

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY UNIT 2

Adroit	amicable	averse	belligerent	benevolent	cursory	Duplicity
Impervious	feasible	grimace	holocaust	extol	Impetus	jeopardy
Meticulous	nostalgia	quintessence	retrogress	scrutinize	tepid	

Choosing the Right Word

Select the boldface word that better completes each sentence.

1. Because I was not even born when The Beatles were at the height of their popularity, their albums do not fill me with (**duplicity, nostalgia**).
2. It was rude of you to (**retrogress, grimace**) so obviously when the speaker mispronounced words and made grammatical errors.
3. Though it may appear rather ordinary to the casual reader, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is to me the (**impetus, quintessence**) of eloquence.
4. Some civil engineers believe that someday it may be (**feasible, averse**) to derive a large part of our energy directly from the sun.
5. Providing a powerful defense force for our nation does not mean that we are taking a (**belligerent, meticulous**) attitude toward any other nation.
6. Though the peace talks began with an exchange of lofty sentiments, they soon (**grimaced, retrogressed**) into petty squabbling and backbiting.
7. (**Extolling, Scrutinizing**) other people's achievements is fine, but it is no substitute for doing something remarkable on your own.
8. Anyone is (**averse, cursory**) to having a girl's hockey tam in our school doesn't know what's been happening in recent years with women's sports.
9. News of famine in various parts of the world has given added (**nostalgia, impetus**) to the drive to increase food production.
10. It made me very uncomfortable to see the suspicion with which the wary customs officer (**scrutinized, extolled**) my passport.
11. After shouting at each other rather angrily the participants in the roundtable discussion calmed down and parted (**feasibly, amicably**.)
12. When I saw my sister land in a tree on her first parachute jump, my interest in learning to skydive became decidedly (**tepid, adroit**)
13. The lawyer's (**adroit, belligerent**) questioning slowly but surely revealed the weaknesses in his opponent's case.
14. Carelessness in even minor details may (**extol, jeopardized**) the success of a major theatrical production.
15. Do you think you are being fair in passing judgement on my poem after such a (**cursory, benevolent**) reading?
16. His parents tried to encourage an interest in literature, music and art, but he seemed (**amicable, impervious**) to such influences.
17. The nightmare that continues to haunt all thoughtful people is a nuclear (**jeopardy, holocaust**) in which our civilization might be destroyed.
18. In the Sherlock Holmes Stories, we read of the evil Professor Moriarty, whose (**duplicity, quintessence**) was almost a match for Holmes's genius.
19. On the morning of the picnic, the sky was gray and overcast, but suddenly the sun came out and smiled on us (**benevolently, adroitly**).
20. I knew you would be (**impervious, meticulous**) in caring for my plants, but I did not expect you to water them with a medicine dropper!
21. After the dictator walked out to the peace talks, the visiting diplomat tried to carry on (**amicable, belligerent**) negotiations between the two nations.
22. Many people become (**nostalgic, meticulous**) when they watch black and white movies and old serial rerun on television.

23. How many people actually enjoy drinking (**impetus, tepid**) milk before bedtime even though it is highly recommended to ease digestion?
24. (**Impervious, Duplicitous**) to everything except a rare radioactive isotope found deep in the earth, the superhero battled the giant aliens to save the world.
25. Those who are (**adroit, averse**) to seafood may enjoy the many other menu options.

Synonyms: Choose the word from the word bank 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-(book!!!!)

1. her **antipathetic** response to the homeless man _____
2. a shocking case of **fraud** _____
3. rescued dozens of people from the **blazing inferno** _____
4. the intimidating **scowl** on his face _____
5. a brief spell of **yearning** _____
6. staged a **painstaking** re-creation of a famous battle _____
7. respond with a **confrontational** voice _____
8. not **practicable** during the winter months _____
9. **relapse** to a pattern of self-destructive behavior _____
10. **imperilment** caused by risky behavior _____

Antonyms: Choose the word from the word bank 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-(book!!!!)

