

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 4. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

## Reforming the Security Council

<Newspaper Editorial>

For more than a decade, diplomats and politicians the world over have sought to reform the United Nations Security Council. While everyone seems to agree that reform could increase the Council's effectiveness, there is less **concord** as to how to bring it about. Many nations favor changes that suit their own interests and **grouse** about their rivals' points of view. As the debate drags on, proposals for reform pile up like **flotsam** on the shore, each idea thwarted by a barrage of  **mordant** objections. So the process of reform has proven less efficient than the Security Council itself, and hope for change threatens to **atrophy**.

The Security Council was created to serve as a **bastion** of peace and security in the world. It has the power to mediate disputes and to authorize peacekeeping operations, sanctions, and military action.

Its members include representatives from fifteen nations, five of which hold permanent seats. A minimum of nine votes is required for the Council to pass a resolution, but the five permanent members have the lion's share of influence over important decisions. If any permanent member votes against a proposed measure, the resolution does not pass.

This veto power held by the permanent members is the chief source of the Council's inefficacy. When there is disagreement among permanent members, a single "no" vote is enough to prevent the Council from taking action. Just the threat of a veto can throw negotiations into **disarray**, holding the Council hostage to the slow workings of diplomacy. This cumbersome process prevents the Council from reacting quickly to the **exigencies** of political crises. Accordingly, many critics

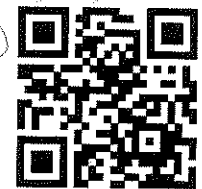
claim it is **incumbent** upon reformers to amend the Council's voting procedures. Others demand that the number of non-permanent members be increased to limit the permanent members' power. While there is wisdom in both of these suggestions, debate as to how the U.N. can implement such measures remains **frenetic**, with no end to the **stratagems** by which each nation hopes to gain advantage.

An increasing number of critics have suggested doing away with permanent membership entirely and making all members of the Council temporary officials. While proponents of this reform may **glean** support from some corners, there is little chance of its coming to pass. The permanent members will not willingly give up their privileged positions: Since they have the power to veto the proposal, it is **ludicrous** to expect that such a resolution could ever be enacted. Moreover, permanent membership is designed to reflect the realities of global politics. In theory, permanent members consist of the nations that contribute the most

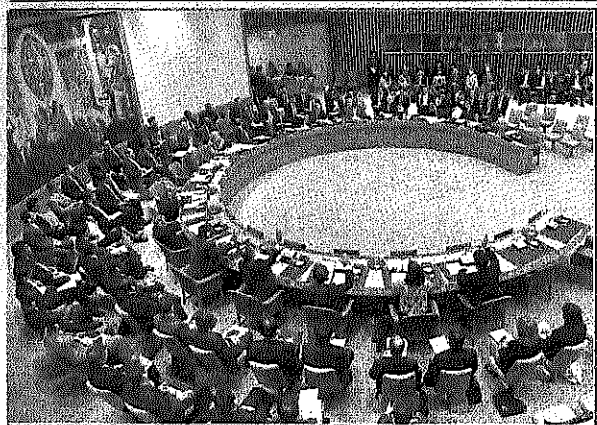
**pecuniary** and military support to the U.N. and that have the greatest power to influence world affairs by diplomatic, economic, or other means.

That is not necessarily the case today. The list of permanent members was drawn up just after World War II and no longer reflects the balance of global power. The fortunes of many nations have changed, for better or worse, in the past six decades. To better reflect today's world, influential nations such as Germany and Japan should be made permanent members, along with emerging regional powers like India, South Africa, and Brazil. And the Council's voting process must be improved. Achieving these aims will require an unusual degree of compromise and **consummate** diplomatic tact, and there is no doubt that some nations will be **nettled** by the result. But the only alternative is to allow the Council to remain an ineffective institution—and this is an outcome that benefits no one.

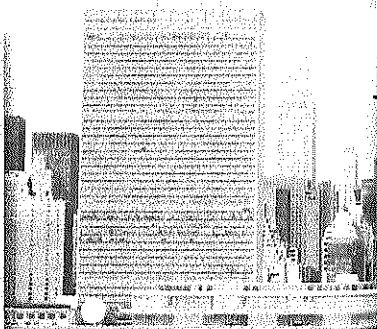
Words



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A meeting of the UN Security Council



The UN building in New York City, as seen from the East River



A UN peacekeeper monitors the border between Israel and Lebanon.

