

## Vocabulary List #9

1. **Auxiliary** (adj.) giving assistance or support; (n.) a helper, aid

If the main motor fails, the instructions say to turn on the \_\_\_\_\_ motor.  
Someone second in command is an \_\_\_\_\_ to the person in charge.

**Synonyms:** (adj.) additional, back-up; (n.) reserve, accessory

**Antonyms:** (adj.) main, primary, principal

2. **Candid** (adj.) frank, sincere; impartial; unposed

It is safe to be \_\_\_\_\_ about our faults with friends and loved ones.

**Synonyms:** forthright, plainspoken, unbiased

**Antonyms:** insincere, evasive, misleading, artful

3. **Cubicle** (n.) a small room or compartment

The tiniest \_\_\_\_\_ is usually assigned to the newest employee.

**Synonyms:** enclosure, hole-in-the-wall

**Antonyms:** vast hall, auditorium

4. **Drudgery** (n.) work that is hard and tiresome

Trade unions lobby to relieve the endless \_\_\_\_\_ of factory workers.

**Synonyms:** toil, labor, grind

**Antonyms:** play, frolic, amusement, recreation, fun

5. **Envoy** (n.) a representative or messenger (as of a government)

On more than one occasion, a former President has been asked to act as a special \_\_\_\_\_ to the United Nations.

**Synonyms:** agent, ambassador, emissary, minister

6. **Escalate** (v.) to elevate; to increase in intensity

A small dispute can \_\_\_\_\_ into a major conflict unless the opposing parties sit down and talk.

**Synonyms:** climb, raise, ascend, mount

**Antonyms:** decrease, lessen, descend, defuse

7. **Expedient** (n.) a means to an end; (adj.) advantageous, useful

As an \_\_\_\_\_, we chose to use a rock as a makeshift hammer.  
An opportunist is someone who is always ready to do whatever is most \_\_\_\_\_.

**Synonyms:** (n.) contrivance, device; (adj.) serviceable

**Antonyms:** (adj.) inconvenient, untimely, disadvantageous

8. **Feign** (v.) to pretend

Children sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ illness to avoid going to school.

**Synonyms:** fake, sham, affect, simulate

9. **Flair** (n.) a natural quality, talent, or skill; a distinctive style

An opera singer needs a \_\_\_\_\_ for the dramatic as well as a good voice.

**Synonyms:** aptitude, bent, knack, gift, style, panache

**Antonyms:** inability, incapacity

10. **Grievous** (adj.) causing sorrow or pain; serious

Reporters should take careful notes when interviewing to avoid making \_\_\_\_\_ errors in print.

**Synonyms:** painful, heartrending, onerous, flagrant

**Antonyms:** joyful, uplifting, cheery, upbeat, comforting

11. **Heterogeneous** (adj.) composed of different kinds, diverse

Most college admissions officers actively seek a student body that is both talented and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Synonyms:** miscellaneous, mixed, variegated

**Antonyms:** uniform, homogeneous, of a piece

12. **Horde** (n.) a vast number (as of people); a throng

When the doors opened, a \_\_\_\_\_ of shoppers headed towards the sales racks.

**Synonyms:** crowd, mass, multitude, host, swarm

**Antonyms:** few, handful

13. **Impel** (v.) to force, drive forward

Hunger often \_\_\_\_\_ people to leave their homes in search of food.

**Synonyms:** urge, push, spur, propel, incite

**Antonyms:** discourage, check, restrain, curb

14. **Incredulous** (adj.) disbelieving, skeptical

When the testimony of a witness contradicts the evidence, you can expect \_\_\_\_\_ stares from the jury.

**Synonyms:** dubious, mistrust, doubtful

**Antonyms:** believing, trustful, gullible

15. **Inscribe** (v.) to write or engrave, to enter a name on a list

The young man asked the jeweler to \_\_\_\_\_ the locket with his fiancée's name.

**Synonyms:** imprint, enroll, enlist

**Antonyms:** erase, rub out, delete, efface, obliterate

16. **Monologue** (n.) a speech by one actor; a long talk by one person

By means of a \_\_\_\_\_, a playwright shares a character's private thoughts with the audience.

**Synonyms:** soliloquy, recitation

**Antonyms:** dialogue, conversation, colloquy

17. **Prognosis** (n.) a forecast of the probably course and outcome of a disease or situation

Doctors are particularly happy to deliver a \_\_\_\_\_ of a speedy recovery.

**Synonyms:** prediction, projection

18. **Rasping** (adj.) with a harsh, grating sound; (n.) a harsh sound

The \_\_\_\_\_ of metal scraping against metal sets my teeth on edge.

**Synonyms:** (adj.) scratchy, scraping, abrasive, gravelly

**Antonyms:** (adj.) sonorous, smooth, satiny, silky, mellow

19. **Repugnant** (adj.) offensive, disagreeable, distasteful

Despite their \_\_\_\_\_ lack of cleanliness, pigs are endearing to many people.

**Synonyms:** hateful, odious, revolting, repulsive

**Antonyms:** pleasing, attractive, tempting, wholesome

20. **Scuttle** (v.) to sink a ship by cutting holes in it; to get rid of something in a decisive way; to run hastily, scurry; (n.) a pail

Pirates would not wish to \_\_\_\_\_ a captured galleon before looting its cargo.

Years ago, it was possible to buy a \_\_\_\_\_ of coal at the corner grocery store.

**Synonyms:** (v.) abandon, discard, scrap, ditch, dump

**Antonyms:** (v.) keep afloat, salvage, rescue, preserve