

English 10 Vocabulary Unit 5

1. **Altruistic** (adj.) unselfish, concerned with the welfare of others
(al trōō ɪs' tik) Most people support _____ programs to help the less fortunate of this world.
Synonyms: selfless
Antonyms: selfish, self-centered

2. **Assent** (v.) to express agreement; (n.) agreement
(ə sent') Workers hope that the threat of a long strike will force management to _____ to their demands.
Synonyms: concur, consent, accede
Antonyms: disagree, differ, dissent

3. **Benefactor** (n.) one who does good to others
(ben' ə fak tər) Without the help of many _____ most charities would be unable to carry out their work.
Synonyms: patron, humanitarian
Antonyms: misanthrope, malefactor

4. **Chivalrous** (adj.) marked by honor, courtesy, and courage; knightly
(shiv' əl rəs) In today's busy world, where people are often heedless of others, a _____ act is admired by all.
Synonyms: gallant, civil, valiant
Antonyms: crude, uncouth, churlish, loutish

5. **Clemency** (n.) mercy, humaneness; mildness, moderation
(klem' ən sē) Many judges are willing to show _____ to first offenders who express regret for their wrongdoing.
Synonyms: leniency, forbearance, gentleness
Antonyms: harshness, severity, cruelty, inflexibility

6. **Dearth** (n.) a lack, scarcity, inadequate supply; a famine
(dərth) An employer may complain of a _____ of qualified applicants for available jobs.
Synonyms: insufficiency, want, paucity
Antonyms: surplus, oversupply, glut, abundance

7. **Diffident** (adj.) shy, lacking self-confidence; modest, reserved
(dif' əd ənt) Many a _____ suitor has lost his beloved to a bold rival.
Synonyms: timid, bashful, unassertive, withdrawn
Antonyms: bold, brash, audacious, self-confident, jaunty

8. **Discrepancy** (n.) a difference; a lack of agreement
(dis krep' ən sē) _____ in the testimony of witnesses to a crime can have a decisive impact on the outcome of the trial.
Synonyms: disagreement, divergence, inconsistency
Antonyms: agreement, convergence, consistency

9. **Embark** (v.) to go aboard; to make a start; to invest
(əm bärk') Columbus spent years raising money before he was able to _____ on his perilous ocean voyage in search of a passage to the Far East.
Synonyms: commence, launch, begin, board

10. **Facile** (adj.) easily done or attained; superficial; ready, fluent; easily shown but not sincerely felt
(fa səl') Writing is a _____ process for some authors but a laborious task for others.
Synonyms: effortless, assured, poised, specious
Antonyms: labored, awkward, halting

11. **Indomitable** (adj.) unconquerable, refusing to yield
(in däm' ət ə bəl) All who hear of the remarkable deeds of Harriet Tubman admire her _____ courage in the face of grave danger.
Synonyms: unbeatable, invincible, unyielding
Antonyms: surrendering, submissive, yielding

12. **Infallible** (adj.) free from error; absolutely dependable
(in fal' ə bəl) Some critics seem convinced that their expert knowledge makes them _____ judges of the quality of an artist's work.
Synonyms: unerring, certain
Antonyms: imperfect

13. **Plod** (v.) to walk heavily or slowly; to work slowly
(pläd) After the blizzard, we had to _____ through deep snowdrifts to reach the nearest store.
Synonyms: lumber, trudge
Antonyms: scamper, skip, prance

14. **Pungent** (adj.) causing a sharp sensation; stinging, biting
(pən' jənt) The kitchen of the French restaurant was filled with the _____ aroma of onion soup.
Synonyms: sharp, spicy, piquant, caustic, racy
Antonyms: bland, unappetizing, colorless, insipid

15. **Remiss** (adj.) neglectful in performance of one's duty, careless
(rə mis') When I am _____ in doing daily chores, I have to spend a big part of the weekend catching up.
Synonyms: negligent, lax, slack
Antonyms: scrupulous, dutiful, punctilious

16. **Repose** (v.) to rest, lie; place (n.) relaxation, peace of mind, calmness
(rə pōz') The mortal remains of thousands who fell in America's wars _____ in Arlington National Cemetery.
After spending all day with others, you may wish for a period of _____ before dinner.
Synonyms: (v.) sleep; (n.) tranquility, respite
Antonyms: (n.) exertion, wakefulness, tumult, bustle, ado

17. **Temerity** (n.) rashness, boldness
(tə mer' ə dē) Few of his subordinates had the _____ to answer the general back.
Synonyms: recklessness, foolhardiness, effrontery
Antonyms: timidity, fearfulness, diffidence, humility

18. **Truculent** (adj.) fierce and cruel; aggressive; deadly, destructive; scathingly harsh
(trük' yə lənt) People with _____ dispositions can make life miserable for those who have to work with them.
Synonyms: brutal, savage, belligerent, vitriolic
Antonyms: gentle, mild, meek, unthreatening

19. **Unfeigned** (adj.) sincere, real, without pretense
(ən fānd') The novelist won high praise for her ability to portray the _____ emotions of children.
Synonyms: genuine, heartfelt
Antonyms: insincere, simulated, phony

20. **Virulent** (adj.) extremely poisonous; full of malice, spiteful
(vir' yə lənt) The First Amendment protects the right of free speech for everyone, even those with _____ views that are repugnant to most people.
Synonyms: venomous, noxious, baneful, hateful
Antonyms: innocuous, harmless, benign

Please complete the following activities using the vocabulary words from this unit.

