Definitions

Unit 3 - English 9

1. **abridge**
   
   (v.) to make shorter

   Travel by air _____________ the time needed to reach far-distant places.

   **SYNONYMS:** shorten, condense, abbreviate
   **ANTONYMS:** expand, enlarge, augment

2. **adherent**
   
   (n.) a follower, supporter; (adj.) attached, sticking to

   The senator's loyal _____________ campaigned long and hard for her reelection.

   Before we could repaint the walls of our living room, we had to remove an _____________ layer of wallpaper.

   **SYNONYM:** (n.) disciple
   **ANTONYMS:** (n.) opponent, adversary, critic, detractor

3. **altercation**
   
   (n.) an angry argument

   A noisy _____________ in the next apartment kept me awake for hours.

   **SYNONYMS:** quarrel, dispute, squabble
   **ANTONYMS:** agreement, accord

4. **cherubic**
   
   (adj.) resembling an angel portrayed as a little child with a beautiful, round, or chubby face; sweet and innocent

   How well those photographs of the month-old twins capture the _____________ expressions on their faces!

   **SYNONYM:** beatific
   **ANTONYMS:** impish, devilish, diabolic, fiendish

5. **condone**
   
   (v.) to pardon or overlook

   Our parents have always made it crystal clear to us that they do not _____________ rude behavior.

   **SYNONYMS:** ignore, wink at, look the other way
   **ANTONYMS:** condone, condemn, disapprove, deprecate

6. **dissent**
   
   (v.) to disagree; (n.) disagreement

   Justices have an option to _____________ from a ruling issued by a majority of the Supreme Court.

   Some people give voice to their _____________ on issues of public policy by writing letters to newspapers.

   **SYNONYMS:** (v.) differ, dispute
   **ANTONYMS:** (v.) agree, concur; (n.) unanimity
| **7. eminent** | (adj.) famous, outstanding, distinguished; projecting |
| **(em′ a nant)** | A group of scientists met to discuss long-term changes in Earth's climate. |
| **SYNONYMS:** illustrious, renowned |
| **ANTONYMS:** nameless, unsung, lowly, humble |

| **8. exorcise** | (v.) to drive out by magic; to dispose of something troublesome, menacing, or oppressive |
| **(ek′ sôr sîz)** | We must do all we can to the evils of hatred and prejudice from our society. |
| **SYNONYM:** expel |

| **9. fabricate** | (v.) to make, manufacture; to make up, invent |
| **(fab′ ra kät)** | Threads from the cocoons of caterpillars called silkworms are used to silk. |
| **SYNONYMS:** put together, devise, contrive, concoct |
| **ANTONYMS:** take apart, undo, destroy, demolish |

| **10. gluttony** | (n.) engaging in extreme eating or drinking; greedy overindulgence |
| **(glə′ tə nē)** | In the Middle Ages, was considered one of the Seven Deadly Sins. |
| **SYNONYMS:** overeating, ravenousness, rapaciousness |
| **ANTONYM:** abstemiousness |

| **11. irate** | (adj.) angry |
| **(ɪ rət′)** | Long delays caused by bad weather are likely to make even the most unflappable traveler . |
| **SYNONYMS:** incensed, infuriated, livid |
| **ANTONYMS:** calm, composed, cool, unruffled |

| **12. marauder** | (n.) a raider, plunderer |
| **SYNONYMS:** looter, pirate |

| **13. pauper** | (n.) an extremely poor person |
| **(pô′ pər)** | During the Great Depression, many people were reduced to leading the desperate lives of . |
| **SYNONYM:** destitute person |
| **ANTONYM:** billionaire |
14. pilfer
(pil’ fər)  (v.) to steal in small quantities
An employee who _________________ from the petty cash box will get caught sooner or later.
SYNONYMS: rob, swipe, purloin

15. rift
(rift)  (n.) a split, break, breach
Failure to repay a loan can be the cause of an angry __________________ between longtime friends.
SYNONYMS: crack, fissure, gap, cleft
ANTONYM: reconciliation

16. semblance
(sem’ blans)  (n.) a likeness; an outward appearance; an apparition
Despite a bad case of stage fright, I tried to maintain a _________________ of calm as I sang my solo.
SYNONYMS: air, aura, facade
ANTONYM: dissimilarity, contrast, total lack

17. surmount
(sər maʊnt’)  (v.) to overcome, rise above
Wilma Rudolph _________________ childhood illness and physical disabilities to win three Olympic gold medals.
SYNONYMS: conquer, triumph over
ANTONYM: be vanquished, be defeated, succumb to

18. terminate
(tər’ mə nāt)  (v.) to bring to an end
If you fail to perform your job satisfactorily, your boss may _________________ your employment.
SYNONYMS: conclude, finish, discontinue
ANTONYM: begin, commence

19. trite
(trīt)  (adj.) commonplace; overused, stale
When you write an essay or a story, be especially careful to avoid using _________________ expressions.
SYNONYMS: banal, hackneyed, corny
ANTONYM: original, innovative

20. usurp
(yū sərp’)  (v.) to seize and hold a position by force or without right
The general who led the coup _________________ the office of the duly elected president.
SYNONYMS: seize illegally, supplant
Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the essay on pages 32–33 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. The fact that Abraham Lincoln was able to **surmount**, **terminate** the handicap of a limited education does not mean that you should quit school.

2. It is the sacred duty of all Americans to oppose any attempt to **abridge**, **condone** or deny the rights guaranteed to us in the Constitution.

3. If you ever saw how vigorously my dog attacks his food, practically inhaling it, you would understand why I accuse him of **gluttony**, **altercation**.

4. One can’t become a **good** writer just by **surmounting**, **adhering** closely to rules laid down in standard grammar books.

