

Vocabulary List #6

1. Atone (v) to make up for

At one time or another, everyone has done something he or she needs to ____ for.

Synonyms: expiate, make amends for

2. Bondage (n) slavery; any state of being bound or held down

Many people escaped the cruel _____ of slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad.

Synonyms: servitude, captivity, subjection, dependence

Antonyms: freedom, liberty, independence

3. Credible (adj) believable

Do you have a ____ explanation for not completing your assignment on time?

Synonyms: plausible, acceptable, likely

Antonyms: unbelievable, implausible, improbable

4. Defray (v) to pay for

Corporate sponsors helped to ____ the cost of the charity's annual telethon.

Synonyms: settle, bear the cost, foot the bill

5. Diligent (adj) hardworking, industrious, not lazy

_____ employees are likely to be well rewarded for their dedication and hard work.

Synonyms: assiduous, sedulous

Antonyms: lazy, indolent, cursory, perfunctory

6. Doleful (adj) sad; dreary

One look at the players' ____ faces told me that the team had lost the championship game.

Synonyms: sorrowful, mournful, melancholy, dolorous

Antonyms: cheerful, blithe, jaunty, buoyant

7. Ghastly (adj) frightful, horrible, deathly pale

Some people are almost afraid to go to sleep because they suffer from ____ recurring nightmares.

Synonyms: dreadful, appalling, gruesome, grisly

Antonyms: pleasant, agreeable, attractive, delightful

8. Hamper (v) To hold back

Poor grades will ____ you in your effort to get a college education

Synonyms: hinder, obstruct, impede, inhibit

Antonyms: facilitate, ease, smooth the way

9. Hew (v) to shape or cut down with an ax; to hold to

Even in a crisis, we must ____ to this nation's principles of liberty, equality, and justice

Synonyms: chop, hack, fell, adhere, conform

10. Impoverished (adj) poor, in a state of poverty; depleted

After World War II, ____ European countries received U.S. aid under the Marshall Plan.

Synonyms: Poverty-stricken, destitute, indigent

Antonyms: rich, wealthy, affluent, prosperous

11. Incessant (adj) never stopping, going on all the time

The loud and ____ chatter of the people at the next table made it hard for us to hear each other.

Synonyms: ceaseless, constant, uninterrupted

Antonyms: occasional, sporadic, intermittent

12. Intricate (adj) complicated, difficult to understand

Our teacher took us through the ____ solution to the equation step by step.

Synonyms: complex, convoluted

Antonyms: simple, uninvolved, uncomplicated

13. Lucid (adj) easy to understand, clear; rational, sane

The ability to speak in a ____ and persuasive fashion is a great asset to a politician.

Synonyms: limpid, intelligible

Antonyms: murky, muddy, obscure, unintelligible

14. Posthumous (adj) occurring or published after death

Many artists and writers have been ignored during their lifetimes only to achieve ____ fame.

Synonyms: postmortem

Antonyms: prenatal

15. Prim (adj) overly neat, precise, proper, or formal; prudish

How is it that such a _____ and tidy person and such a messy one can be such good friends?

Synonyms: fussy, fastidious, squeamish

Antonyms: dowdy, frumpy, sloppy, untidy, loose, lax

16. Sardonic (adj) grimly or scornfully mocking, bitterly sarcastic

Great satirists save their most ____ wit for the greedy, the corrupt, and the hypocritical.

Synonyms: caustic, mordant, acerbic, wry

Antonyms: bland, mild, saccharine, good-natured

17. Superfluous (adj) exceeding what is sufficient or required, excess

Neat and well-organized people know how to eliminate all ____ clutter

Synonyms: surplus, supererogatory

Antonyms: necessary, essential, vital, indispensable

18. Supplant (v) to take the place of, supersede

Computers rapidly ____ typewriters in the workplace, just as photocopiers replaced carbon paper.

Synonyms: replace, displace, oust

19. Taunt (v) to jeer at, mock (n) an insulting or mocking remark

It is not at all unusual for brothers and sisters to tease and ____ one another good-naturedly.

Synonyms: ridicule, deride

Antonyms: cheer, applaud, acclaim

20. Tenacious (adj) holding fast; holding together firmly; persistent

Athletes must be ____ in the pursuit of excellence if they hope to become Olympic champions.

Synonyms: obstinate, stubborn, dogged

Antonyms: yielding, weak, gentle, lax, slack