

Expo IV Unit 2 Vocabulary

1. Accost: (v.) to approach and speak to first; to confront in a challenging or aggressive way
The nobleman was _____ by beggars on his way to the castle.
Synonyms: buttonhole, approach, confront
Antonyms: evade, avoid, shun
2. Animadversion: (n.) a comment indicating a strong criticism or disapproval
The inexperienced filmmaker was disheartened by the _____ of the film critic.
Synonyms: rebuke, reproof
Antonyms: praise, compliment
3. Avid: (adj) desirous of something to the point of greed; intensely eager
Most writers are also _____ readers who have loved books since childhood.
Synonyms: keen, enthusiastic, grasping
Antonyms: reluctant, indifferent, and unenthusiastic
4. Brackish: (adj) having a salty taste and unpleasant to drink
The shipwrecked passengers adrift on the lifeboat became ill after drinking _____ water.
Synonyms: briny, saline
Antonyms: fresh, clear, sweet
5. Celerity: (n.) swiftness, rapidity of motion or action
Although the heavy snowfall was not expected, the highway department responded with surprising _____.
Synonyms: Promptness, alacrity, speed
Antonyms: Slowness, sluggishness, dilatoriness
6. Devious: (adj.) straying or wandering from a straight or direct course; done or acting in a shifty or underhanded way
The interrogator used _____ methods to try to get the suspect to incriminate himself.
Synonyms: roundabout, indirect, tricky, sly, artful
Antonyms: direct, straightforward, open, aboveboard
7. Gambit: (n.) in chess, an opening move that involves risk or sacrifice of a minor piece in order to gain a later advantage; any opening move of this type.
Asking an interesting stranger about his or her job is a popular party _____.
Synonyms: ploy, stratagem, ruse, maneuver
8. Halcyon: (n.) a legendary bird identified with the kingfisher; (adj.) of or relating to the halcyon; calm, peaceful; happy, golden; prosperous, affluent.
The teacher read the legend of the _____, a mythic bird that nested in a calm sea.
Synonyms: tranquil, serene, placid, palmy
Antonyms: turbulent, chaotic, tumultuous
9. Histrionic: (adj.) pertaining to actors and their techniques; theatrical, artificial; melodramatic
Upon receiving his award, the young actor gave a _____ speech.
Synonyms: affected, stagy
Antonyms: low-keyed, muted, untheatrical, subdued
10. Incendiary: (adj.) deliberately setting or causing fires; designed to start fires; tending to stir up strife or rebellion.
The arsonist planted an _____ device in the basement of the store.

Synonyms: inflammatory, provocative,
Antonyms: soothing, quieting

11. Maelstrom: (n.) whirlpool of great size and violence; a situation resembling a whirlpool in violence and destruction.

Many innocent people caught in the _____ of the revolution lost their lives and property.

Synonyms: vortex, chaos, turbulence, tumult

12. Myopic: (adj.) nearsighted; lacking a broad, realistic view of a situation.

The _____ foreign policy of the last administration has led to serious problems with our allies.

Synonyms: shortsighted

Antonyms: farsighted

13. Overt: (adj.) open, not hidden, expressed or revealed in a way that is easily recognized.

In order for Congress to declare war, the President must demonstrate an _____ threat.

Synonyms: clear, obvious, manifest, patent

Antonyms: secret, clandestine, covert, concealed

14. Pejorative: (adj.) tending to make worse; expressing disapproval or disparagement, derogatory, deprecatory, belittling.

The lawyer was accused of making a _____ remark when referring to the defendant's background.

Antonyms: complimentary, ameliorative

15. Propriety: (n.) the state of being proper, appropriateness.

The social worker questioned the _____ of the police's request to see confidential records.

Synonyms: fitness, correctness, decorum

Antonyms: unseemliness, inappropriateness

16. Sacrilege: (n.) improper or disrespectful treatment of something held sacred.

The anthropologist was accused of committing a _____ when she disturbed an ancient burial ground.

Synonyms: desecration, profanation, defilement

17. Summarily: (adv.) without delay or formality; briefly, concisely.

As soon as there was evidence of criminal wrongdoing, the official was _____ ousted from his post.

Synonyms: promptly, peremptorily, abruptly.

18. Suppliant: (adj.) asking humbly and earnestly. (n.) one who makes a request humbly and earnestly, a petitioner, suitor.

He made a _____ address to the parole board.

Stranded in the deserted city of Moscow, Napoleon had to turn to Czar not as a conqueror but as a _____.

19. Talisman: (n.) an object that serves as a charm or is believed to confer magical powers, an amulet, fetish.

Most people do not believe that rabbit's feet and other _____ actually bring good luck.

20. Undulate: (v.) to move in waves or with a wavelike motion; to have a wavelike appearance or form

The baseball fans began to _____ as they cheered, so that they appeared to move in a wave.

Synonyms: ripple, fluctuate, rise and fall