# 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. atrophy**  
(a' trə fē)

(n.) the wasting away of a body organ or tissue; any progressive decline or failure; (v.) to waste away

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the downtown business district began when two huge malls opened.

The patient's muscles have \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (n.) degeneration, deterioration; (v.) wither  
ANTONYMS: (n.) growth; (v.) mature
- 2. bastion**  
(bas' chən)

(n.) a fortified place, stronghold

Contrary to popular belief, the military is not always a \_\_\_\_\_ of political conservatism.

SYNONYMS: citadel, rampart, parapet
- 3. concord**  
(kän' kôrd)

(n.) a state of agreement, harmony, unanimity; a treaty, pact, covenant

A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ was restored when the company compensated its employees.

ANTONYMS: disagreement, strife, discord
- 4. consummate**  
(v., kăn' sə māt;  
adj., kən' sə mət)

(adj.) complete or perfect in the highest degree; (v.) to bring to a state of completion or perfection

Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican are works of \_\_\_\_\_ artistry.

The lawyers could not \_\_\_\_\_ the settlement until the two parties met face to face.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) masterful; (v.) clinch, conclude  
ANTONYMS: (v.) launch, initiate, begin, kick off
- 5. disarray**  
(dis ə rā')

(n.) disorder, confusion; (v.) to throw into disorder

The burgled home was in a state of \_\_\_\_\_.

If you leave the window open, a breeze may \_\_\_\_\_ the papers on the desktop.

SYNONYMS: (n.) disorganization; (v.) dishevel, mess up  
ANTONYMS: (n.) organization, order, tidiness
- 6. exigency**  
(ek' sə jən sē)

(n., often pl.) urgency, pressure; urgent demand, pressing need; an emergency

He emphasized the \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation by requesting the immediate dispatch of rescue teams.

SYNONYMS: requirement, crisis
- 7. flotsam**  
(flät' səm)

(n.) floating debris; homeless, impoverished people

After the two ships collided, the survivors clung to various pieces of \_\_\_\_\_ and hoped for rescue.

SYNONYM: floating wreckage
- 8. frenetic**  
(frə net' ik)

(adj.) frenzied, highly agitated

When a court order was issued, the social services department made a \_\_\_\_\_ search for the missing report.

SYNONYMS: frantic, overwrought  
ANTONYMS: calm, controlled, relaxed, leisurely
- 9. glean**  
(glēn)

(v.) to gather bit by bit; to gather small quantities of grain left in a field by the reapers

By means of painstaking investigation, the detectives will eventually \_\_\_\_\_ the truth.

SYNONYMS: cull, pick up
- 10. grouse**  
(graūs)

(n.) a type of game bird; a complaint; (v.) to complain, grumble

The patient's latest \_\_\_\_\_ was that he did not get any dessert with his dinner the night before.

Those who just stand around and \_\_\_\_\_ about their low salaries are not likely to get raises.

SYNONYMS: (v.) kvetch, bellyache
- 11. incarcerate**  
(in kär' sə rät)

(v.) to imprison, confine, jail

They will \_\_\_\_\_ the convicted felon at the state penitentiary.

SYNONYM: intern; ANTONYMS: liberate, free
- 12. incumbent**  
(in kəm' bənt)

(adj.) obligatory, required; (n.) one who holds a specific office at the time spoken of

Voting on election day is a duty \_\_\_\_\_ on all Americans who value a democratic government.

The \_\_\_\_\_ has the advantage when standing for reelection but does not have a guarantee of victory.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) mandatory, necessary  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) optional, unnecessary
- 13. jocular**  
(jäk' yə lər)

(adj.) humorous, jesting, jolly, joking

After receiving the news that she was ahead in the polls, the candidate was in a delightfully \_\_\_\_\_ mood.

