## Definitions

1. **abstemious**  
   ab STEM ee us  
   sparing (usually in eating or drinking); temperate  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >> glutinous  
   A person who is abstemious in his alcohol intake might not be welcome by that wild fraternity.  
   Derivatives >>  
   abstemiously, abstemiousness, abstention, abstentious

2. **admonish**  
   ad MAH nish  
   to caution, to advise, or to counsel against something  
   Synonyms >> warn, rebuke, censure, notify, jog, apprise, reprove, scold  
   Antonym >> to condone; to praise  
   The teacher admonished him about excessively loud noise.  
   Derivatives >> admonisher, admonishingly, admonishment, admonition, admonished

3. **amity**  
   AM uh tee  
   friendship  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >> hostility  
   That small town is well-known for its amity; the town has very friendly people.  
   Derivatives >> amities

4. **bastion**  
   BASS chun  
   a fortification, a stronghold  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >>  
   The enemy could not get past the bastion of the fort and therefore lost the battle.  
   Derivatives >> bastioned

5. **callous**  
   KAL us  
   hardened; insensitive, indifferent, unsympathetic  
   Synonyms >> hard, inured, insensible, obtuse  
   Antonym >> soft, sensitive  
   He became callous after many years in the war.  
   Derivatives >> callously, callousness

6. **clemency**  
   KLEM un see  
   leniency  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >> harshness  
   Governors are usually allowed to grant clemency to deserving prisoners.  
   Derivatives >> clemencies, clement, clemently

7. **debunk**  
   deh BUNGK  
   to expose the falseness or hypocrisy of something  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >> to cover up; to conceal  
   The charlatan was quickly debunked by the perceptive doctor.  
   Derivatives >> debunker, debunkers, debunked, debunking

8. **diffuse**  
   deh FYOOZ  
   to spread in all directions  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >> to bring together  
   The rioting crowd was diffused by tear gas and water hoses.  
   Derivatives >> diffuseness, diffusedly, diffusely, diffuseness, diffuser, diffusibility, diffusion, diffusible

9. **dupe**  
   DOOP, DYOOP  
   to trick, to fool, to deceive, or to cheat; to bilk  
   Synonyms >>  
   Antonym >>  
   He was duped into investing his life savings into a bankrupt company.  
   Derivatives >> duped, duping, dupery

10. **exorcise**  
    EK sor size  
    to expel an evil spirit, to get rid of something troublesome  
    Synonyms >>  
    Antonym >>  
    I am going to try to exorcise all negative thoughts from my mind.  
    Derivatives >> exorcisation, exorcise, exorcism, exorcismal, exorcisory, exorcist, exorcistate, exorcistical

11. **finesse**  
    feh NESS  
    delicate skill  
    Synonyms >>  
    Antonym >> clumsiness  
    A successful diplomat must have finesse when dealing with representatives of other countries.  
    Derivatives >> finessed, finessing
| 12. humility | hyoo MIL eh tee | the quality or state of being humble in spirit |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> pride; arrogance |
| Derivatives >> | humility, humble, humbly |
| The humility of the man was astounding: he gave no sign of having excessive pride or arrogance. |

| 13. imperious | im PEER ee us | extremely overbearing |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> meek |
| Derivatives >> | imperiously, imperiousness |
| The imperious behavior of the dictator led to his overthrow. |

| 14. larceny | LAR suh nee | the act of stealing another's property |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> |
| Derivatives >> | larcener, larcenist, larcenous, larcenously, larcenies |
| After being convicted of larceny, the man offered to return the stolen items for a shorter prison term. |

| 15. mirth | MURTH | gladness and merriment usually accompanied by laughter |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> sadness |
| Derivatives >> | mirthful, mirthfully, mirthfulness, mirthless, mirthlessly, mirthlessness |
| The party was a source of mirth and gaiety. |

| 16. mollify | MOL eh fie | to soothe or to appease, to assuage |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> to aggravate |
| Derivatives >> | mollification, mollifyingly, mollifier, mollifiable |
| The woman promised to buy candy in order to mollify her screaming child. |

| 17. neologism | nee OL uh jiz um | a newly coined word or phrase; new use of a word (often disapproved of) |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> |
| Derivatives >> | neology, neological, neologian, neologist, neologistic, neologize |
| The student received a low grade because of the neologism in his paper. |

| 18. orthodox | OR thuh doks | conforming to established standards, conventional |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> unconventional |
| Derivatives >> | orthodoxy, orthodoxical, orthodoxically, orthodoxism, orthodoxly, orthodox |
| The church is founded upon a set of orthodox views. |