I. Completing the Sentence

1. Doctors attributed the epidemic to the rampant spread of a particularly _____ strain of influenza virus.
2. My parents will not _____ to my going to the dance unless I promise faithfully to be home no later than 1:00 A.M.
3. As a school cafeteria guard, I would be _____ in my duties if I failed to report a serious disturbance.
4. We were all impressed by your _____ use of unusual words and expressions that you had learned only a few hours before.
5. Humor should be clever and amusing but never so _____ that it hurts feelings of other people.
6. The pathetic refugees _____ along the dusty road, hoping to reach the Red Cross camp before nightfall.
7. I rarely join in the discussions, not because I lack information and ideas, but rather because I am _____.
8. History tells us that many men and women regarded as failures in their own lifetimes were really major _____ of humanity.
9. The principal claimed that there were major _____ between what actually happened in the school and the way the incident was reported on T.V.
10. What good are _____ principles if no real attempt is made to help people by putting those principles into practice?
11. I did not realize how beautiful the twins were until they fell asleep and I saw their faces in complete _____.
12. In view of the many able people in public life today, I do not agree that we are suffering from a(n) _____ of capable leaders.

13. Do you really think it is _____ to give your seat to a pretty young woman when an aged lady is standing nearby?

14. Refusing to admit defeat even when things looked completely hopeless, our _____ football team drove eighty-five yards in the last few minutes to score the winning touchdown.

15. He is not merely unpleasant but actually dangerous whenever he gets into one of his _____ moods.

16. The rash young lieutenant had the _____ to disregard the express orders of the commanding officer.

17. Emphasizing the youth of the convicted man, the defense attorney pleaded for _____.

18. Your _____ joy when it was announced that I had won the scholarship meant more to me than all the polite congratulations I received.

19. As soon as the last passenger had _____, the captain ordered the ship to get under way.

20. The custom of putting erasers on pencils is one way of recognizing the fact that no one is _____.

Synonyms:

1. **trudged** slowly up the hill _____

2. **launch** a political campaign _____

3. faced with a **paucity** of volunteers _____

4. found **respite** in the shade of a tree _____

5. refused to **accede** to the will of the majority _____

6. **selfless** dedication to finding a cure _____

7. a **caustic** response to a hostile question _____

8. a **brutal** band of hardened criminals _____

9. made allowances for the **recklessness** of youth _____

10. the spreading of **venomous** rumors _____

11. an **unerring** sense of what the public wants _____

12. recognized the **difference** between fact and fiction _____

13. **negligent** in paying their taxes _____

14. the patient's **unconquerable** desire to live _____

15. moved with **effortless** grace _____

Antonyms:

16. made a **crude** apology for his behavior _____

17. **harshness** in judging others _____

18. an obviously **insincere** expression of concern _____

19. wrote a **bold** letter to the person in charge _____

20. discovered the identity of the **malefactor** _____

Choosing the Right Word:

1. American Presidents often point to one of their schoolteachers as the (**discrepancy, benefactor**) who helped shape their character and ideas.
2. We soon learned that behind his retiring and (**truculent, diffident**) manner, there was a keen mind and a strong will.
3. In a grim old joke, a man found guilty of murdering his parents appeals for (**clemency, assent**) because he is an orphan.
4. It would be (**indomitable, remiss**) of me, as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, not to express appreciation for the help of our faculty advisor.
5. After boasting to me of your family's great wealth, how could you have the (**clemency, temerity**) to ask me for a loan?
6. As a state legislator, you should not give your (**assent, chivalry**) to any measure unless you truly believe in it.
7. We breathed a sigh of relief when we saw the supposedly missing set of keys (**plodding, reposing**) in the desk drawer.
8. I admired the speaker's (**remiss, facile**) flow of words, but they failed to convince me that she had practical ideas to help solve our problems.
9. By 1781, George Washington's green recruits of a few years earlier had been forged into an (**infallible, indomitable**) army.
10. With all the deductions for taxes, there is a substantial (**dearth, discrepancy**) between my official salary and my weekly paycheck.
11. Planet Earth is a sort of spaceship on which billions of human beings have (**reposed, embarked**) on a lifelong voyage.
12. Great political leaders know how to appeal to people not only through self-interest but also through their sense of (**temerity, altruism**).
13. She is a popular young woman because people realize that her interest in them is sympathetic and (**remiss, unfeigned**).
14. The critic's (**pungent, facile**) comments during the TV panel show were not only amusing but also very much to the point.
15. You will surely win more support for your view by quiet discussion than by (**truculent, chivalrous**) attacks on your opponents.
16. He is not too well informed on most matters; but when it comes to big-league baseball, he is all but (**indomitable, infallible**).
17. I had no inkling of your deep-seated aversion to pop music until I overheard your (**altruistic, virulent**) comments about it.
18. In the violent world of today's pro football, good sportsmanship and (**pungent, chivalrous**) behavior still have a place.
19. The lawyer (**plodded, embarked**) through hundreds of pages of the trial record, hoping to find some basis for an appeal.
20. How do you account for the (**clemency, dearth**) of old-fashioned family doctors willing to make house calls?

Correctly write your five hardest words to spell below FIVE TIMES EACH:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