SYNONYMS: waggish, facetious, droll  
ANTONYMS: solemn, grave, earnest, grim

- 14. ludicrous**  
(lū'd' ə krəs)  
(*adj.*) ridiculous, laughable, absurd  
Her comment was so \_\_\_\_\_ that we finally understood that she was joking.  
SYNONYMS: risible, preposterous  
ANTONYMS: heartrending, poignant, pathetic
- 15. mordant**  
(mōr' dənt)  
(*adj.*) biting or caustic in thought, manner, or style; sharply or bitterly harsh  
The actor was upset by the \_\_\_\_\_ criticism of the gossip columnist who seemed out to ruin his reputation.  
SYNONYMS: acrimonious, acidulous, sardonic, scathing  
ANTONYMS: bland, mild, gentle, soothing
- 16. nettle**  
(net' əl)  
(*n.*) a prickly or stinging plant; (*v.*) to arouse displeasure, impatience, or anger; to vex or irritate severely  
If you are pricked by a \_\_\_\_\_, aloe cream will soothe and reduce the sting.  
The principal was \_\_\_\_\_ by the student's disrespectful behavior.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) peeve, annoy, incense, gall  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) please, delight, soothe, pacify
- 17. pecuniary**  
(pi kyū' nē er ē)  
(*adj.*) consisting of or measured in money; of or related to money  
The couple was forced by \_\_\_\_\_ considerations to sell their large home and buy a smaller one.  
SYNONYM: monetary
- 18. pusillanimous**  
(pyū sə lan' ə mās)  
(*adj.*) contemptibly cowardly or mean-spirited  
It is often said that bullies, when tested, are the most \_\_\_\_\_ people of all.  
SYNONYM: lily-livered  
ANTONYMS: stouthearted, courageous
- 19. recumbent**  
(ri kəm' bənt)  
(*adj.*) in a reclining position, lying down, in the posture of one sleeping or resting  
The tired toddlers were \_\_\_\_\_ on the couch after playing all afternoon in the yard.  
SYNONYMS: prone, supine, inactive  
ANTONYMS: erect, energetic, dynamic
- 20. stratagem**  
(strat' ə jəm)  
(*n.*) a scheme to outwit or deceive an opponent or to gain an end  
The defense attorney used a clever \_\_\_\_\_ to curry sympathy for her client.  
SYNONYMS: trick, ploy, subterfuge

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 50–51 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- In Victorian times, fashionable ladies (**disarrayed, incarcerated**) their waists in tight corsets to achieve a chic "hourglass" figure.
- During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was fashionable to spend a few weeks in the fall hunting (**grouse, nettles**), pheasants, and other game birds.
- Comfortably (**recumbent, frenetic**) in the shade of the elm tree, I watched the members of the football team go through a long, hard workout.
- The affairs of our city are in such (**disarray, flotsam**) that the state may have to intervene to restore some semblance of order.
- Before the ceremony began, we all bowed our heads and hoped for unity, peace, and (**concord, atrophy**) among all nations.
- We were fascinated by the (**mordant, frenetic**) scene on the floor of the stock exchange as brokers struggled to keep up with sudden price changes.
- I have always regarded our schools and colleges as citadels of learning and (**bastions, stratagems**) against ignorance and superstition.
- Do you really think that those (**jocular, recumbent**) remarks are appropriate on such a solemn occasion?
- In the shelter, I saw for the first time people who'd been beaten and discouraged by life—the so-called derelicts and (**flotsam, incumbents**) of the great city.
- The only way we'll really be able to increase productivity is to offer our employees a few solid (**frenetic, pecuniary**) incentives to work harder.
- We were able to (**consummate, glean**) only a few shreds of useful information from his long, pretentious speech.
- Of the ten Congressional seats in our state, only one was won by a new member; all the other winners were (**incumbents, bastions**).
- There are few things in life as (**frenetic, ludicrous**) as an unqualified person trying to assume the trappings of authority.
- The huge influx of wealth that resulted from foreign conquests led in part to the physical and moral (**atrophy, flotsam**) of the Roman ruling class.
- What we need to cope with this crisis is not cute (**grouses, stratagems**) but a bold, realistic plan and the courage to carry it out.



