

UNIT 4 Vocab Words

- 1. Atrophy** (n.) the wasting away of a body organ or tissue; any progressive decline or failure; (v.) to waste away.
Synonyms: (n.) degeneration, deterioration; (v.) wither
Antonyms: (n.) growth, development; (v.) mature, develop
→The _____ of the downtown business district began when two huge malls opened.
- 2. Bastion** (n.) a fortified place, stronghold
Synonyms: citadel, rampart, bulwark
→Contrary to popular belief, the military is not always a _____ of political conservatism.
- 3. Concord** (n.) a state of agreement, harmony, unanimity; a treaty, pact, covenant
Antonyms: disagreement, strife, discord
→A spirit of _____ was restored when the company compensated its employees.
- 4. Consummate** (adj.) complete or perfect in the highest degree; (v.) to bring to a state of completion or perfection.
Synonyms: (adj.) masterful; (v.) clinch, conclude
Antonyms: (v.) launch, initiate, begin, kick off
→Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican are works of _____ artistry.
- 5. Disarray** (n.) disorder, confusion; (v.) to throw into disorder
Synonyms: (n.) disorganization; (v.) dishevel, mess up
Antonyms: (n.) organization, order, tidiness
→The burgled apartment was in a state of _____.
→If you leave the window open, a breeze may _____ the papers on the desk.
- 6. Exigency** (n., often pl.) urgency, pressure; urgent demand, pressing need; an emergency
Synonym: requirement, crisis
→The governor emphasized the _____ of the situation by requesting the immediate dispatch of rescue teams.
- 7. Flotsam** (n.) floating debris; homeless, impoverished people
Synonym: floating wreckage
→After the two ships collided, the survivors clung to various pieces of _____ and hoped for rescue.
- 8. Frenetic** (adj.) frenzied, highly agitated
Synonyms: frantic, overwrought
Antonyms: calm, controlled, relaxed, leisurely
→When a court order was issued, the social services department made a _____ search for the missing report.
- 9. Glean** (v.) to gather bit by bit; to gather small quantities of grain left in a field by the reapers
Synonyms: collect, pick up
→By means of painstaking investigation, the detectives will eventually _____ the truth.
- 10. Grouse** (n.) a type of game bird; a complaint; (v.) to complain, grumble

Synonyms: (v.) gripe, bellyache

→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.

11. Incarcerate (v.) to imprison, confine, jail

Synonyms: intern

Antonyms: liberate, release, free

→They will _____ the convicted felon at the state penitentiary.

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

Synonyms: mandatory, necessary

Antonyms: optional, unnecessary

→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.

13. Jocular (adj.) humorous, jesting, jolly, joking

Synonyms: waggish, facetious, and witty

Antonyms: humorless, solemn, grave, grim

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

14. Ludicrous (adj.) ridiculous, laughable, absurd

Synonyms: risible, preposterous

Antonyms: poignant, and pathetic

→Her comment was so _____ that we finally understood that she was joking.

15. Mordant (adj.) biting or caustic in thought, manner, or style; sharply or bitterly harsh

Synonyms: sardonic, scathing

Antonyms: bland, mild, gentle, soothing

→The actor was upset by the _____ criticism of the gossip columnist who seemed out to ruin his reputation.

16. Nettle (n.) a prickly or stinging plant; (v.) to arouse displeasure, impatience, or anger; to vex or irritate severely

Synonyms: peeve, annoy, irk

Antonyms: please, delight, soothe, pacify

→If you are pricked by a _____, aloe cream will soothe and reduce the sting.

→The principal was _____ by the student's disrespectful behavior.

17. Pecuniary (adj.) consisting of or measured in money; of or related to money

Synonyms: monetary, financial

→The couple was forced by _____ considerations to sell their large home and buy a smaller one.

18. Pusillanimous (adj.) contemptibly cowardly or mean spirited

Synonyms: craven, lily-livered

Antonyms: stouthearted, courageous, daring

→It is often said that bullies, when tested, are the most _____ people of all.

19. Recumbent (adj.) in a reclining position, lying down, in the posture of one sleeping or resting

Synonyms: prone, inactive

Antonyms: upright, energetic

→The tired toddlers were _____ on the couch after playing all afternoon in the yard.

20. Stratagem (n.) a scheme to outwit or deceive an opponent or to gain an end

Synonyms: ruse, trick, ploy

→The defense attorney used a clever _____ to curry sympathy for her client.