

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 stale, moldy; out-of-date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.