Victorian dress with a high neckline and long, full skirt

- 16. All that I needed to (**consummate, nettle**) the most important deal of my career was her signature on the dotted line.
- 17. To feel fear in difficult situations is natural, but to allow one's conduct to be governed by fear is (**jocular, pusillanimous**).
- 18. I noticed with approval that his (**pecuniary, mordant**) remarks were intended to deflate the pompous and unmask the hypocritical.
- 19. It has been said that the only way to handle a (**nettle, stratagem**), or any difficult problem, without being stung is to grasp it firmly and decisively.
- 20. A born leader is someone who can rise to the (**incumbents, exigencies**) of any crisis that he or she may be confronted with.
- 21. Why did my grandparents feel it necessary to show the (**pecuniary, ludicrous**) photo of me dressed as a chicken to my new girlfriend?
- 22. Although most of the diners' comments were favorable, several (**grouses, concords**) about the soggy salads dismayed the chef.
- 23. Recent polls confirm a widespread (**atrophy, nettle**) in small business owners' abilities to secure bank loans at reasonable rates.
- 24. In his 1907 painting *The Sick Child*, Edvard Munch's depiction of a (**jocular, recumbent**) adolescent creates a mood of despair.
- 25. The undisciplined puppy (**disarrayed, consummated**) the boxes in the garage.

### 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. **gripes** about every change in the routine \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. received **financial** compensation \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. the ill-conceived **ruse** \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. **collected** tidbits of information \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. a longtime **bulwark** of resistance \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. **prostrate** on a hospital bed \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. **craven** behavior \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. a **witty** conversation \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. **immured** for years in a dank dungeon \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. **irks** her coworkers with senseless chatter \_\_\_\_\_

### 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. made a **daring** attempt \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. enthusiasm that **developed** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. stayed **upright** without moving \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. **release** the trapped bat \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. a **humorless** manner \_\_\_\_\_

### 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. The defeated army fled in such \_\_\_\_\_ that before long it had become little more than a uniformed mob.
- 2. People who are used to the unhurried atmosphere of a country town often find it hard to cope with the \_\_\_\_\_ pace of big-city life.
- 3. Almost every case of muscle or tissue \_\_\_\_\_ is the result of disease, prolonged disuse, or changes in cell nutrition.
- 4. I have yet to meet an adult who did not \_\_\_\_\_ about the taxes he or she had to pay.
- 5. I get my best ideas while lying down; the \_\_\_\_\_ position seems to stimulate my brain.
- 6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of my present financial situation demand that I curtail all unnecessary expenses for at least a month.
- 7. Even critics of our penal system admit that as long as hardened criminals are \_\_\_\_\_, they can't commit further crimes.
- 8. Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens* is a disillusioned misanthrope who spends his time hurling \_\_\_\_\_ barbs at the rest of mankind.
- 9. As soon as he struck the opening chords of the selection, we realized that we were listening to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ master of the piano.
- 10. The \_\_\_\_\_ that we observed here and there in the harbor bore mute testimony to the destructive power of the storm.

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 5. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

## What Is Pop Art?

< Essay >



Roy Lichtenstein's *In the Car*, 1963, looks like a comic strip but measures 30 x 40 in.

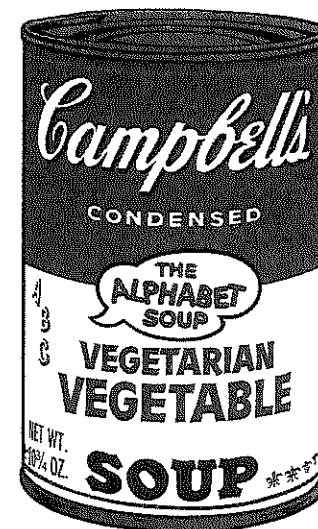
What is pop art? The simple answer: Art based on popular culture. Beginning in the mid-1950s and continuing for more than a decade, pop artists borrowed images directly from everyday popular culture. Drawing upon this seemingly **mundane** content, pop artists created bold, overpowering images. With great **acuity**, their canvases detailed such familiar things as comic strips, American flags, race cars, popular movie stars, and even boxes of laundry detergent.

In many ways, pop art was a reaction to abstract expressionism, the dominant style of painting during the 1940s and 1950s. Abstract expressionist paintings were nonrepresentational; they did not **delineate** objects directly. Instead, artists used abstract shapes and **nuances** in

color to express personal ideas and feelings. Pop artists viewed abstract expressionism as elitist—too **esoteric** to be appreciated by most museum goers. In response, they returned to representational art. This was a time when consumerism was booming in the United States and advertising had become **ubiquitous**. So the world around the pop artists became a **fecund** source of images.

