

**UNIT 6 Vocabulary Packet****Name:**

1. **accede** ( **ak-SEED** ) (v.) to yield to; to assume an office or dignity  
*Management was not willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to labor's initial demands, thus increasing the likelihood of a long and bitter strike.*

**synonyms:** consent, concur, comply, assent  
**antonyms:** demur, balk at

2. **brandish** ( **BRAN-dish** ) (v.) to wave or flourish in a menacing or vigorous fashion  
*I \_\_\_\_\_ my umbrella repeatedly in a vain effort to hail an empty cab.*

**synonyms:** swing, shake

3. **comprise** ( **cuhm-PRIZE** ) (v.) to include or contain; to be made up of  
*Classical symphonies usually \_\_\_\_\_ three or four movements of varying musical form, tempo, and character.*

**synonyms:** compose, constitute, encompass  
**antonym:** exclude

4. **deft** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) (adj.) skillful, nimble  
*The \_\_\_\_\_ fingers of Spanish nuns produced some of the finest, most delicate lace ever seen.*

**synonyms:** dexterous, adroit, proficient, clever, masterful  
**antonyms:** clumsy, awkward, bungling, inept

5. **destitute** ( **DES-ti-TOOT** ) (adj.) deprived of the necessities of life; lacking in  
*Some people fled their homes so suddenly that they arrived at the refugee camp absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.*

**synonyms:** wanting, devoid, impoverished, penniless  
**antonyms:** rich, wealthy, luxurious, bountiful, full, replete

6. **explicit** ( **ek-SPLIS-it** ) (adj.) definite, clearly stated  
*The more \_\_\_\_\_ your directions are, the easier it will be for all of us to find our way to the campsite.*

**synonyms:** distinct, forthright, unambiguous, clear  
**antonyms:** vague, ambiguous, implied, implicit

7. **extirpate** ( **EX-tur-pait** ) (v.) to tear up by the roots; to destroy totally  
*We must do everything we can to \_\_\_\_\_ racism from American society.*

**synonyms:** uproot, eradicate, wipe out, excise  
**antonyms:** implant, sow, foster, nourish

8. **inopportune** ( **in-op-ur-TOON** ) (adj.) coming at bad times; not appropriate  
*Why do my relatives always seem to turn up at the most \_\_\_\_\_ times?*

**synonyms:** ill-timed, inconvenient, inappropriate, unsuitable  
**antonyms:** timely, convenient, felicitous, opportune

9. **ironic** ( **i-RON-ick** ) (adj.) suggesting an incongruity between what might be expected and what actually happens; given to irony, sarcastic

The short stories of O. Henry are famous for their \_\_\_\_\_ endings.

**synonyms:** incongruous, satiric, sardonic, wry

**antonyms:** straightforward, unequivocal

**10. musty ( MUHS-tee )** (adj.) stale, moldy; out-of-date

*Houses that have been closed up for a very long time often have an unpleasantly \_\_\_\_\_ smell about them.*

**synonyms:** hackneyed, antiquated

**antonyms:** fresh, sweet-smelling, up-to-date, brand-new

**11. officious ( o-FISH-uhs )** (adj.) meddling; excessively forward in offering services or assuming authority.

*The manager of the store warned the entire sales force not to be too \_\_\_\_\_ when helping customers.*

**synonyms:** meddlesome, prying, impertinent, obtrusive

**antonyms:** reserved, diffident, timid, aloof

**12. ominous ( OM-ih-nuss )** (adj.) unfavorable, threatening, of bad omen

*The \_\_\_\_\_ sound of distant thunder warned us of the storm's approach.*

**synonyms:** unpropitious, inauspicious, portentous

**antonyms:** propitious, auspicious, promising

**13. pinnacle ( PIN-uh-kuhl )** (n.) a high peak or point

*Some pop musicians reach the \_\_\_\_\_ of their careers comparatively early in life.*

