



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com).

## Definitions

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

### 1. adverse (ad vər's)

(adj.) unfavorable, negative; working against, hostile  
Some people suffer an \_\_\_\_\_ reaction if they eat peanut butter or anything with peanuts.  
SYNONYMS: difficult, trying  
ANTONYMS: favorable, positive, helpful, beneficial

### 2. arid (a' rīd)

(adj.) extremely dry; uninteresting, dull  
Although California leads the nation in farming, crops won't grow in its most \_\_\_\_\_ regions.  
SYNONYMS: waterless, parched, boring, unimaginative  
ANTONYMS: waterlogged, soggy, fertile, lush

### 3. assailant (ə sə' lənt)

(n.) a person who attacks violently (with blows or words)  
The jogger was injured by an unknown \_\_\_\_\_ who left him immobile at the side of the road.  
SYNONYMS: assaulter, attacker, mugger  
ANTONYMS: victim, prey, injured party

### 4. billow (bīl' ə)

(n.) a large wave; (v.) to rise or swell like a wave  
The ocean \_\_\_\_\_ rose and fell, attracting the most daring surfers.  
Fans cheered enthusiastically when they saw their team's flag \_\_\_\_\_ over the stadium.  
SYNONYMS: (n.) breaker; (v.) surge, bulge, balloon  
ANTONYMS: (n.) trough; (v.) deflate, collapse

### 5. confront (kən frənt')

(v.) to meet face-to-face, especially as a challenge; come to grips with  
In court, defendants can \_\_\_\_\_ their accusers in a controlled setting.  
SYNONYMS: face, encounter  
ANTONYMS: avoid, evade, sidestep

### 6. constrain (kən strān')

(v.) to force, compel; to restrain, hold back  
You can't \_\_\_\_\_ me against my will.  
SYNONYMS: pressure, restrict, confine, limit  
ANTONYMS: loosen, liberate, unfetter, relax

### 7. contemporary (kən tē'm' pə rē ə)

(adj.) belonging to the same period of time as oneself; (n.) a person of the same time



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### 8. deplete (dī plīt')

His novel used a \_\_\_\_\_ style but had a historical setting.  
Rather than ask parents for help, teens often turn to a \_\_\_\_\_ for advice.  
SYNONYMS: (adj.) present-day, modern, current; (n.) peer  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) ancient, prehistoric, antique, antiquated  
(v.) to portray; to represent or show in the form of a picture  
The painter chose to \_\_\_\_\_ a plain prairie landscape using bold colors and shadows.  
SYNONYMS: sketch, draw, picture, illustrate

### 9. disinterested (dis in' trəst id)

(adj.) fair-minded, free from selfish motives; indifferent  
A judge must remain \_\_\_\_\_ in order to render an evenhanded and logical decision.  
SYNONYMS: neutral, impartial, unbiased, apathetic  
ANTONYMS: partial, biased, prejudiced

### 10. encompass (en kəm' pas)

(v.) to encircle, go or reach around; to enclose; to include with a certain group or class  
Oceans \_\_\_\_\_ about three-fourths of the surface of our planet.  
SYNONYMS: surround, envelop, comprise  
ANTONYMS: leave out, omit, exclude

### 11. groundless (graund' ləs)

(adj.) without any good reason or cause; unjustified  
Kate's \_\_\_\_\_ fear of hurting herself during exercise has left her weak and out of shape.  
SYNONYMS: baseless, unsupported  
ANTONYMS: well-founded, reasonable, justified

### 12. hypocrite (hīp' ə krīt)

(n.) a person who pretends to be what he or she is not or better than he or she really is; a two-faced person  
The speaker who said one thing but did something else entirely was regarded as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: phony, charlatan, fraud

### 13. Incomprehensible (In kəm prī hen' sə bəl)

(adj.) impossible to understand  
Our school's intercom system is so old that this morning's announcements were almost \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: baffling, confusing, bewildering  
ANTONYMS: understandable, clear, plain, intelligible  
(v.) to handle or use skillfully; to manage or control for person's gain or advantage

### 14. manipulate (mə nīp' yə lāt)



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Scientists should not \_\_\_\_\_ data.  
SYNONYMS: work, maneuver, exploit, influence

**15. maximum** (mak' sa mam)  
(*n.*) the greatest possible amount or degree; (*adj.*) reaching the greatest possible amount or degree

This postage scale can weigh a \_\_\_\_\_ of only five pounds.  
To ease the patient's suffering, the doctor prescribed the \_\_\_\_\_ dosage of painkillers.

SYNONYMS: largest, highest, utmost  
ANTONYMS: least, lowest, minimum, smallest

**16. mimic** (mim' ik)  
(*n.*) a person who does imitations; (*v.*) to imitate; to make fun of  
The comedy troupe has many talented members, but it still needs to hire a good \_\_\_\_\_.