At first, pop art **garnered** much negative criticism. Some critics complained that pop art's **pendant** for reproducing existing images—such as painting a portrait of a can of soup—was too easy. Others claimed the pop artist's love of commercial images **enervated** traditional artistic values. A few critics even implied that pop art was **depraved**, or at least was

Warhol, Andy (1928–1987). *Vegetarian Vegetable from Campbell's Soup II*. 1969. Screenprint, 35 $\frac{1}{8}$  x 23 $\frac{1}{16}$  in. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Eider-Orley, 1972 (1972.724.3). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.



devoid of aesthetic principles. Pop artists dismissed these arguments as so much **sophistry**. Why should traditional art be **hallowed** and commercial art be dismissed as vulgar? Was it a declaration of truth or a mere **fiat** when a critic pronounced one piece art and another trash?

No doubt reminding themselves that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, pop artists ignored the critics and continued to explore the relationship between the two types of art, playing around with commercial images and presenting them as works of art. Roy Lichtenstein, for example, chose comic strips as his main subject. Reproducing all the **idiosyncrasies** of this format, including voice balloons and printing dots, he chose frames that showed violent action or sentimental romance. The images, enlarged to monumental size and completely out of context, took on a new significance.

Andy Warhol is **reputed** to have eaten soup for lunch every day for twenty years. Perhaps that explains why he, the best-known of the pop artists, first became famous for his images of soup cans and other consumer products. Later, glamour and fame became a central theme of his work, and he produced **sumptuous** silkscreens of celebrities, such as Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley. Thanks to an **overweening** desire for publicity, Andy Warhol helped make pop art a household term, and he became one of the wealthiest artists of all time.

Pop art sculptors were also active, again taking consumer products as their starting point. Claes Oldenburg stuffed and painted cloth to produce giant hamburgers, toothpaste tubes, and ice

cream bars. Like so much pop art, Oldenburg's "soft sculptures" remind us that, in pop art, the ordinary things of life become strange and things that we take for granted are seen anew, as if for the first time.

Pop art outlived its critics, and today, a half century later, its seriousness is in no doubt. As a movement, pop art ended, but not before greatly expanding the range of subjects, attitudes, and techniques available to all artists. Thanks to the pop artists, younger generations of painters, sculptors, and photographers now explore the world in more imaginative and thought-provoking ways:

Words



Snap the code, or go to [vocabularyworkshop.com](http://vocabularyworkshop.com)

# 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. acuity** (ə kyū' ə tē) (n.) sharpness (particularly of the mind or senses)  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of most people's hearing diminishes as they grow older.  
SYNONYMS: acuteness  
ANTONYMS: dullness, obtuseness
- 2. delineate** (dī lin' ē āt) (v.) to portray, sketch, or describe in accurate and vivid detail; to represent pictorially  
The architects will \_\_\_\_\_ the main features of their plan at the next client meeting.  
SYNONYMS: picture, render
- 3. depraved** (dī prāv'd') (adj.) marked by evil and corruption, devoid of moral principles  
Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is about a \_\_\_\_\_ man whose portrait reveals his wickedness.  
SYNONYMS: perverted, degenerate, vicious, corrupt  
ANTONYMS: moral, virtuous, upright, uncorrupted
- 4. enervate** (en' ə vāt) (v.) to weaken or lessen the mental, moral, or physical vigor; to enfeeble, hamstring  
Unfortunately, the great musician's mind was \_\_\_\_\_ by disease in the last decade of her life.  
SYNONYMS: impair, cripple, paralyze  
ANTONYMS: invigorate, strengthen, buttress
- 5. esoteric** (es ə ter' ik) (adj.) intended for or understood by only a select few, private, secret  
The fraternity developed a set of \_\_\_\_\_ rites that had to be performed by anyone seeking membership.  
SYNONYMS: cryptic, arcane, recondite  
ANTONYMS: accessible, comprehensible, intelligible
- 6. fecund** (fek' und) (adj.) fruitful in offspring or vegetation; intellectually productive  
The remarkably \_\_\_\_\_ mind of Albert Einstein produced theories that revolutionized the science of physics.  
SYNONYMS: fertile, teeming, prolific  
ANTONYMS: infertile, barren, unproductive