**synonyms:** apex, acme, summit, apogee

**antonyms:** nadir, perigee, low point

**14. premeditated ( pre-MED-ih-tay-ted )** (adj., part.) considered beforehand, deliberately

*Some crimes are spontaneous acts of passion; others are quite \_\_\_\_\_.*  
planned

**synonyms:** preplanned, rehearsed, calculated, prearranged

**antonyms:** unplanned, spontaneous, impromptu

**15. rampant ( RAM-punht )** (adj.) growing without check, running wild

*All kinds of odd rumors run \_\_\_\_\_ during a political campaign.*

**synonyms:** widespread, unrestrained, extravagant, prevalent

**antonyms:** controlled, restrained

**16. solace ( SOL-is )** (n.) comfort, relief; (v.) to comfort, console

*Many world leaders seek \_\_\_\_\_ from the cares of state in the pages of great literature.*

**synonyms:** soothe, reassure, cheer up

**antonyms:** vex, aggravate, upset

**17. stately ( STEYT-lee )** (adj.) dignified, majestic

*The \_\_\_\_\_ procession slowly wound its way from the palace to the cathedral.*

**synonyms:** grand, magnificent, imposing

**antonyms:** lowly, humble, servile, abject

**18. supple ( SUHP-uhl )** (adj.) bending easily; bending with agility; readily adaptable; servile

*Have you ever read Robert Frost's famous poem about swinging on the \_\_\_\_\_ branches of a birch tree?*

**synonyms:** flexible, limber, pliable, pliant

**antonyms:** stiff, rigid, unbending, hidebound

**19. suppress ( suh-PRESS )** (v.) to stop by force, put down

*Totalitarian governments usually take strong measures to \_\_\_\_\_ free speech.*

**synonyms:** subdue, crush, stifle, squelch, quash, silence

**antonyms:** provoke, spur, arouse, incite, instigate

**20. venal ( VEEN-I )** (adj.) open to or marked by bribery or corruption

*The presence of even one \_\_\_\_\_ official may jeopardize the integrity of an entire organization.*

**synonyms:** dishonest, bribable, corruptible, mercenary

**antonyms:** honest, incorruptible, scrupulous

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

**I. Completing the Sentence**

1. How can I ever forget that \_\_\_\_\_ inspector in the customs office who insisted that I empty every piece of luggage before him!
2. We will never \_\_\_\_\_ to those selfish and unfair terms.
3. The students couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ their groans of dismay when the teacher announced a surprise quiz.
4. It is a truly sobering thought to realize that when one has reached the \_\_\_\_\_ of a mountain, there is nowhere to go but down.
5. A great dancer, like a great athlete, must have a sharp sense of timing and a highly trained, responsive, and \_\_\_\_\_ body.
6. Accomplished portrait painters can usually reveal a person's character with a few \_\_\_\_\_ strokes of a brush.
7. I vowed that I would \_\_\_\_\_ every weed that dared to show itself in our newly seeded lawn.
8. The unruly mob retreated as the line of deputies moved forward slowly, \_\_\_\_\_ their riot sticks.
9. "We could not have chosen a more \_\_\_\_\_ spot for our picnic," she observed as she swept ants off the blanket.
10. Who would have dreamed that the cluttered old attic, with all its darkness, dust, and \_\_\_\_\_ odor, contained such a treasure!
11. The referee gave a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ warning that if either team protested her decisions, she would be forced to call a technical foul.

12. Whether your act was \_\_\_\_\_ or the result of carelessness, the fact remains that you have caused great pain to someone who has always been very good to you.

13. How \_\_\_\_\_ that they finally inherited all that money at a time when it could no longer help to solve their problems!

14. The sudden drop in temperature and the unnatural stillness in the air were \_\_\_\_\_ signs of an unfavorable change in the weather.

15. Attacking the present administration, the candidate said that crime has been \_\_\_\_\_ in the city streets of our city.

16. Who can forget the sight of those \_\_\_\_\_ tall ships with their lofty masts and graceful lines as they sailed past the Statue of Liberty on the Fourth of July?

17. Unfortunately, the so-called recreational facilities \_\_\_\_\_ nothing more than a card table and a small-screen TV set.