5. I do not entirely **usurp**, **condone** your misconduct, but I can understand, to a degree, why you behaved as you did.

6. The comforting presence of relatives did much to **exorcise**, **pilfer** the patient’s feelings of alarm at the thought of undergoing major surgery.

7. Either party has the right to **terminate**, **surmount** the agreement that has been made whenever the partnership proves unprofitable.

8. His speech was so **cherubic**, **trite** that one could almost anticipate the phrases he would use next.

9. The robber barons of an earlier era often acted more like **adherents**, **marauders** than ethical businessmen in their dealings with the public.

10. Unless we repair the **rifts**, **semblances** in our party and present a united front, we will go down in crushing defeat in the upcoming election.

11. The few words that she grudgingly muttered were the only **semblance**, **altercation** of an apology that she offered for her rude behavior.

12. Like all literary sneak thieves, he has a truly nasty habit of **pilfering**, **fabricating** other people’s ideas and then claiming them as his own.

13. I am very much flattered that you have referred to me as “an **abridged**, **eminent** educator,” but I prefer to think of myself as just a good teacher.

14. I feel like a **usurper**, **pauper** now that my part-time job has come to an end and I no longer have any spending money.

15. In a dictatorship, people who **abridge**, **dissent** from the official party line usually wind up in prison—or worse.
16. The fact that many citizens are (trite, irate) over the new taxes does not mean that these taxes are unjustifiable.

17. My cousin has so much imagination that he can (dissent, fabricate) an excuse that even an experienced principal would believe!

18. What began as a minor quarrel grew into a serious (altercation, exorcism) and then into an ugly brawl.

19. Their (irate, cherubic) faces and other-worldly voices almost made me believe that the music they were singing was coming from an ethereal place.

20. As a loyal (adherent, pauper), she was horrified by her political party’s stance on the issue, feeling that it went against her principles.

21. In the new movie, the hero (fabricates, surmounts) the obstacles put in his path by his evil but clever brother, who has betrayed him.

22. There is nothing (trite, irate) about the saying “You can’t go home again”; it is a wise expression that applies to many situations in life.

23. Apparently, our dog is a very successful (marauder, adherent) who finds toys and articles of clothing in neighbors’ yards and brings them all home to us.

24. If you do not act quickly, they will (pilfer, terminate) the agreement, and you will have to start all over again with some other company.

25. You had no right to (exorcise, usurp) for yourself the role of gracious host at my party!

**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. exhibited **voraciousness** at mealtime

2. **timeworn** expression on a greeting card

3. a **veneer** of friendliness

4. programs that aid the **needy**

5. **partisans** of the free market system

6. small change **filched** from the cash register

7. turned a **blind eye** to corrupt practices

8. bravely faced the **enraged** crowd

9. **commandeered** the reins of power

10. a positively **seraphic** appearance
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 demonic expression on the gargoyle’s face
   ________________________

2. the social position of a wealthy person
   ________________________

3. showed laudable temperance at the buffet table
   ________________________

4. initiated talks between the warring parties
   ________________________

5. a novel approach to a familiar subject
   ________________________

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. Bands of _________________ broke through the frontier defenses of the province and began to plunder the rich farmlands of the interior.
   ________________________

2. “I am willing to wink at a harmless prank,” the dean remarked, “but I will not _________________ outright vandalism.”
   ________________________

3. “It is a real tribute to the ingenuity of the human mind that for thousands of years people have been _________________ new and interesting theories of the universe.
   ________________________

4. In this clever spoof of horror movies, the local witch doctor encounters hilarious difficulties when he tries to _________________ a demon that has taken up residence in the heroine’s body.
   ________________________

5. As the layer of clouds that hung over the city began to break up, the sun came pouring through the _________________.
   ________________________

6. It is only through the exercise of their intelligence that people can begin to _________________ the difficulties they encounter in daily living.
   ________________________

7. A screenplay or television drama with the same old boy-meets-girl plot can certainly be criticized as _________________.
   ________________________

8. After driving the lawful ruler out of the country for good, the villainous duke _________________ the throne and crowned himself king.
   ________________________

9. In movies, characters who engage in _________________ are often used for comic relief, but in real-life extreme overeating is a serious problem.
   ________________________

10. In order to fit the newspaper article into the space available, the editor had to _________________ it by omitting secondary details.
11. The only way I could ________________ the argument peacefully was to walk away abruptly.

12. Although they have enough money to live on, the loss of most of their great wealth has left them feeling like _________________.

13. During a recent interdenominational service in our community center, the _________________ of various faiths met to worship as one.

14. Though I was hurt by the tactless comment, I tried to show pleasure in it by twisting my lips into a feeble _________________ of a smile.

15. "I think," said the salesclerk, "that the phrase 'hot under the collar' aptly describes the typical _________________ customer we have to deal with."

16. A few of us who disagreed strongly with the committee's conclusions felt compelled to raise our voices in _________________.

17. No one but a heartless scoundrel would _________________ nickels and dimes from a charity's collection fund.

18. Although I am not a particularly argumentative person, last week I found myself involved in a heated _________________ with a salesclerk.

19. "That child may have an angel's _________________ features, but at heart he is a little demon," I exclaimed in disgust.

20. After so many years of distinguished service in the United States Senate, he can properly be called a(n) _________________ statesman.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "A Polar Controversy" (pages 32–33). Suppose that you are one of the explorers. You want to persuade members of the National Explorers Club that you were the first to reach the North Pole. Write an argument using at least two details from the passage and three unit words to support your claim.

2. "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor."—Mark Twain

   Do you agree with Twain's advice? In a brief essay, support your opinion with specific examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 32–33), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this unit.