- 7. fiat** (fē ət) (n.) an arbitrary order or decree; a command or act of will or consciousness  
The ruler instituted several new \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: dictum, ukase
- 8. figment** (fig' mēnt) (n.) a fabrication of the mind; an arbitrary notion  
The silhouette of a man on the porch was a mere \_\_\_\_\_ of your overheated imagination.  
SYNONYMS: invention, fancy
- 9. garner** (gār' nər) (v.) to acquire as the result of effort; to gather and store away, as for future use  
Over the years, the writer was able to \_\_\_\_\_ some wisdom that she passed on to others in her books.  
SYNONYMS: collect, accumulate, accrue  
ANTONYMS: scatter, squander, waste, dissipate
- 10. hallow** (hal' ō) (v.) to set apart as holy or sacred, sanctify, consecrate; to honor greatly, revere  
In the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_ the battlefield on which the Union soldiers fought and died.  
SYNONYMS: venerate, bless  
ANTONYMS: defile, profane
- 11. idiosyncrasy** (id ē ə sīj' krə sē) (n.) a peculiarity that serves to distinguish or identify  
The fact that the plurals of some nouns are formed irregularly is an \_\_\_\_\_ of English grammar.  
SYNONYMS: quirk, mannerism
- 12. ignominy** (ig' nə min ē) (n.) shame and disgrace  
He went from glory to \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: humiliation, disrepute, odium  
ANTONYMS: honor, acclaim
- 13. mundane** (mən dān') (adj.) earthly, worldly, relating to practical and material affairs; concerned with what is ordinary  
The painter left all \_\_\_\_\_ concerns to her sister while she single-mindedly pursued her artistic goals.  
SYNONYMS: prosaic, humdrum, routine, sublunary  
ANTONYMS: heavenly, spiritual, transcendental

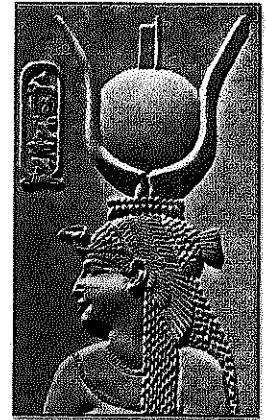


- 14. nuance**  
(nū' äns)  
(*n.*) a subtle or slight variation (as in color, meaning, quality), delicate gradation or shade of difference  
In his writing, the poet paid close attention to every \_\_\_\_\_ of meaning in the words he chose.  
SYNONYMS: shade, nicety, refinement
- 15. overweening**  
(ō vər wē 'nīŋ)  
(*adj.*) conceited, presumptuous; excessive, immoderate  
It was the \_\_\_\_\_ confidence of the candidate that prevented her from acknowledging her weaknesses.  
SYNONYMS: arrogant, unbridled, inflated  
ANTONYMS: restrained, understated, meek
- 16. penchant**  
(pen' chənt)  
(*n.*) a strong attraction or inclination  
A teacher with a \_\_\_\_\_ for belaboring the obvious is bound to be boring.  
SYNONYMS: proclivity, predilection  
ANTONYMS: disinclination, aversion
- 17. reputed**  
(ri pyüt' id)  
(*adj.*) according to reputation or general belief; having widespread acceptance and good reputation; (*part.*) alleged  
Although he is the \_\_\_\_\_ head of a crime syndicate, he has never spent time in jail.  
SYNONYMS: putative, reputable  
ANTONYMS: proven, corroborated, authenticated
- 18. sophistry**  
(säf' ə strē)  
(*n.*) reasoning that seems plausible but is actually unsound; a fallacy  
The couple was beguiled into buying a bigger house than they needed by the clever \_\_\_\_\_ of the broker.  
SYNONYM: specious reasoning
- 19. sumptuous**  
(səmp' chü əs)  
(*adj.*) costly, rich, magnificent  
The \_\_\_\_\_ feast honoring the king's birthday was followed by musical entertainment.  
SYNONYMS: lavish, munificent, opulent, splendid  
ANTONYMS: skimpy, stingy, niggardly, spartan
- 20. ubiquitous**  
(yü bik' wə təs)  
(*adj.*) present or existing everywhere  
The \_\_\_\_\_ eye of the TV camera threatens to rob citizens of any sense of privacy.  
SYNONYMS: pervasive, universal  
ANTONYMS: restricted, limited, rare, scarce