18. In the mid-1800's, "Boss" Tweed controlled New York City through a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ political machine that fed on graft and extortion.

19. Airline companies often call in professional grief counselors to help \_\_\_\_\_ the families and friends of crash victims.

20. Even when the economy is strong, there are always a large number of \_\_\_\_\_ families in urgent need of assistance.

## II. Synonyms

1. the **dignified** language of the Gettysburg Address \_\_\_\_\_
2. triumphantly **flourished** the latest poll results \_\_\_\_\_
3. **contains** bits and pieces of longer words \_\_\_\_\_
4. an **incongruous** conclusion to a promising career \_\_\_\_\_
5. left the orphans totally **impoverished** \_\_\_\_\_
6. at the very **summit** of the social scene \_\_\_\_\_
7. the **widespread** lawlessness of the times \_\_\_\_\_
8. actions that were obviously **calculated** \_\_\_\_\_
9. annoyingly **meddlesome** coworkers \_\_\_\_\_
10. an **inappropriate** occasion for a feast \_\_\_\_\_
11. **uproot** evil from our midst \_\_\_\_\_
12. **soothe** the troubled spirit of a child \_\_\_\_\_
13. **subdued** an impulse to cry \_\_\_\_\_
14. the **mercenary** atmosphere of the campaign \_\_\_\_\_
15. not yet ready to **consent** to the proposal \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Antonyms

16. a **fresh**-tasting loaf of bread \_\_\_\_\_
17. made **vague** references to the past \_\_\_\_\_
18. a **clumsy** bid for power \_\_\_\_\_
19. an extremely **stiff** fabric \_\_\_\_\_
20. an **auspicious** development \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Choosing the Right Word: Circle the word that most correctly completes the sentence.**

1. Was Oscar Wilde being (**ironic, deft**) when he said that he could resist everything except temptation?
2. There's a world of difference between a helpful research assistant and an (**explicit, officious**) one!
3. She has the kind of (**supple, venal**) personality that can easily adapt itself to a wide variety of needs and conditions.
4. During the darkest hours of defeat, their only (**solace, pinnacle**) was the knowledge that they had fought hard to the very end.
5. If the law is intended to limit nonessential use of gasoline and heating oil, it should state this (**explicitly, ironically**).
6. He is in for a rude awakening if he thinks that as the son of a rich family, he will simply (**accede, suppress**) to a position of wealth and power.
7. No matter how ticklish the situation, the hero of the cartoon always devised some (**deft, rampant**) maneuver to avoid capture.
8. the actress felt that she had reached the (**pinnacle, solace**) of fame when the principal of her former school asked for her autograph.
9. They tried to explain away their racial slur as a slip of the tongue, but in my opinion it was deliberate and (**premeditated, ominous**).
10. Coming at a time when I was flat broke, your suggestion that we have a bite to eat and to go to the movies was highly (**officious, inopportune**).
11. Even in the concentration camps, some basic feelings of decency and humanity were not completely (**brandished, extirpated**).
12. We were prepared for a sharp scolding but not for the (**ominous, inopportune**) silence with which the principal greeted us.
13. his speech at first seemed highly dramatic and impressive, but we soon realized that he was quite (**destitute, musty**) of new ideas.
14. The way he (**brandishes, comprises**) his facts and figures reminds me of a butcher swinging a meat cleaver.
15. Someone who insists that everyone has a price believes that human beings are (**premeditated, venal**) by nature.
16. No doubt there are some dishonest officials, but it is a gross exaggeration to say that graft and corruption are (**rampant, explicit**) in our government.
17. Eliza Doolittle was a poor flower seller, but she learned to conduct herself with the (**supple, stately**) bearing of a princess.
18. The only sure way to (**suppress, brandish**) social unrest is to make possible a decent, secure life for all the people.
19. Let's prepare a joint statement that will (**accede, comprise**) the various objections of all civic groups to the freeway plan.

20. I have no patience with (**musty, stately**) old ideas about family roles based on gender.