

UNIT 1

Definitions

definition given for each of the words below. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

1. **blunder**
(blun' der)

(v.) to make a foolish or careless mistake; to move clumsily and carelessly

I saw the hiker _____ through the woods.

(n.) a serious or thoughtless mistake

I was terribly embarrassed by my _____

SYNONYMS: (v.) to err, foul up, bungle, goof; (n.) an error, blooper

ANTONYMS: (v.) to triumph, succeed; (n.) a success, hit

2. **cancel**
(kan' səl)

(v.) to call off or do away with; to cross out with lines or other marks to show that something cannot be used again

Maybe the principal will _____ classes if it continues to snow.

SYNONYMS: to stop, discontinue, drop, repeal, revoke

ANTONYMS: to renew, continue, extend, maintain

3. **continuous**
(kan tin' yū əs)

(adj.) going on without a stop or break

_____ TV coverage began shortly after news of the disaster broke.

SYNONYMS: ongoing, endless, ceaseless, unbroken, constant, perpetual

ANTONYMS: broken, discontinuous, interrupted

4. **distribute**
(di stri' byūt)

(v.) to give out in shares; to scatter or spread

Our class will _____ leaflets announcing the school's fund-raising drive.

SYNONYMS: to divide, share, deal, issue

ANTONYMS: to gather, collect, hold

5. **document**
(dɒk' yə ment)

(n.) a written or printed record that gives information or proof

The librarian found the old _____ between pages of a book.

(v.) to give written or printed proof; to support with evidence

Writers often _____ their sources.

SYNONYMS: (n.) a certificate, deed; (v.) to prove, establish

6. **fragile**
(tra' jəl)

(adj.) easily broken or damaged, requiring special handling or care

The _____ antique was carefully packed to it during shipment.



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The Greek god Zeus, shown here in a Roman sculpture, is the subject of many ancient **myths** (word 7).

7. **myth**
(mɪθ)

(n.) an old story that explains why something is or how it came to be; something imaginary

The play is based on an ancient Greek _____.

SYNONYMS: a legend, fable, tale, fantasy, fairy tale
ANTONYM: a fact

8. **reject**
(rɪˈdʒekt)

(v.) to refuse to accept, agree to, believe, or use

Why did you _____ the offer?

SYNONYMS: to deny, discard, junk, scrap, decline, dismiss
ANTONYMS: to take, accept, receive, welcome

9. **scuffle**
(skʌˈfəl)

(v.) to fight or struggle closely with

A witness saw the two men _____ in an alley.

(n.) fight or struggle

Police officers were called in to break up the _____.

SYNONYMS: (v.) to tussle, roughhouse, battle, brawl; (n.) a fistfight, clash

10. **solitary**
(səˈlɪtəri)

(adj.) living or being alone; being the only one

The old man led a _____ life.

SYNONYMS: single, sole, lone
ANTONYMS: sociable; several, many, numerous

11. **temporary**
(temˈpərəri)

(adj.) lasting or used for a limited time

A blow to the head can cause a _____ loss of memory.

SYNONYMS: short-term, passing, brief, momentary
ANTONYMS: lasting, long-lived, permanent

12. **veteran**
(veˈtərən)

(n.) a person who has served in the armed forces; a person who has a lot of experience

The President spoke to a group of combat _____.

(adj.) having much experience in some job or field, seasoned

In her next movie, the actress will play a _____ reporter.