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 60–61 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- Cleopatra took her own life rather than suffer the (**figment, ignominy**) of being led through the streets of Rome in chains.
- Her imagination is like a (**fecund, depraved**) field in which new ideas spring up like so many ripe ears of corn.
- Scandal and corruption may so (**enervate, delineate**) an administration that it can no longer function effectively.
- Two synonyms are rarely exactly the same because (**fiats, nuances**) of tone or applicability make each of the words unique.
- Few writers have J. D. Salinger's remarkable ability to (**delineate, garner**) the emotions and aspirations of the average teenager.
- It is only in superior mental powers, not in physical strength or (**ignominy, acuity**) of the senses, that human beings surpass other living things.
- Your language is indeed clever and amusing, but your argument is nothing but a piece of outright (**sophistry, idiosyncrasy**).
- Someone with a pronounced (**penchant, figment**) for saying the wrong thing might justly be described as a victim of "foot-in-mouth" disease.
- The (**sumptuous, ubiquitous**) banquet was a pleasant change of pace from the spartan fare to which I had become accustomed.
- He means well, but we cannot tolerate his highly (**idiosyncratic, fecund**) behavior in an organization that depends on discipline and teamwork.
- Like a true fanatic, he considers anyone who disagrees with him on any issue to be either feeble-minded or (**depraved, mundane**).
- A true sign of intellectual maturity is the ability to distinguish the (**figments, penchants**) of wishful thinking from reality.
- In a democracy, the government must rule by persuasion and consent—not by mere (**fiat, sophistry**).
- How I'd love to knock the wind out of the sails of that lout's (**fecund, overweening**) conceit!
- The conversation between the computer programmers was so (**esoteric, ubiquitous**) that I wasn't sure they were speaking English.



A relief of Cleopatra, the last ruler of ancient Egypt (51 BC–30 BC).

- 16. In that rarefied atmosphere, I was afraid to ask about anything quite so (**sumptuous, mundane**) as the location of the rest room.
- 17. I appreciate all those kind expressions of gratitude for my services, but I had hoped also to (**garner, nuance**) some cash.
- 18. The alert defense put up by our team completely neutralized our opponents' (**reputedly, sumptuously**) unstoppable passing attack.
- 19. We will never abandon a cause that has been (**garnered, hallowed**) by the achievements and sacrifices of so many noble people.
- 20. Probably no complaint of young people is more (**ubiquitous, depraved**) than "My parents don't understand me!"
- 21. In Shakespeare's *Othello* and *King Lear*, the (**overweening, sumptuous**) pride of the title characters contributes to their tragic downfalls.
- 22. Eight White Sox players in the 1919 World Series were banned from baseball for throwing games and forced to live with the (**fiat, ignominy**) of their actions.
- 23. The orator who is most able to recognize and rebut his or her opponent's persuasive (**figments, sophistry**) consistently will win the debate.
- 24. Weary of her (**mundane, ubiquitous**) day-to-day life, the woman embarked on a summer-long bicycle adventure across the continental United States.
- 25. Given my (**penchant, nuance**) for spicy food, I should enjoy the cayenne pepper.

### 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. known for his **propensity** for exaggeration \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. as a result of a general **edict** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. a **supposed** heir to a huge fortune \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. an **eccentricity** of speech \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. **depicted** the view from the balcony \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. sought **occult** knowledge in ancient books \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. the latest **creation** of his imagination \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. their **omnipresent** sense of dread \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. known for the **keenness** of her wit \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. the **dishonor** of plagiarism \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 man of **modest** aspirations \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. the **other worldly** side of life \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. made a **meager** meal \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. the **glory** of her situation \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. believed the story was **reality** \_\_\_\_\_

