

Challenging Vocabulary for Competitions

Vocabulary · Answer Key · 30 Questions

1. What is the meaning of 'abnegate'?

- A) To deny oneself something**
- B) To praise enthusiastically
- C) To reveal a secret
- D) To make something worse

2. Which word describes something that is extremely dry and barren?

- A) Arid**
- B) Lush
- C) Humid
- D) Verdant

3. What does 'cacophony' refer to?

- A) A beautiful melody
- B) A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds**
- C) A period of silence
- D) A sweet fragrance

4. To 'equivocate' means to:

- A) Speak clearly and directly
- B) Use ambiguous language to conceal the truth**
- C) Sing in a choir
- D) Laugh heartily

5. What is the definition of 'gregarious'?

- A) Shy and reserved
- B) Fond of company; sociable**
- C) Angry and aggressive
- D) Very intelligent

6. Which word means to praise enthusiastically?

- A) Censure
- B) Laud**
- C) Denigrate
- D) Vilify

7. What does 'obfuscate' mean?

- A) To make clear and understandable
- B) To make unclear, obscure, or unintelligible**
- C) To move quickly
- D) To accept responsibility

8. What is 'pusillanimous'?

- A) Brave and courageous
- B) Showing a lack of courage or resolution; cowardly**
- C) Extremely wealthy
- D) Very talented

9. To 'salubrious' means:

- A) Harmful or damaging
- B) Health-giving; healthy**
- C) Extremely noisy
- D) Very complicated

10. What does 'surreptitious' mean?

- A) Open and honest
- B) Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of**
- C) Loud and boisterous
- D) Extremely slow

11. Which word describes something that is fleeting or short-lived?

- A) Permanent
- B) Ephemeral**
- C) Enduring
- D) Eternal

12. What is the meaning of 'ubiquitous'?

- A) Rare and scarce
- B) Present, appearing, or found everywhere**
- C) Extremely small
- D) Very loud

13. To 'vex' means to:

- A) To please greatly
- B) To annoy, frustrate, or worry**

14. What does 'zealous' mean?

A) Lacking enthusiasm

B) Showing great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective

15. Which word means to express disapproval or strong criticism?

A) Commend

B) Censure

C) Praise

D) Approve

16. What is the definition of 'chicanery'?

A) Honest dealings

B) The use of trickery to achieve a political, financial, or legal purpose

17. To 'deleterious' means:

A) Beneficial

B) Harmful or damaging

18. What does 'enervate' mean?

A) To energize or invigorate

B) To cause to feel drained of energy or vitality; weaken

19. Which word means to make something less strong or intense?

A) Amplify

B) Mitigate

C) Intensify

D) Exacerbate

20. What is the meaning of 'fastidious'?

A) Careless and untidy

B) Very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail

21. To 'ignominious' means:

A) Glorious

B) Deserving or causing public disgrace or shame

22. What does 'juxtapose' mean?

A) To separate

B) To place or deal with close together for contrasting effect

23. Which word means extremely cruel or brutal?

- A) Kind
- B) Savage**
- C) Gentle
- D) Compassionate

24. What is the definition of 'loquacious'?

- A) Tending to talk a great deal; talkative
- B) Quiet and reserved**

25. To 'mendacious' means:

- A) Truthful
- B) Lying; untruthful**

26. What does 'nefarious' mean?

- A) Virtuous
- B) Wicked or criminal**

27. Which word means to express disapproval or harsh criticism?

- A) Applaud
- B) Censure**
- C) Commend
- D) Extol

28. What is the meaning of 'perspicacious'?

- A) Lacking insight
- B) Having a ready insight into and understanding of things**

29. To 'ruminate' means to:

- A) To act impulsively
- B) To think deeply about something**

30. What does 'supercilious' mean?

- A) Humble and modest
- B) Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others**