1. **smiled broadly** at the sight of her grandchild _____
2. the **enthusiastic** response of the fans _____
3. an **inundation** of the valley after the storm _____
4. saw them **develop** into a successful team _____
5. a **forward-looking** approach to life _____

Completing the Sentence: From the words in the word bank, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. If, as you claim, you really like raw oysters, why do you make such an eloquent _____ every time you swallow one?
2. Because I was looking forward to a hot bath, I was disappointed at the feeble stream of _____ water that flowed into the tub.
3. An expert from the museum _____ the painting, looking for telltale signs that would prove it to be a genuine or expose it as a forgery.
4. My teacher counseled me to keep up my studies, or my performance in class might once again _____ into mediocrity.
5. If you are _____ to hard study and intensive reading, how do you expect to get through law school>?
6. Only when we learned that the embezzler had tried to cast suspicion on his innocent partner did we realize the extent of his _____
7. Although he shows no particular talent as a worker, he is exceptionally _____ at finding excuses for not doing his job.
8. We must not forget the millions of people who were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Nazis in the _____ of World War II.
9. Our physical education instructor _____ the virtues of regular exercise.

10. What good is a plastic raincoat that is _____ to water if it also prevents any body heat from escaping?
11. When I realized how bad the brakes of the old car were, I feared that our lives were in _____.
12. Although the ranchers and miners had been feuding over water rights for years, the sheriff tried to maintain _____ relations with both parties.
13. For centuries, Switzerland has avoided becoming a(n) _____ in the conflicts that have scarred the rest of Europe.
14. When I heard you speaking French so fluently, my determination to master that language received fresh _____.
15. As the old soldier watched the parade, he was suddenly overcome with _____ for the youthful years he spent in the army.
16. A triple reverse looks might impressive on the chalkboard, but I doubt that the play will prove _____ on the football field.
17. The accountant's records—neat, accurate, and complete in every respect—show that she is a most _____ worker.
18. King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table were the _____ of chivalry.
19. A(n) _____ examination of my luggage was enough to show me that someone had been tampering with it.
20. No one doubted the _____ intentions of the program for community improvement, but it was ruined by mismanagement.

Vocabulary in Context: The following excerpts are from The Works of Edgar Allan Poe Volumes 1 and 2 by Edgar Allan Poe. Some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in boldface type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by selecting the correct answer.

1. ...[T]he court, guiding itself by the general principles of evidence...is **averse** from swerving at particular instances. And this steadfast adherence to principle, with rigorous disregard of the conflicting exception, is a sure mode of attaining the maximum of attainable truth... (from "the Mystery of Marie Roget")

When people are **averse** to something they are typically

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| a. Annoyed by it | b. committed to it |
| b. Resistant to it | d. resigned to it |

2. Presently I took a candle, and seating myself at the other end of the room, proceeded to **scrutinize** the parchment more closely. (from "The Gold Bug")

To **scrutinize** a document means to

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| a. Translate it | c. Illustrate it |
| b. Revise it | d. Analyze it |

3. The Parisian police, so much **extolled** for acumen, are cunning, but no more.... The results attained by them...for the most part, are brought about by simple diligence and activity. (from "The Murders in the Rue Morgue")

People who are **extolled** for a trait are generally

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| a. Obeyed | c. Respected |
| b. Mocked | d. Ignored |



4. It is probable that the police...examined the back of the tenement; but, if so...they did not perceive this great breadth itself, or at all events, failed to take it into due consideration. In fact, having once satisfied themselves that no egress could have been made in this quarter, they would naturally bestow here a very cursory examination. (from "The Murders in the Rue Morgue")

A cursory exam is one that is definitely NOT

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| a. Hurried | c. Limited |
| b. Leisurely | d. Thorough |

5. In the afternoon we all called again to see the patient. His condition remained precisely the same. We had now some discussion as to the propriety and feasibility of awakening him; but we had little difficulty in agreeing that no good purpose would be served by so doing. (from "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar")

People discuss the feasibility of an action to determine whether it is

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| a. Achievable | c. Genuine |
| b. Complex | d. productive |