### 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. The marathon not only brought in huge sums of money for Africa's starving masses, but also \_\_\_\_\_ much sympathy for their plight.
- 2. Beneath the man's cultivated manner and impeccable grooming there lurked the \_\_\_\_\_ mind of a brutal sadist.
- 3. The man is \_\_\_\_\_ to have mob connections, but so far no one has actually substantiated the allegation.
- 4. May I interrupt this abstruse discussion and turn your attention to more \_\_\_\_\_ matters—like what's for dinner?
- 5. Most people I know are so busy dealing with the ordinary problems of life that they have no time for \_\_\_\_\_ philosophical speculation.
- 6. During the eleven years of his "personal rule," King Charles I bypassed Parliament and ruled England by royal \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Analysis will show that his "brilliant exposition" of how we can handle the pollution problem without cost to anyone is sheer \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. I was so \_\_\_\_\_ by the oppressive heat and humidity of that awful afternoon that I could barely move.
- 9. The phonograph is but one of the wonderful new devices that sprang from the \_\_\_\_\_ mind of Thomas Edison, our most prolific inventor.
- 10. "Your suspicion that I am constantly making fun of you behind your back is a mere \_\_\_\_\_ of your overheated brain," I replied.



11. The ground in which those soldiers are buried was \_\_\_\_\_ by the blood they shed on it.
12. He was a changed young man after he suffered the \_\_\_\_\_ of expulsion from West Point for conduct unbecoming a gentleman.
13. His constant use of the word *fabulous*, even for quite ordinary subjects, is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ that I could do without.
14. There is quite a difference between the austere furnishings of my little apartment and the \_\_\_\_\_ accommodations of a luxury hotel.
15. His \_\_\_\_\_ sense of superiority dominates his personality in much the same way as his beetling brow dominates his face.
16. You may have many good traits, but I do not admire your \_\_\_\_\_ for borrowing things and failing to return them.
17. The passing years lessened her physical vigor but in no way diminished the \_\_\_\_\_ of her judgment.
18. Music can often express a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of mood or feeling that would be difficult to put into words.
19. The artist's sketch not only \_\_\_\_\_ the model's appearance accurately, but also captured something of her personality.
20. American-style fast-food shops have gained such popularity all over the world that they are now truly \_\_\_\_\_.

### Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "What Is Pop Art?" (pages 60–61). Think about the kinds of art and music that are popular today. How have styles of art and music changed over the years? How do they reflect the social values and issues of a specific time period? Write a brief essay in which you analyze one or two current trends in art or music, explaining what they reveal about contemporary society. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words in your analysis.
2. For centuries, people have tried to answer this question: "Is some art actually better than other art, or is the quality of a work of art really just a matter of personal taste?" What is your opinion? If there is good and bad art, then what makes good art good, and what makes bad art bad? Write at least three paragraphs explaining your viewpoint. Support your ideas with specific details from your reading (pages 60–61), your prior knowledge, and your personal experience and observations.

## Vocabulary in Context

### Literary Text

The following excerpts are from Charles Dickens's novel *David Copperfield*. Some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. By and by, when we had dined in a **sumptuous** manner off boiled dabs, melted butter, and potatoes, with a chop for me, a hairy man with a very good-natured face came home.

Something that is **sumptuous** is

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| a. casual      | c. protracted    |
| b. magnificent | d. companionable |

2. "The victim, from my cradle, of pecuniary liabilities to which I have been unable to respond, I have ever been the sport and toy of debasing circumstances. **Ignominy**, Want, Despair, and Madness, have, collectively or separately, been the attendants of my career."

**Ignominy** is

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| a. disgrace | c. larceny      |
| b. poverty  | d. imprisonment |

3. "Miss Dartle," I returned, "you deepen the injury... you do him a great wrong."

"I do him no wrong," she returned. "They are a **depraved**, worthless set."

Someone who is **depraved** is definitely NOT

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. reasonable | c. cheerful |
| b. dynamic    | d. moral    |

4. Before this boy, who was **reputed** to be a great scholar, and was very good-looking, and at least half-a-dozen years my senior, I was carried as before a magistrate.

A person who is **reputed** to be a scholar is

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. generally believed to be one | c. humble about his abilities |
| b. expected to become one       | d. devoted to his studies     |

5. What other changes have come upon me, besides the changes in my growth and looks, and in the knowledge I have **garnered** all this while?

When something is **garnered**, it is

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| a. verified | c. utilized  |
| b. gathered | d. dispersed |



A scene from the 1935 film version of *David Copperfield*, starring W.C. Fields as Mr. Micawber and Freddie Bartholomew as David Copperfield.

Interactive  
Quiz



Snap the code, or go to  
[vocabularyworkshop.com](http://vocabularyworkshop.com)