| 19. plight | PLITE | difficult or adverse situation |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> fortunate situation |
| Derivatives >> | plights, plighted, plightening |
| My plight is that I do not have enough money to pay my bills. |

| 20. repertoire | REP ur twar | a list of works of music or readings that are ready for performance |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> |
| Derivatives >> | repertoire, repertorial, repertory |
| The orchestra has added some selections of Mozart to its repertoire. |

| 21. rupture | RUP chur | to break apart, to burst |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> to repair; to mend |
| Derivatives >> | ruptured, rupturing |
| The rupture of the appendix is a life-threatening situation. |

| 22. solicitous | sub LIS eh tus | worried, concerned |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> unconcerned |
| Derivatives >> | solicitously, solicitousness, solicitude |
| He was very solicitous about the health of his ill grandmother. |

| 23. stolid | STOL id | showing little emotion |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> emotional |
| Derivatives >> | stolidly, stolidity |
| He always has a stolid appearance at the poker table. |

| 24. tempestuous | tem PES choo us | turbulent, stormy |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> calm |
| Derivatives >> | tempestuously, tempestuousness, tempest |
| The mayoral candidates had a tempestuous debate in which they exchanged many personal accusations. |

| 25. untenable | un TEN uh bul | not able to be defended |
| Synonyms >> | Antonym >> defensible |
| Derivatives >> | untenability, untenableness |
| Taking a bribe is an untenable act for a politician. |
Lesson 17
Matching Test

Directions: Choose the definition that best matches the meaning of the vocabulary word. Place the answer of your choice in the space provided.

Exercise A

1. abstemious
2. admonish
3. amity
4. bastion
5. callous
6. clemency
7. debunk
8. diffuse
9. dupe
10. exorcise
11. finesse
12. humility

Exercise B

1. imperious
2. larceny
3. mirth
4. mollify
5. neologism
6. orthodox
7. plight
8. repertoire
9. rupture
10. solicitous
11. stolid
12. tempestuous
13. untenable
Lesson 17
Sentence Completion

abstemious  admonish  amity  bastion
callous  clemency  debunk  diffused
dupe  exorcise  finesse  humility

1. Because of the child’s angelic face, people generally approach her with natural ________________, eager to be friendly with her.

2. Fortunately, the young boy was put only on probation; the judge treated his case with ________________ and decided not to commit him to prison.

3. In order to lose weight, the woman was ______________________ in her consumption of fatty foods.

4. I am going to try to __________________________ all negative thoughts from my mind; I know removing them will be hard, but it is worth the effort to try.

5. She handled the hysterical woman with a great deal of ______________________; she was able to calm the woman without upsetting her any further.

6. The United States is a _________________ of freedom, a fortress of free speech and thought.

7. The television news reporter was determined to reveal the hypocrisy of the man and to ________________ his “get rich quick” scheme.

8. Although the pearls were ______________________ across a wide area, they were easy to find as they sparkled in the sun.

9. In some parts of the world, medicine men ______________________ sick people, tricking them into believing that a harmless substance is actually medicine.

10. __________________ is a virtue that many people lack; instead, they are proud and arrogant.

11. The mother began to ______________________ the child softly, but then her scolding became louder and louder.

12. The man has become ______________________ after so many years of hardship and pain; now he hardly has any feelings left at all.
Lesson 17

imperious  larceny  mirth  mollify  neologisms

orthodox  plight  repertoire  rupture  solicitous

stolid  tempestuous  untenable

13. Jeremy frequently finds himself in difficult situations; his latest ________________ is a love triangle.

14. The reason the man stopped stealing other people’s property is that he had been convicted of ________________ three times, and he was afraid of being caught again.

15. An apology was the only thing that would ______________ and soothe her hurt feelings.

16. The group was made up of ________________ Christians who were extremely conventional in their beliefs.

17. The king called in his jester, proclaiming, “What is needed in this court is ________________. I want merriment and laughter.”

18. When the earthquake occurred, it caused a ________________ in the earth several feet wide; the hole eventually had to be filled for safety reasons.

19. Our uncle was very ________________ about our education; as a result of his concern, he provided us with special tutors to insure our success.

20. The ________________ of the musician was extremely broad and diversified; he knew hundreds of pieces.

21. He was a quiet, ________________ man, not easily aroused or excited.

22. My term paper was severely criticized for the many words I coined, ________________, which I thought were quite extraordinary.

23. The ________________ tempers of the men caused them both to storm out of the room in anger at the slightest word.

24. Taking a bribe is an ________________ act for a politician; there is simply no defense for that kind of behavior.

25. The people overthrew the dictator because of his ________________, overbearing rule.