

Chapter 1

1. She hadn't eaten all day, and by the time she got home she was _____.
 - a. blighted
 - b. confutative
 - c. ravenous
 - d. ostentatious
 - e. blissful

2. The movie offended many of the parents of its younger viewers by including unnecessary _____ in the dialogue.
 - a. vulgarity
 - b. verbosity
 - c. vocalizations
 - d. garishness
 - e. tonality

501 Sentence Completion Questions

3. His neighbors found his _____ manner bossy and irritating, and they stopped inviting him to backyard barbeques.
- a. insentient
 - b. magisterial
 - c. reparatory
 - d. restorative
 - e. modest
4. Steven is always _____ about showing up for work because he feels that tardiness is a sign of irresponsibility.
- a. legible
 - b. tolerable
 - c. punctual
 - d. literal
 - e. belligerent
5. Candace would _____ her little sister into an argument by teasing her and calling her names.
- a. advocate
 - b. provoke
 - c. perforate
 - d. lamente
 - e. expunge
6. The dress Ariel wore _____ with small, glassy beads, creating a shimmering effect.
- a. titillated
 - b. reiterated
 - c. scintillated
 - d. enthralled
 - e. striated
7. Being able to afford this luxury car will _____ getting a better-paying job.
- a. maximize
 - b. recombinant
 - c. reiterate
 - d. necessitate
 - e. reciprocate

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8. Levina unknowingly _____ the thief by holding open the elevator doors and ensuring his escape.
- a. coerced
 - b. proclaimed
 - c. abetted
 - d. sanctioned
 - e. solicited
9. Shakespeare, a(n) _____ writer, entertained audiences by writing many tragic and comic plays.
- a. numeric
 - b. obstinate
 - c. dutiful
 - d. prolific
 - e. generic
10. I had the _____ experience of sitting next to an over-talkative passenger on my flight home from Brussels.
- a. satisfactory
 - b. commendable
 - c. galling
 - d. acceptable
 - e. acute
11. Prince Phillip had to choose: marry the woman he loved and _____ his right to the throne, or marry Lady Fiona and inherit the crown.
- a. reprimand
 - b. upbraid
 - c. abdicate
 - d. winnow
 - e. extol
12. If you will not do your work of your own _____, I have no choice but to penalize you if it is not done on time.
- a. predilection
 - b. coercion
 - c. excursion
 - d. volition
 - e. infusion

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- 13.** After sitting in the sink for several days, the dirty, food-encrusted dishes became _____.
a. malodorous
b. prevalent
c. imposing
d. perforated
e. emphatic
- 14.** Giulia soon discovered the source of the _____ smell in the room: a week-old tuna sandwich that one of the children had hidden in the closet.
a. quaint
b. fastidious
c. clandestine
d. laconic
e. fetid
- 15.** After making _____ remarks to the President, the reporter was not invited to return to the White House pressroom.
a. hospitable
b. itinerant
c. enterprising
d. chivalrous
e. irreverent
- 16.** With her _____ eyesight, Krystyna spotted a trio of deer on the hillside and she reduced the speed of her car.
a. inferior
b. keen
c. impressionable
d. ductile
e. conspiratorial

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- 17.** With a(n) _____ grin, the boy quickly slipped the candy into his pocket without his mother's knowledge.
- a. jaundiced
 - b. nefarious
 - c. stereotypical
 - d. sentimental
 - e. impartial
- 18.** Her _____ display of tears at work did not impress her new boss, who felt she should try to control her emotions.
- a. maudlin
 - b. meritorious
 - c. precarious
 - d. plausible
 - e. schematic
- 19.** Johan argued, "If you know about a crime but don't report it, you are _____ in that crime because you allowed it to happen."
- a. acquitted
 - b. steadfast
 - c. tenuous
 - d. complicit
 - e. nullified
- 20.** The authorities, fearing a _____ of their power, called for a military state in the hopes of restoring order.
- a. subversion
 - b. premonition
 - c. predilection
 - d. infusion
 - e. inversion
- 21.** The story's bitter antagonist felt such great _____ for all of the other characters that as a result, his life was very lonely and he died alone.
- a. insurgence
 - b. malevolence
 - c. reciprocation
 - d. declamation
 - e. preference

501 Sentence Completion Questions

- 22.** It is difficult to believe that charging 20% on an outstanding credit card balance isn't _____!
- a. bankruptcy
 - b. usury
 - c. novice
 - d. kleptomania
 - e. flagrancy
- 23.** The _____ weather patterns of the tropical island meant tourists had to carry both umbrellas and sunglasses.
- a. impertinent
 - b. supplicant
 - c. preeminent
 - d. illustrative
 - e. kaleidoscopic
- 24.** Wedding ceremonies often include the exchange of _____ rings to symbolize the couple's promises to each other.
- a. hirsute
 - b. acrimonious
 - c. plaintive
 - d. deciduous
 - e. votive
- 25.** Kym was _____ in choosing her friends, so her parties were attended by vastly different and sometimes bizarre personalities.
- a. indispensable
 - b. indiscriminate
 - c. commensurate
 - d. propulsive
 - e. indisputable

