

Vocabulary List #8

1. **Assurance** (n.) a pledge; freedom from doubt, self confidence

The airport was built with the _____ that all the people displaced by its construction would be fairly compensated.

Synonyms: promise, sureness, poise, self-possession

Antonyms: uncertainty, doubt, insecurity

2. **Asylum** (n.) an institution for the care of children, elderly people, etc.; a place of safety

Some refugees are political fugitives who have fled their homeland to seek _____ in another country.

Synonyms: sanatorium, sanctuary, refuge

3. **Console** (v.) to comfort; (n.) the keyboard of an organ; a control panel for an electrical or mechanical device

A neighbor tried to _____ the sobbing child whose cat had wandered away.

The _____ of the large church organ had an assortment of keys, knobs, and pedals.

Synonyms: (v.) soothe, solace, alleviate

Antonyms: (v.) distress, aggravate, bother, vex, torment

4. **Dilate** (v.) to make or become larger or wider; to expand upon

The ophthalmologist said she would _____ the pupil before examining the injured eye.

Synonyms: enlarge, expand, swell, prolong

Antonyms: contract, compress, constrict

5. **Dross** (n.) refuse, waste products

The _____ from the manufacturing process turned out to be highly toxic.

Synonyms: rubbish, trash, detritus, dregs, scum

6. **Dwindle** (v.) to lessen, diminish

During the coldest weeks of winter, the pile of firewood slowly _____ until there was no logs left.

Synonyms: decrease, shrink, fade, peter out

Antonyms: increase, enlarge, swell, proliferate

7. **Flippant** (adj.) lacking in seriousness; disrespectful, saucy

Parents and other adults are often upset by a teenager's _____ responses.

Synonyms: frivolous, impudent, impertinent, insolent

Antonyms: serious, respectful, deferential, obsequious

8. **Immunity** (n.) resistance to disease; freedom from some charge or obligation

Most babies are vaccinated so that they develop an _____ to measles.

Synonyms: exemption, impunity

Antonyms: vulnerability, susceptibility, exposure

9. **Institute** (v.) to establish, set up; (n.) an organization for the promotion of learning

Congress has been reluctant to _____ new guidelines for campaign spending.

After graduating from high school, I plan to attend an accredited _____ of technology.

Synonyms: (v.) found, bring out; (n.) academy

Antonyms: (v.) terminate, discontinue, demolish, raze

10. **Liability** (n.) a debt; something disadvantageous
A limited attention span is his biggest _____ as a student.
Synonyms: handicap, difficulty, impediment, drawback
Antonyms: advantage, asset
11. **Preposterous** (adj.) ridiculous, senseless
The theory that Stonehenge was constructed by alien life-forms is utterly _____.
Synonyms: nonsensical, absurd, incredible
Antonyms: sensible, reasonable, realistic, plausible
12. **Pugnacious** (adj.) quarrelsome, fond of fighting
The fox terrier is a particularly _____ breed of dog known for its aggressive behavior.
Synonyms: argumentative, combative, belligerent
Antonyms: peace-loving, friendly, amicable, congenial
13. **Rabid** (adj.) furious, violently intense, unreasonably extreme; mad; infected with rabies
Police arrived in force to quell the riot set off by _____ soccer fans.
Synonyms: fanatical, zealous, raving, infuriated, berserk
Antonyms: moderate, restrained, blasé, indifferent
14. **Realm** (n.) a kingdom; region or field of study
While astronomy fails within the _____ of science, astrology does not.
Synonyms: domain, duchy, bailiwick, jurisdiction
15. **Rejuvenate** (v.) to make young again; to make like new
A few minutes of conversation with my best friend helped to _____ my flagging spirits.
Synonyms: revitalize, renew
Antonyms: wear out, exhaust, enervate, debilitate
16. **Remunerate** (v.) to reward, pay, reimburse
the couple promised to _____ the artist handsomely for a portrait of their child.
Synonyms: compensate, satisfy, profit, benefit
17. **Sparse** (adj.) meager, scant; scattered
Unlike its neighboring metropolis, the area has quite a _____ population.
Synonyms: thin, scanty, few and far between
Antonyms: plentiful, abundant, profuse, teeming
18. **Sterling** (adj.) genuine, excellent; made of silver of standard fineness
The reviewer noted the young actor's _____ performance in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
Synonyms: first-rate, outstanding, worthy, pure
Antonyms: mediocre, shoddy, second-rate, sham
19. **Venture** (n.) a risky or daring undertaking; (v.) to expose to danger; to dare
An overseas voyage was a daunting _____ during the age of exploration.

Synonyms: (n.) gamble; (v.) try, chance, undertake

Antonyms: (v.) withdraw, retire, shrink from, shy away

20. **Warp** (v.) to twist out of shape; (n.) an abnormality

The carpenter explained that humidity caused the kitchen door to _____.

Criminal behavior often shows a striking lack of judgment or a _____ in thinking.

Synonyms: (v.) bend, distort, misshape; (n.) irregularity

Antonyms: (v.) straighten, unbend, rectify