

Grade 8  
None

Book E Unit 1

## Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

1. **adulterate**  
(ə dəl' tə rāt)

✱ (v.) to corrupt, make worse by the addition of something of lesser value

Hospitals take strict precautions to assure that nothing \_\_\_\_\_ the blood supply.

SYNONYMS: contaminate, pollute, sully  
ANTONYMS: purify, purge, expurgate

2. **ambidextrous**  
(am bi dek' strəs)

✱ (adj.) able to use both hands equally well; very skillful; deceitful, hypocritical

Occasionally a teacher will come across a child who displays \_\_\_\_\_ abilities when taught to write.

SYNONYMS: versatile, flexible  
ANTONYMS: clumsy, all thumbs

3. **augment**  
(ôg ment')

✱ (v.) to make larger, increase

Many couples have to \_\_\_\_\_ their income in order to pay the mortgage on a new home.

SYNONYMS: supplement, amplify  
ANTONYMS: decrease, diminish

4. **bereft**  
(bi reft')

✱ (adj., part.) deprived of; made unhappy through a loss

Individuals who live to be very old may eventually find themselves completely \_\_\_\_\_ of friends and family.

SYNONYM: bereaved  
ANTONYMS: replete, well provided

5. **deploy**  
(di ploi')

✱ (v.) to position or arrange; to utilize; to form up

A bugle call is a signal used to \_\_\_\_\_ troops for inspection, parade, or battle.

SYNONYMS: station, organize

6. **dour**  
(daür)

✱ (adj.) stern, unyielding, gloomy, ill-humored

Dickens's Mr. Gradgrind in the novel *Hard Times* is an example of a character with a \_\_\_\_\_ and sullen disposition.

SYNONYMS: harsh, bleak, forbidding, saturnine  
ANTONYMS: cheery, inviting, genial

Enclosed



7. **fortitude**  
(fôr' ti tûd)

\* (n.) courage in facing difficulties

The residents of the Mississippi delta showed remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ during and after the flood that destroyed their homes and businesses.

SYNONYMS: resolve, steadfastness, mettle

ANTONYMS: fearfulness, faintheartedness

8. **gape**  
(gâp)

\* (v.) to stare with open mouth; to open the mouth wide; to open wide

First-time visitors to Niagara Falls can be expected to \_\_\_\_\_ at the spectacular sights nature has provided for them.

SYNONYM: ogle

9. **gibe**  
(jīb)

\* (v.) to utter taunting words; \* (n.) an expression of scorn

The recruits rushed into battle so that no one could \_\_\_\_\_ at them for cowardice.

Voters may reject a candidate who resorts to personal \_\_\_\_\_ instead of discussing the issues.

SYNONYMS: (v.) ridicule, mock, deride, jeer

ANTONYMS: (n.) compliment, praise

10. **guise**  
(gīz)

\* (n.) an external appearance, cover, mask

The thieves gained entry to the home by presenting themselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of police officers.

SYNONYMS: costume, semblance, pretense

11. **insidious**  
(in sid' ē əs)

\* (adj.) intended to deceive or entrap; sly, treacherous

The investigators uncovered an \_\_\_\_\_ scheme to rob people of their life savings.

SYNONYMS: cunning, dastardly, perfidious

ANTONYMS: frank, ingenuous, aboveboard

12. **intimation**  
(in tə mā' shən)

\* (n.) a hint, indirect suggestion

They were too proud to give any \_\_\_\_\_ of their financial difficulties.

SYNONYMS: clue, inkling

13. **opulent**  
(ăp' yə lənt)

\* (adj.) wealthy, luxurious; ample; grandiose

The tour guide showed us the \_\_\_\_\_ living quarters of the royal family.