Answers

1. c. *Ravenous* (adj.) means extremely hungry.
2. a. *Vulgarity* (n.) means offensive speech or conduct.
3. b. *Magisterial* (adj.) means overbearing or offensively self-assured.
4. c. *Punctual* (adj.) means arriving exactly on time.
5. b. To *provoke* (v.) is to incite anger or resentment; to call forth a feeling or action.
6. c. To *scintillate* (v.) means to emit or send forth sparks or little flashes of light, creating a shimmering effect; to sparkle.
7. d. To *necessitate* (v.) means to make necessary, especially as a result.
8. c. To *abet* (v.) means to assist, encourage, urge, or aid, usually an act of wrongdoing.
9. d. *Prolific* (adj.) means abundantly creative.
10. c. *Galling* (adj.) means irritating, annoying, or exasperating.
11. c. To *abdicate* (v.) means to formally relinquish or surrender power, office, or responsibility.
12. d. *Volition* (n.) means accord; an act or exercise of will.
13. a. *Malodorous* (adj.) means having a foul-smelling odor.
14. e. *Fetid* (adj.) means having a foul or offensive odor, putrid.
15. e. *Irreverent* (adj.) means lacking respect or seriousness; not reverent.
16. b. *Keen* (adj.) means being extremely sensitive or responsive; having strength of perception.

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- 17. b. *Nefarious* (adj.) means wicked, vicious, or evil.
- 18. a. *Maudlin* (adj.) means excessively and weakly sentimental or tearfully emotional.
- 19. d. *Complicit* (adj.) means participating in or associated with a questionable act or a crime.
- 20. a. *Subversion* (n.) means an overthrow, as from the foundation.
- 21. b. *Malevolence* (n.) means ill will or malice toward others; hate.
- 22. b. *Usury* (n.) is the lending of money at exorbitant interest rates.
- 23. e. *Kaleidoscopic* (adj.) means continually changing or quickly shifting.
- 24. e. *Votive* (adj.) means dedicated by a vow.
- 25. b. *Indiscriminate* (adj.) means not discriminating or choosing randomly; haphazard; without distinction.

Chapter 2

- 26.** Phillip's _____ tone endeared him to his comical friends, but irritated his serious father.
- a. aloof
 - b. jesting
 - c. grave
 - d. earnest
 - e. conservative
- 27.** Brian's pale Irish skin was _____ to burn if he spent too much time in the sun.
- a. prone
 - b. urbane
 - c. eminent
 - d. erect
 - e. daunted

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- 28.** A fan of historical fiction, Joline is now reading a novel about slavery in the _____ South.
- a. decorous
 - b. rogue
 - c. droll
 - d. antebellum
 - e. onerous
- 29.** Over the years the Wilsons slowly _____ upon the Jacksons' property, moving the stone markers that divided their lots farther and farther onto the Jacksons' land.
- a. encroached
 - b. jettisoned
 - c. conjoined
 - d. repudiated
 - e. teemed
- 30.** Mary became _____ at typing because she practiced every day for six months.
- a. proficient
 - b. reflective
 - c. dormant
 - d. redundant
 - e. valiant
- 31.** To find out what her husband bought for her birthday, Susan attempted to _____ his family members about his recent shopping excursions.
- a. prescribe
 - b. probe
 - c. alienate
 - d. converge
 - e. revere

501 Sentence Completion Questions

- 32.** Juan's friends found him in a _____ mood after he learned he would be homecoming king.
- a. jovial
 - b. stealthy
 - c. paltry
 - d. gullible
 - e. depleted
- 33.** His suit of armor made the knight _____ to his enemy's attack, and he was able to escape safely to his castle.
- a. vulnerable
 - b. churlish
 - c. invulnerable
 - d. static
 - e. imprudent
- 34.** Choosing a small, fuel-efficient car is a _____ purchase for a recent college graduate.
- a. corrupt
 - b. tedious
 - c. unhallowed
 - d. sardonic
 - e. judicious
- 35.** Such a _____ violation of school policy should be punished by nothing less than expulsion.
- a. copious
 - b. flagrant
 - c. raucous
 - d. nominal
 - e. morose
- 36.** With all of the recent negative events in her life, she felt _____ forces must be at work.
- a. resurgent
 - b. premature
 - c. malignant
 - d. punctilious
 - e. antecedent

