

Vocabulary

August 3, 2024

1. Nuns and nurses are usually very altruistic people since they seek ways to help others.

- (A) generous
- (B) belligerent
- (C) stingy
- (D) selfish

Explanation: Altruistic means unselfishly concerned for the welfare of others.

2. I am ambivalent about a relationship with him because I like him one day and not the next.

- (A) certain
- (B) undecided
- (C) firmly convinced
- (D) fixed

Explanation: Ambivalent means having contrary feelings or attitudes, uncertain as to course of action.

3. The patient lost so much weight that his face became quite angular.

- (A) lean
- (B) rotund
- (C) plump
- (D) curvy

Explanation: Angular means sharp cornered.

4. Because the girl was so arrogant, she had few friends.

- (A) meek
- (B) modest
- (C) presumptuous
- (D) shy

Explanation: Arrogant means overbearingly assuming, insolently proud.

5. I have an aversion to getting married.

- (A) inclination
- (B) reluctance
- (C) liking
- (D) acceptance

Explanation: Aversion means strong disinclination, disliking.

6. Because of the fog I could barely discern the landing strip.

- (A) ignore
- (B) differentiate
- (C) confuse
- (D) overlook

Explanation: Discern means to differentiate between two or more things.

7. After doing manual labor, he disdained the idea of becoming a cotton picker.

- (A) favor
- (B) admiration
- (C) hate
- (D) love

Explanation: Disdain means intense dislike, to treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy.

8. His disparaging remarks caused the committee to give the job to another person.

- (A) praise
- (B) belittle
- (C) admire
- (D) honor

Explanation: Disparage means to degrade, to speak of someone or something in a derogatory manner.

9. The couple got married despite a great disparity in their ages.

- (A) similarity
- (B) equality
- (C) sameness
- (D) inequality

Explanation: Disparity means the condition or fact of being unequal in age, rank or degree.

10. He would often embellish his narratives about famous people.

- (A) deface
- (B) damage
- (C) beautify
- (D) tarnish

Explanation: Embellish means to decorate, to make beautiful with ornaments.

11. His angry words engendered strife in his relationship with his wife.

- (A) to cause
- (B) to create
- (C) to squelch
- (D) to suppress

Explanation: Engender means to produce.

12. Since the drink is innocuous, it is okay for us to have some.

- (A) harmless
- (B) dangerous
- (C) injurious
- (D) toxic

Explanation: Innocuous means producing no injury.

13. I am bored by your insipid talk.

- (A) banal
- (B) inane
- (C) jejune

(D) vapid

Explanation: Insipid means boring and stupid.

14. She lamented the death of her father in a very lachrymose manner.

(A) bemoan

(B) bewail

(C) deplore

(D) rejoice

Explanation: Lament means to mourn or to express sorrow in a demonstrative manner.

15. Her performance was lauded by all of the critics.

(A) revere

(B) defame

(C) criticize

(D) belittle

Explanation: Laud means to praise, to extol.

16. Because the meaning of the play was obscure, I was unable to enjoy it.

(A) abstruse

(B) ambiguous

(C) cryptic

(D) clear

Explanation: Obscure means difficult to see, vague.

17. The ostentatious socialite wore her mink fur coat even during the warmest days of August.

(A) pompous

(B) pretentious

(C) showy

(D) modest

Explanation: Ostentatious means showy, pretentious.

18. The prodigal son squandered his inheritance.

(A) lavish

(B) lush

(C) luxuriant

(D) thrifty

Explanation: Prodigal means wasteful, a person given to extravagance.

19. He announced that he would repudiate all debts that had been created by his wife.

(A) to disown

(B) to embrace

(C) to adopt

(D) to accept

Explanation: Repudiate means to reject, to disown.

20. A lawyer must have great reticence in discussing matters that could violate his client's rights.

(A) reserve

(B) taciturnity

(C) candor

(D) openness

Explanation: Reticence means restraint in speech, reluctance to speak.

21. Nearly all Catholics revere the Pope.

(A) adore

(B) venerate

(C) worship

(D) despise

Explanation: Revere means to honor, to regard with respect.

22. The mountain on a clear spring morning is a serene setting.

(A) calm

(B) placid

(C) tranquil

(D) agitated

Explanation: Serene means calm, placid.

23. To avoid being obtrusive in the elegant restaurant, he used subtle gestures to call the waiter to his table.

- (A) delicate
- (B) elusive
- (C) not obvious
- (D) blunt

Explanation: Subtle means delicate, elusive.

24. The meeting lasted so long because of many superfluous comments by some of the speakers.

- (A) overflow
- (B) beyond what is needed
- (C) required
- (D) necessary

Explanation: Superfluous means beyond what is needed or required.

25. A shy person is usually taciturn.

- (A) quiet
- (B) reserved
- (C) reticent
- (D) talkative

Explanation: Taciturn means quiet, not verbose.

26. Good is the antithesis of evil.

- (A) contrast
- (B) duplicate
- (C) same
- (D) direct opposite

Explanation: Antithesis means a direct opposite.

27. The climbers ascended the mountain.

- (A) to move upward
- (B) to rise from a lower station
- (C) to descend
- (D) to go down

Explanation: Ascend means to move upward.

28. Pioneers usually led an austere existence.

- (A) strict
- (B) stern
- (C) unadorned
- (D) indulgent

Explanation: Austere means strict, stern, unadorned.

29. One who is autonomous needs no help from others.

- (A) independent
- (B) self-contained
- (C) dependent
- (D) reliant

Explanation: Autonomous means independent, self-contained.

30. Because of his use of overused trite remarks, his speeches are banal.

- (A) common
- (B) ordinary
- (C) lacking freshness
- (D) unique

Explanation: Banal means common, ordinary, lacking freshness, hackneyed