure, mar, disable, cripple, enervate

Antonyms: improve, strengthen, promote, advance

12. **Invincible** (adj.) not able to be defeated, unbeatable

Napoleon I, emperor of France, was _____ until he launched a disastrous invasion of Russia.

Synonyms: unconquerable, indomitable, insuperable

Antonyms: vulnerable, conquerable, surmountable

13. **Languid** (adj.) drooping; without energy, sluggish

A big lunch makes me feel _____ for the rest of the day.

Synonyms: lazy, sluggish, listless, slack, lethargic

Antonyms: lively, energetic, vigorous, enlivening

14. **Mire** (n.) mud; wet, swampy ground; a tough situation; (v.) to get stuck

The once verdant expanse of the soccer field has become a rectangle of muck and _____.

Congress will never ratify that bill _____ in controversy.

Synonyms: marsh, swamp, bog, slough

15. **Obtrusive** (adj.) forward; undesirably prominent; thrust out

I don't blame you for being put off by his _____ attempt to dominate the conversation.

Synonyms: brash, impudent, conspicuous, protruding

Antonyms: meek, reserved, deferential, recessed

16. **Preamble** (n.) an introduction to a speech or piece of writing

The _____ of the Constitution describes the purpose of our national government.

Synonyms: opening, preface, prologue, preliminary

Antonyms: conclusion, ending, closing, epilogue

17. **Render** (v.) to cause to become; to perform; to deliver officially; to process, extract

The freelance writer presented the managing editor with a bill for services _____ ..

Synonyms: present, furnish, submit, make, effect

18. **Rugged** (adj.) rough, irregular; severe, stern; strong; stormy

Settlers had a rough time crossing the _____ Appalachian Mountains.

Synonyms: rocky, craggy, blunt, harsh, hardy, tough

Antonyms: smooth, flat, soft, mild, tender, delicate

19. **Skeptical** (adj.) inclined to doubt; slow to accept something as true

I am _____ of promises made by politicians when they are running for office.

Synonyms: dubious, suspicious, incredulous

Antonyms: believing, credulous, gullible, ingenuous

20. **Slipshod** (adj.) untidy in dress, personal habits, etc.; careless, sloppy

The commission attributed the unfortunate collapse of the apartment building to its _____ construction.

Synonyms: messy, untidy, slovenly, slapdash, cursory

Antonyms: tidy, neat, orderly, careful, painstaking