

Vocabulary List #4

1. Abscond (v) to run off and hide

The thieves who _____ with several of the museum's most valuable paintings have never been found.

Synonyms: bolt, make off, skip town

2. Access (n) approach or admittance to places, persons, things; an increase; (v) to get at, obtain

_____ to information on a seemingly unlimited number of topics is available over the Internet.

You need a password in order to _____ your e-mail accounts.

Synonyms: (n) entry, admittance, entrée

Antonym: (n) total exclusion

3. Anarchy (n) a lack of government and law; confusion

In the final days of a war, civilians may find themselves living in _____.

Synonyms: chaos, disorder, turmoil, pandemonium

Antonyms: law and order, peace and quiet

4. Arduous (adj) hard to do, requiring much effort

No matter how carefully you plan for it, moving to a new home is an _____ chore.

Synonyms: hard, difficult, laborious, fatiguing

Antonyms: easy, simple, effortless

5. Auspicious (adj) favorable; fortunate

My parents describe the day that they first met as a most _____ occasion.

Synonyms: promising, encouraging, propitious

Antonyms: ill-omened, ominous, sinister

6. Biased (adj) favoring one side unduly; prejudiced

Athletes in certain sports may complain that judges are _____ toward particular competitors.

Synonyms: unfair, partial, bigoted

Antonyms: fair, impartial, unprejudiced, just

7. Daunt (v) to overcome with fear, intimidate; to dishearten, discourage

Despite all its inherent dangers, space flight did not _____ the Mercury program astronauts.

Synonyms: dismay, cow

Antonyms: encourage, embolden, reassure

8. Disentangle (v) to free from tangles or complications

Rescuers worked for hours to _____ a whale from the fishing net wrapped around its jaws.

Synonyms: unravel, unwind, unscramble, unsnarl

Antonyms: tangle up, ensnarl, snag

9. Fated (adj) determined in advance by destiny or fortune

The tragic outcome of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is _____ from the play's very first scene.

Synonyms: destined, preordained, doomed

Antonyms: accidental, fortuitous, chance, random

10. Hoodwink (v) to mislead by a trick, deceive

Many sweepstakes offers _____ people into thinking they have already won big prizes.

Synonyms: dupe, put one over on

Antonyms: undeceive, disabuse, clue in

11. Inanimate (adj) not having life; without energy or spirit

Although fossils are _____, they hold many clues to life on Earth millions of years ago.

Synonyms: lifeless, dead, inert, spiritless

Antonyms: living, alive, energetic, lively, sprightly

12. Incinerate (v) to burn to ashes

Because of environmental concerns, many cities and towns no longer _____ their garbage.

Synonyms: burn up, cremate, reduce to ashes

13. Intrepid (adj) very brave, fearless, unshakable

_____ Polynesian sailors in outrigger canoes were the first humans to reach the Hawaiian Islands.

Synonyms: valiant, courageous, audacious, daring

Antonyms: timid, cowardly, craven, pusillanimous

14. Larceny (n) theft

Someone who steals property that is worth thousands of dollars commits grand _____.

Synonyms: stealing robbery, burglary

15. Pliant (adj) bending readily; easily influenced

The _____ branches of the sapling sagged but did not break under the weight of the heavy snow.

Synonyms: supple, flexible, elastic, plastic

Antonyms: rigid, stiff, inflexible, set in stone

16. Pompous (adj) overly self-important in speech and manner; excessively stately or ceremonious

Political cartoonists like nothing better than to mock _____ public officials.

Synonyms: pretentious, highfalutin, bombastic

Antonyms: unpretentious, unaffected, plain

17. Precipice (n) a very steep cliff; the brink or edge of disaster

During the Cuban missile crisis, the world hovered on the _____ of nuclear war.

Synonyms: cliff, crag, bluff, promontory, ledge

Antonyms: abyss, chasm, gorge

18. Rectify (v) to make right, correct

The senators debated a series of measures designated to _____ the nation's trade imbalance.

Synonyms: remedy, set right

Antonyms: mess up, botch, bungle

19. Reprieve (n) a temporary relief or delay; (v) to grant a postponement

A vacation is a kind of _____ from the cares and responsibilities of everyday life.

Synonyms: (n) stay, respite; (v) postpone, delay

Antonym: (v) proceed

20. Revile (v) to attack with words, call bad names

The enraged King Lear _____ the daughters who have cast him out into a fierce storm.

Synonyms: inveigh against, malign, vilify, denounce

Antonyms: praise, acclaim, revere, idolize