SYNONYMS: rich, plentiful, abundant

ANTONYMS: poverty-stricken, wretched, destitute

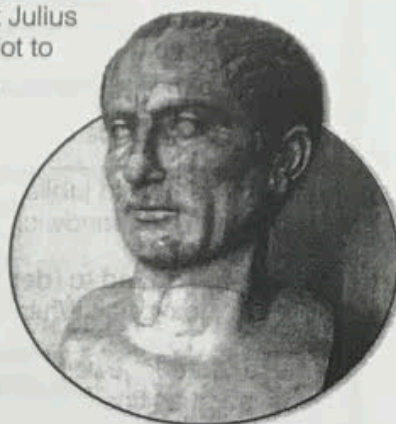
14. **pliable**  
(plī' ə bəl) \* (adj.) easily bent, flexible; easily influenced  
Spools of \_\_\_\_\_ copper wire are standard equipment for many kinds of maintenance workers, including electricians.  
SYNONYMS: adaptable, resilient  
ANTONYMS: inflexible, recalcitrant
15. **reiterate**  
(rē it' ə rāt) \* (v.) to say again, repeat  
Effective speakers often \_\_\_\_\_ an important statement for emphasis.  
SYNONYMS: restate, recapitulate
16. **stolid**  
(stäl' id) \* (adj.) not easily moved mentally or emotionally; dull, unresponsive  
\_\_\_\_\_ people can generally be expected to take most things in stride.  
SYNONYMS: impassive, phlegmatic  
ANTONYMS: emotional, oversensitive
17. **tentative**  
(ten' tə tiv) \* (adj.) experimental in nature; uncertain, hesitant  
Negotiators have come up with a \_\_\_\_\_ agreement that will keep both sides at the bargaining table past the strike deadline.  
SYNONYMS: provisional, inconclusive  
ANTONYMS: conclusive, confirmed
18. **unkempt**  
(ən kempt') \* (adj.) not combed; untidy; not properly maintained; unpolished, rude  
According to my parents, the latest fashion's make me and my friends look \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: sloppy, disordered, rough  
ANTONYMS: well-groomed, tidy
19. **verbatim**  
(vər bā' təm) \* (adj., adv.) word for word; exactly as written or spoken  
Newspapers often publish the \_\_\_\_\_ text of an important political speech.  
At the swearing-in ceremony, the Chief Justice reads each line of the Oath of Office, and the new President repeats the oath \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (adj.) exact; (adv.) precisely  
ANTONYM: (adj.) paraphrased
20. **warily**  
(wâr' ə lē) \* (adv.) cautiously, with great care  
The hikers made their way \_\_\_\_\_ up the steep and rocky trail.  
SYNONYMS: prudently, gingerly  
ANTONYMS: recklessly, heedlessly, incautiously



## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the essay on pages 12–13 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Cassius, Brutus, and the other conspirators against Julius Caesar had developed a(n) (**opulent, insidious**) plot to assassinate the Roman dictator on the Senate floor.
2. Because the situation is changing so rapidly, any plans we make to deal with the emergency can be no more than (**verbatim, tentative**).
3. I must have been (**bereft, pliable**) of my senses when I bought that old car!
4. The speaker (**deployed, adulterated**) all the facts and figures at her command to buttress her argument.
5. I soon found out that my supposed friend had taken it upon himself to repeat (**unkempt, verbatim**) every word I said about Frieda's party.
6. How annoying to hear the same silly advertising slogans (**gaped, reiterated**) endlessly on television!
7. By studying the reactions of simpler life forms, researchers have greatly (**adulterated, augmented**) our knowledge of human behavior.
8. Do you believe that the curriculum has been (**deployed, adulterated**) by the inclusion of courses on aspects of popular culture?
9. A sort of heaviness in the air and an eerie silence were the first real (**reiterations, intimations**) of the approaching cyclone.
10. Have you heard the joke about the (**ambidextrous, opulent**) loafer who was equally adept at not working with either hand?
11. One of the chief reasons for your dateless weekends is undoubtedly your (**opulent, unkempt**) appearance.
12. Do you expect me to listen to a lot of tired old ideas dressed up in the (**fortitude, guise**) of brilliant new insights?
13. What they call their "(**insidious, pliable**) outlook on life" seems to be simply a lack of any firm moral standards.
14. Recruits who complain of the cold should try to show a little more (**fortitude, intimation**) in facing the elements.
15. There we were at the very edge of the cliff, with our front wheels about to plunge into a(n) (**gaping, intimating**) ravine!



Marble bust of Roman ruler Julius Caesar, assassinated on March 15, 44 B.C.



16. Let us not forget that the early fighters for women's rights were greeted with the (**gibes, guises**) of the unthinking mob.
17. The young prince, who much preferred blue jeans, had to dress in the (**stolid, opulent**) robes designed for the coronation.
18. Because of my inexperience, I did not recognize at first his (**insidious, ambidextrous**) attempts to undermine our employer's confidence in me.
19. The ticking grew louder as the bomb squad (**warily, plially**) opened the package found on the grounds of the governor's residence.
20. In this scene of wild jubilation, my (**stolid, tentative**) roommate continued to eat his peanut butter sandwich as though nothing had happened.
21. The librarian hoped to (**deploy, augment**) the rare book collection by purchasing a first edition of Walt Whitman's book of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*.
22. To make beaded jewelry, it is essential that the materials you use to thread the beads, such as fine gauge wire, silk, leather, or cord, be (**pliable, ambidextrous**) and easy to work with.
23. When the famous pop star appeared at a local restaurant and began playing her guitar, it was difficult for the patrons not to (**gape, adulterate**).
24. Though all hope of victory had faded, the remaining troops continued to resist the enemy with a (**bereft, dour**) tenacity.
25. The proctor (**intimated, reiterated**) the directions for the test before we began.

## Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. the **supple** limbs of a dancer \_\_\_\_\_
2. a **facile** and graceful writer \_\_\_\_\_
3. **gawk** at the huge jaws of the crocodile \_\_\_\_\_
4. gave no **indication** of being nervous \_\_\_\_\_
5. **rehash** the same old theories \_\_\_\_\_
6. **post** the remaining guards at the exits \_\_\_\_\_
7. attend a **lavish** holiday banquet \_\_\_\_\_
8. proceed **carefully** in unknown waters \_\_\_\_\_
9. need to **enlarge** the computer's memory \_\_\_\_\_
10. an **underhanded** attack on my good name \_\_\_\_\_



## Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. a person with a **rigid** viewpoint \_\_\_\_\_
2. his **direct** statement to the board of directors \_\_\_\_\_
3. **refused to repeat** the joke \_\_\_\_\_
4. surprisingly **maladroit** handling of the ball \_\_\_\_\_
5. a **definite** date for the party \_\_\_\_\_

## Completing the Sentence

From the words in this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. How can you tell whether the chopped-meat patty you ate for lunch had been \_\_\_\_\_ with artificial coloring and other foreign substances?
2. Many ballplayers can bat from either side of the plate, but they cannot throw well with each hand unless they are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The company commander called his troops together and asked for more volunteers to \_\_\_\_\_ the strength of the raiding party.
4. Perhaps I would be bored with the \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle of a millionaire, but I'm willing to try it.
5. Why would someone who is usually so neat and well-dressed appear in public in such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ state?
6. As the magician's assistant seemed to vanish into thin air, the entire audience \_\_\_\_\_ in amazement.
7. Why should I be the object of all those \_\_\_\_\_ just because I'm wearing a three-piece suit on campus?
8. In Shakespeare's famous tragedy *Othello*, Iago comes to Othello in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a friend but proves to be a deadly enemy.
9. I recorded the speaker's presentation, but now I wish I had a software program that could help me transcribe the speech \_\_\_\_\_ so that I can find appropriate quotations to use in my report.
10. America's earliest settlers faced the hardships of life on the frontier with faith and \_\_\_\_\_.



11. Having learned to respect the power in his opponent's fists, the boxer moved \_\_\_\_\_ around the center of the ring.
12. Since his acceptance of the invitation was only \_\_\_\_\_, the host may be one man short at the dinner party.
13. Her unchanging facial features and controlled voice as she received the news gave no \_\_\_\_\_ of her true feelings.
14. What a tragedy that in the twilight of her life the unfortunate woman should be \_\_\_\_\_ of all her loved ones!
15. At the risk of being boring, let me \_\_\_\_\_ my warning against careless driving.
16. The \_\_\_\_\_ expressions on the jurors' faces as they grimly filed back into the courtroom did not bode well for the defendant.
17. We learned that beneath his \_\_\_\_\_ exterior there was a sensitive, highly subtle, and perceptive mind.
18. To this day, historians are still debating whether or not Aaron Burr was guilty of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ plot to break up the United States.
19. The twigs that were to be woven into the basket were soaked in water to make them more \_\_\_\_\_.
20. An experienced baseball manager \_\_\_\_\_ his outfielders according to the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing batters.

### **Writing:** Words in Action

1. Look back at "The Globe Theatre: Then and Now" (pages 12–13). Suppose that you are Sam Wanamaker's assistant in 1970, helping him to raise funds to rebuild Shakespeare's Globe Theater. You want to persuade donors to help restore the historic theater by convincing them of three ways in which a replica of the Globe would be a cultural asset not only to London but also to the world. Write a persuasive letter, using at least two details from the passage and three unit words to make your point.
2. Think about how the experience of attending live theater is different from the experience of going to a movie theater. Write a brief essay in which you compare and contrast watching a play at a theater or playhouse to watching a film at a movie theater. Use examples from your reading (refer to pages 12–13), personal experiences, and prior knowledge to support your points of comparison. Use three or more words from this unit.