Troy continually entertains his friends because he can \_\_\_\_\_ any accent he hears.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) copycat, impersonator; (*v.*) parrot, impersonate

**17. ruffie** (raf' al)  
(*n.*) a gathered strip of material used for trimming edges; a ripple; a low drumbeat

(*v.*) to wrinkle, make uneven; to annoy, upset; to flip through;  
Try not to let wisecracks \_\_\_\_\_ your feelings.

My favorite pillow is soft and fluffy to the touch and has a velvet \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) disturb; (*n.*) frill  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) smooth out, soothe

**18. serene** (sa ren')  
(*adj.*) peaceful, calm; free of emotional upset; clear and free of storm; majestic, grand  
How does she manage to stay so \_\_\_\_\_

in the face of such chaos?  
SYNONYMS: tranquil, composed, fair, august  
ANTONYMS: agitated, troubled, stormy, inclement

**19. sheepish** (shep' ish)  
(*adj.*) embarrassed; resembling a sheep in meekness, timid  
His \_\_\_\_\_ grin made the crowds

cheer all the more for his unlikely victory.  
SYNONYMS: shamed, meek  
ANTONYMS: bold, saucy, brazen, confident

**20. stamina** (stam' a na)  
(*n.*) the strength needed to keep going or overcome physical or mental strain; staying power  
Marathon runners need a great deal of \_\_\_\_\_  
SYNONYM: endurance

## Completing the Sentence

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

- The brisk breeze caused the sheets on the line to \_\_\_\_\_ like the sails on a yacht that is running with the wind.
- The hot \_\_\_\_\_ climate of Arizona is favorable for many people suffering from various diseases, such as arthritis.
- The skyscraper is one of the best-known forms of \_\_\_\_\_ architecture.
- Although I may hurt your feelings, my conscience \_\_\_\_\_ me to let you exactly what is on my mind.
- Since Tom is both smart and \_\_\_\_\_, I think he is just the person decide which of us is right in this long and bitter quarrel.
- Fortunately, I was able to fight off my \_\_\_\_\_, even though his attack took me by complete surprise.
- You talk so fast and in such a low tone of voice that you are going to be completely \_\_\_\_\_ to most people.
- Held back by \_\_\_\_\_ winds, the plane arrived at the airport two hours late.
- Parrots and a few other kinds of birds can \_\_\_\_\_ sounds, particularly human speech.
- Under the law, the \_\_\_\_\_ number of people who may ride in this bus is seventy-five.
- For a long time, I thought that he was a good and sincere person, but I finally saw that he was no more than a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ expression on her face showed that she was totally undisturbed by the confusion and turmoil around her.
- This basic textbook \_\_\_\_\_ all the information you will have to master for the entrance examination.
- Using the entire east wall of the new Post Office building, the painter tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the founding of our city.
- The jury found the defendant "not guilty" because they were convinced that the charges against her were \_\_\_\_\_.
- I was so embarrassed by my blunder that I could do nothing but grin in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and self-conscious way.
- You and Lucy will never settle your quarrel unless you \_\_\_\_\_ ear other directly and listen to what the other person has to say.

18. Very few starting pitchers have the \_\_\_\_\_ to pitch well for nine innings.
19. A breeze sprang up and began to \_\_\_\_\_ the smooth and tranquil surface of the water.
20. As you become a more skillful driver, you will be able to \_\_\_\_\_ all the controls of the car while keeping your eyes on the road.

### 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 given phrase**. Write the word on the line provided.

1. enough **endurance** for the walk-a-thon \_\_\_\_\_
2. the **largest** quantity available \_\_\_\_\_
3. **maneuver** the dial to the exact position \_\_\_\_\_
4. that she can **parrot** my every action \_\_\_\_\_
5. could not mask that **shamefaced** look \_\_\_\_\_
6. confused by the child's **bewildering** behavior \_\_\_\_\_
7. mistrustful of that **phony** \_\_\_\_\_
8. a **tranquil** expanse of clear blue sky \_\_\_\_\_
9. tried to **restrict** the patient \_\_\_\_\_
10. to serve as a **neutral** witness \_\_\_\_\_
11. as colorful parachutes **surge** open \_\_\_\_\_
12. difficult to iron those lace **frills** \_\_\_\_\_
13. will never forget the **attacker's** voice \_\_\_\_\_
14. used pastels to **illustrate** the scene \_\_\_\_\_
15. a fence to **surround** the whole backyard \_\_\_\_\_

### Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite in meaning to the boldface word or expression in the given phrase**. Write the word on the line provided.

