

Challenging Vocabulary for Competitions

Vocabulary · Practice Test · 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