501 Sentence Completion Questions

37. The _____ rumors did a great deal of damage even though they turned out to be false.
- a. bemused
 - b. prosaic
 - c. apocryphal
 - d. ebullient
 - e. tantamount
38. When her schoolwork got to be too much, Pam had a tendency to _____, which always put her further behind.
- a. dedicate
 - b. rejuvenate
 - c. ponder
 - d. excel
 - e. procrastinate
39. Racha's glance was a _____ invitation to speak later in private about events of the meeting.
- a. trecherous
 - b. scintillating
 - c. tactful
 - d. tacit
 - e. taboo
40. She reached the _____ of her career with her fourth novel, which won the Pulitzer Prize.
- a. harbinger
 - b. apogee
 - c. metamorphosis
 - d. dictum
 - e. synthesis
41. The _____ townspeople celebrated the soldier's return to his home by adorning trees with yellow ribbons and balloons.
- a. somber
 - b. jubilant
 - c. pitiless
 - d. cunning
 - e. unsullied

501 Sentence Completion Questions

- 42.** The governor-elect was hounded by a group of _____ lobbyists and others hoping to gain favor with her administration.
- a. facetious
 - b. abstruse
 - c. magnanimous
 - d. fawning
 - e. saccharine
- 43.** The mock graduation ceremony—with a trained skunk posing as the college president—was a complete _____ that offended many college officials.
- a. tempest
 - b. epitome
 - c. quintessence
 - d. travesty
 - e. recitative
- 44.** The busy, _____ fabric of the clown's tie matched his oversized jacket, which was equally atrocious.
- a. mottled
 - b. bleak
 - c. credible
 - d. malleable
 - e. communicable
- 45.** Kendrick's talent _____ under the tutelage of Anya Kowalonek, who as a young woman had been the most accomplished pianist in her native Lithuania.
- a. bantered
 - b. touted
 - c. flourished
 - d. embellished
 - e. colluded

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46. The children were _____ by the seemingly nonsensical clues until Kinan pointed out that the messages were in code.
- a. censured
 - b. striated
 - c. feigned
 - d. prevaricated
 - e. flummoxed
47. As the _____ in Romeo and Juliet, Romeo is a hero able to capture the audience's sympathy by continually professing his love for Juliet.
- a. protagonist
 - b. enigma
 - c. facade
 - d. activist
 - e. catechist
48. The chess master promised to _____ havoc upon his opponent's pawns for taking his bishop.
- a. wreak
 - b. warrant
 - c. ensue
 - d. placate
 - e. endow
49. I have always admired Seymour's _____; I've never seen him rattled by anything.
- a. aplomb
 - b. confluence
 - c. propriety
 - d. compunction
 - e. nostalgia
50. The soldiers received a military _____ to inspect all their vehicles before traveling.
- a. allotment
 - b. dominion
 - c. affectation
 - d. calculation
 - e. mandate

Answers

26. b. *Jesting* (adj.) means characterized by making jests; joking; playful.
27. a. *Prone* (adj.) means a tendency or inclination to something.
28. d. *Antebellum* (adj.) means belonging to the period before a war, especially the American Civil War.
29. a. To *encroach* (v.) means to gradually or stealthily take the rights or possessions of another; to advance beyond proper or formal limits; trespass.
30. a. *Proficient* (adj.) means well versed in any business or branch of learning; adept.
31. b. To *probe* (v.) is to examine thoroughly; tentatively survey.
32. a. *Jovial* (adj.) means showing hearty good cheer; marked with the spirit of jolly merriment.
33. c. *Invulnerable* (adj.) means incapable of being damaged or wounded; unassailable or invincible.
34. e. *Judicious* (adj.) means being wise or prudent; showing good judgment; sensible.
35. b. *Flagrant* (adj.) means conspicuously and outrageously bad, offensive, or reprehensible.
36. c. *Malignant* (adj.) means disposed to cause distress or inflict suffering intentionally; inclining to produce death; an injurious infiltration.
37. c. *Apocryphal* (adj.) means of questionable authenticity or doubtful authority; fictitious, false.
38. e. To *procrastinate* (v.) is to put off from day to day.

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39. c. *Tacit* (adj.) means unspoken yet understood.
40. b. *Apogee* (n.) means the highest or farthest point, culmination; the point in its orbit where a satellite is at the greatest distance from the body it is orbiting.
41. b. *Jubilant* (adj.) means rejoicing; expressing joyfulness; exulting.
42. d. *Fawning* (adj.) means attempting to win favor or attention by excessive flattery, ingratiating displays of affection, or servile compliance; obsequious.
43. d. *Travesty* (n.) means a parody; a grotesque imitation with the intent to ridicule.
44. a. *Mottled* (adj.) means blotched or spotted with different colors or shades.
45. c. To *flourish* (v.) is (of artists) to be in a state of high productivity, excellence, or influence; to grow luxuriously, thrive; to fare well, prosper, increase in wealth, honor, comfort or whatever is desirable; to make bold, sweeping movements.
46. e. To *flummox* (v.) is to confuse, perplex, bewilder.
47. a. A *protagonist* (n.) is the main character in a drama.
48. a. To *wreak* (v.) means to inflict, as a revenge or punishment.
49. a. *Aplomb* (n.) is self-assurance, composure, poise, especially under strain.
50. e. *Mandate* (n.) is a command or authoritative instruction.