

Unit 10

1. **adept**
(adj., ə dept';
n., a' dept)

(adj.) thoroughly skilled; (n.) an expert
Not only is the soloist an accomplished singer, but he is also
adept at playing the saxophone.
An adept at chess, she hopes to
compete in tournaments against top-rated players.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) masterful, accomplished, proficient
ANTONYMS: (adj.) clumsy, unskilled, maladroit; (n.) novice

2. **aspire**
(ə spīr')

(v.) to have ambitious hopes or plans, strive toward a higher
goal, desire earnestly; to ascend
An early fascination with ants led the young naturalist to
aspire to a career as an entomologist
SYNONYMS: seek, yearn, aim for, soar

3. **bleak**
(blēk)

(adj.) bare, dreary, dismal
Urban renewal can turn a run-down city with
bleak economic prospects into
a flourishing metropolis.
SYNONYMS: grim, cheerless, gloomy, desolate, barren
ANTONYMS: rosy, cheerful, sunny, promising, encouraging

4. **chide**
(chīd)

(v.) to blame; scold
The teacher chided the student
for truancy and tardiness.
SYNONYMS: upbraid, reprimand, rebuke, chastise
ANTONYMS: approve, praise, compliment, pat on the back

5. **despicable**
(di spik' ə bəl)

(adj.) worthy of scorn, contemptible
Whatever the provocation, there is no justification for such
despicable behavior.
SYNONYMS: low, vile, cheap, sordid, detestable
ANTONYMS: praiseworthy, commendable, meritorious

6. **diminutive**
(də min' yə tiv)

(adj.) small, smaller than most others of the same type
The diminutive lapdog was so small
that it actually fit in its owner's purse.
SYNONYMS: undersized, miniature, tiny, compact
ANTONYMS: oversized, gigantic, huge, enormous

7. **emancipate**
(ē man' sə pāt)

(v.) to free from slavery; to release or liberate
Scientific knowledge can emancipate
humanity from blind superstition.
SYNONYMS: set loose, unchain, unshackle, unfetter
ANTONYMS: enslave, snare, chain, shackle

8. **erroneous**
(e rō' nē əs)

(adj.) incorrect, containing mistakes
An erroneous first impression is not
easily corrected.
SYNONYMS: mistaken, fallacious, all wrong,
ANTONYMS: accurate, correct, exact, unerring

9. **exploit**
(v., ek sploit';
n., ek' sploit)

(v.) to make use of, develop; ~~to make improper use of for
personal profit~~; (n.) a feat, deed
A good debater knows how to exploit
weaknesses in an opponent's argument.
The exploits of Robin Hood and his
Merry Men are so well known that they have become a part
of Western culture.
SYNONYMS: (v.) utilize, turn to advantage, misuse

10. **extemporaneous**
(ek stem pə rā' nē əs)

(adj.) made or delivered on the spur of the moment
The stand-up comedian's outrageous act included about
twenty minutes of completely extemporaneous
banter.
SYNONYMS: spontaneous, impromptu, off-the-cuff
ANTONYMS: planned, rehearsed, prepared

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11. **impair**
(im pâr')

(v.) to make imperfect, damage, harm

I am fortunate that the scratch on my eye will not permanently impair my vision.

SYNONYMS: injure, mar, disable, cripple, enervate
ANTONYMS: improve, strengthen, promote, advance

12. **invincible**
(in vin' sə bəl)

(adj.) not able to be defeated, unbeatable

Napoleon I, emperor of France, was invincible until he launched a disastrous invasion of Russia.

SYNONYMS: unconquerable, indomitable, insuperable
ANTONYMS: vulnerable, conquerable, surmountable

13. **languid**
(lan' gwid)

(adj.) drooping; without energy, sluggish

A big lunch makes me feel languid for the rest of the day.

SYNONYMS: lazy, sluggish, listless, slack, lethargic
ANTONYMS: lively, energetic, vigorous, enlivening

14. **mire**
(mîr)

(n.) mud; wet, swampy ground; a tough situation; (v.) to get stuck

The once verdant expanse of the soccer field has become a rectangle of muck and mire.

Congress will never ratify that bill mired in controversy.

SYNONYMS: (n.) marsh, swamp, bog, slough

15. **obtrusive**
(əb trü' sîv)

(adj.) forward; undesirably prominent; thrust out

I don't blame you for being put off by his obtrusive attempt to dominate the conversation.

SYNONYMS: brash, impudent, conspicuous, protruding
ANTONYMS: meek, reserved, deferential, recessed

16. **preamble**
(prē' am bəl)

(n.) an introduction to a speech or piece of writing

The preamble to the Constitution describes the purpose of our national government.

SYNONYMS: opening, preface, prologue, preliminary
ANTONYMS: conclusion, ending, closing, epilogue

17. **render**
(ren' dər)

(v.) to cause to become; to perform; to deliver officially; to process, extract

The freelance writer presented the managing editor with a bill for services rendered.

SYNONYMS: present, furnish, submit, make, effect

18. **rugged**
(rəg' əd)

(adj.) rough, irregular; severe, stern; strong; stormy

Settlers had a rough time crossing the rugged Appalachian Mountains.

SYNONYMS: rocky, craggy, blunt, harsh, hardy, tough
ANTONYMS: smooth, flat, soft, mild, tender, delicate

19. **skeptical**
(skəp' tə kəl)

(adj.) inclined to doubt; slow to accept something as true

I am skeptical of promises made by politicians when they are running for office.

SYNONYMS: dubious, suspicious, incredulous
ANTONYMS: believing, credulous, gullible, ingenuous

20. **slipshod**
(slip' shəd)

(adj.) untidy in dress, personal habits, etc.; careless, sloppy

The commission attributed the unfortunate collapse of the apartment building to its slipshod construction.

SYNONYMS: messy, untidy, slovenly, slapdash, cursory
ANTONYMS: tidy, neat, orderly, careful, painstaking