



Definitions

You were introduced to the words below in the passage on pages 68–69. Study the pronunciation, spelling, part of speech, and definition of each word. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

Remember

A **noun** (n.) is a word that names a person, place, or thing.

A **verb** (v.) is a word or words that express action or a state of being.

An **adjective** (adj.) is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

1. accurate
(ak' yə rət)

(adj.) without errors, completely correct; conforming to the truth

It is important to take _____ notes in class.

SYNONYMS: exact, precise; true; ANTONYMS: wrong, questionable, misleading

2. alert
(ə lûrt')

(adj.) watchful and ready to act; quick to understand and act

A good watchdog is _____ and protective.

(n.) readiness; an alarm; a time when an alarm is in effect

Police and firefighters are always on _____.

(v.) to warn or make aware of

Signs on a highway _____ drivers of hazards.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) attentive, vigilant; (n.) a signal; (v.) to notify, inform
ANTONYMS: (adj.) inattentive, unobservant, unaware



3. ancestor
(an' ses tər)

(n.) a family member who lived at an earlier time

You may want to study the lives of your _____.

SYNONYMS: a forerunner, forebear, forefather, foremother; ANTONYM: a descendant

4. disaster
(di zas' tər)

(n.) a terrible event that brings great damage or suffering; a great loss

It took months to recover from the _____.

SYNONYMS: a tragedy, catastrophe, calamity, misfortune, trouble
ANTONYMS: a success, triumph

5. elementary
(el ə ment' ə rē)

(adj.) related to the simplest or beginning level of something

Beginning piano students start with _____ pieces.

SYNONYMS: basic, fundamental; ANTONYMS: difficult, advanced

6. envy
(en' vē)

(n.) resentment for what someone has; a person or object that is envied

Our team's winning season was the _____ of the league.

(v.) to resent and want what someone else has

Sometimes I _____ another person's good luck in life.

SYNONYMS: (n.) jealousy, desire; (v.) to covet, begrudge; ANTONYM: (n.) satisfaction

**7. epidemic**
(ep ə dem' ik)

(adj.) spreading to a very large group at the same time; contagious

Polio was once _____ in the United States.

(n.) a rapid, widespread outbreak of a disease

An _____ of Dutch elm disease destroyed hundreds of trees in our town park.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) catching, infectious; rife; (n.) an infection, plague

ANTONYMS: (adj.) isolated, contained, limited

8. feeble
(fē' bəl)

(adj.) having little strength or force; without energy or authority

*The exhausted runner managed to give us a**_____ smile after the long race.*

SYNONYMS: weak, frail; ANTONYMS: able, strong; energetic

**9. penetrate**
(pen' ə trāt)

(v.) to enter or force a way through or into; to see into

Cars are equipped with special lights that can _____ fog.

SYNONYMS: to pierce, puncture; to grasp, realize; ANTONYM: to withdraw

10. romp
(rāmp)

(n.) spirited, carefree, or noisy fun; something that suggests merry play

The class enjoyed a _____ in the playground.

(v.) to run or play in a lively or carefree way; to win easily

We watched the puppies _____ on the lawn.

SYNONYMS: (n.) a lark, frolic, sport, caper; (v.) to caper, frolic, skip, bound

11. staple
(stā' pəl)

(n.) a U-shaped wire that fastens material by piercing and bending; a major product, material, part, or item regularly used

What _____ are in a healthy diet?

(v.) to fasten with staples

Please _____ the pages together.

(adj.) chief, principal; needed or used regularly

Rice is a _____ crop in Vietnam.

SYNONYMS: (n.) necessities, basics; (adj.) basic, main, essential

ANTONYMS: (n.) nonessentials; (adj.) minor, unnecessary

**12. survive**
(səv vīv')

(v.) to stay alive or continue to exist; to keep on going; to live longer than

We need food and shelter in order to _____.

SYNONYMS: to live; to endure, last; to outlive; ANTONYM: to die