16. has a very **fertile** imagination \_\_\_\_\_
17. with a collection of **antique** chairs \_\_\_\_\_
18. **reasonable** concerns about our safety \_\_\_\_\_
19. due to **favorable** experiences in the past \_\_\_\_\_
20. to continually **evade** problems \_\_\_\_\_

### Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. If you (**blow**, **confront**) your problems honestly and openly, instead of trying to hide them, you will have a better chance of solving them.
2. The big-league shortstop (**manipulates**, **constrains**) his glove like a magician, snaring every ball hit within reach.
3. A good scientist must have a keen mind, an unquenchable curiosity, and a (**groundless**, **disinterested**) desire to discover the truth.
4. She has many interesting ideas, but she seems to lack the physical and mental (**stamina**, **assailant**) to make good use of them.
5. The (**adverse**, **sheepish**) publicity that he received during the investigation was probably the cause of his defeat in the next election.
6. Do you think it would be a good idea to set a (**maximum**, **contemporary**) figure for the amount of homework any teacher is allowed to assign?
7. After giving a few (**sheepish**, **serene**) excuses, the swimmers packed up and left the private beach.
8. Anyone who has ever sailed a small boat knows how thrilling it is to feel the spray in your face while the sails (**blow**, **encompass**) overhead.
9. After many stormy years in the service of his country, George Washington retired to the (**serene**, **adverse**) life of his beloved Mount Vernon.
10. After living for many years in that roomy old farmhouse, I felt awfully (**ard**, **constrained**) in that small apartment.
11. My idea of a(n) (**assailant**, **hypocrite**) is a person who gives advice that he or she is not willing to follow.
12. His decision not to accept our sincere offer of assistance is completely (**disinterested**, **incomprehensible**) to me.
13. I didn't want to (**ruffie**, **manipulate**) the feelings of the hotel manager, but I felt that had to complain about the miserable service.
14. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were (**contemporaries**, **mimics**), both within a few years of each other.
15. We expected the lecture on the energy crisis to be exciting, but it turned out to be a(n) (**ruffled**, **ard**) rundown of well-known facts and figures.
16. Despite the fact that she was in shock, the victim gave a clear description of her (**hypocrite**, **assailant**).
17. The science program in our school (**depicts**, **encompasses**) biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, and other related courses.
18. What a relief to learn that my parents had been delayed by a storm, and that all my fears about an accident were (**groundless**, **maximum**)!
19. She has gained success as a writer who knows how to (**confront**, **depict**) in a lifelike way the hopes, fears, and problems of young people today.
20. Instead of working so hard to (**mimic**, **ruffie**) popular TV stars, why don't you try to develop an acting style of your own?

## Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

### "A Pageant of Fatigue"

(Line)

One of the most **incomprehensible** public competitions ever conceived was the dance marathon. The object of this crazy contest, first held in 1923, was to see which couple could dance for longer than any other. Grace and style didn't matter. **Stamina** was the only thing that counted.

Dance marathons were wildly popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Young couples staggered around dance floors, moving to the **contemporary** tunes of the day. The



A woman struggles to hold up her fast-fading dance partner.

music was played by live bands or on records. The last couple to remain standing won. Winners might be rewarded up to a **maximum** of \$1000, which was a vast sum at that time. But they faced highly **adverse** conditions in their efforts to win. (10)

Rules varied slightly from contest to contest, but the main idea was always the same. Dancers could never leave the dance floor, except to use the rest room. They were **constrained** to eat, drink, and sleep on their feet. They always had to move, at least a little. Partners took turns supporting each other as best they could. (15)

Critics claimed that the dance marathons were simply physical cruelty. Lawmakers tried to get the contests banned. However, curious onlookers packed the dance halls. To them, it was entertaining to watch weary dancers. (20)

Why did people put themselves through this? Of course, there was prize money at stake. But (25)

the major reason seemed to be the power of the fad itself. Marathon dancers became overnight celebrities. Morning papers ran ongoing stories on them. People couldn't resist tales of wacky, risk-taking heroism, and juicy gossip about the dancers, whose relationships suffered as much as their bodies did during those grueling hours. (30)

1. The meaning of **incomprehensible** (line 1) is
  - a. understandable
  - b. famous
  - c. baffling
  - d. tiring
2. The meaning of **stamina** (line 4) is
  - a. endurance
  - b. weakness
  - c. rhythm
  - d. intelligence
3. **Contemporary** (line 6) most nearly means
  - a. ancient
  - b. jazzy
  - c. popular
  - d. current
4. **Maximum** (line 9) is best defined as
  - a. money reward
  - b. special prize
  - c. lowest amount
  - d. greatest amount
5. **Adverse** (line 11) most nearly means
  - a. helpful
  - b. difficult
  - c. musical
  - d. competitive
6. **Constrained** (line 16) is best defined as
  - a. liberated
  - b. compelled
  - c. portrayed
  - d. exploited