

COMPLETING THE SENTENCES

Choose the word from this unit that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the blank. You may use the plural form of nouns and the past tense of verbs if necessary.

1. On October 8, 1871, _____ struck the city of Chicago. The Great Chicago Fire killed hundreds and left thousands homeless.
2. Chicago, a flat city next to Lake Michigan, has no hills, mountains, or _____ to stop the wind from spreading a fire.
3. The firefighters did their best, but to their _____ the blaze was out of control in less than two hours.
4. Firefighters _____ as they watched flames jump across the Chicago River and engulf the downtown area.
5. Some poor areas of the city were filled with _____ wooden shacks; the fire roared through these areas and continued to grow.
6. _____ swept through the city, and the streets filled with people running in panic.
7. Hundreds of people waded into Lake Michigan to escape the blaze, hoping that _____ hair and clothing would protect them.
8. Before long, the fire had _____ even the strongest of the firefighters and most of their water supplies.
9. Days _____ before the fire was brought under control.
10. Some people believed that an arsonist and his _____ started the fire, but no one was ever charged with the crime.
11. According to another story, a(n) _____ in Mrs. O'Leary's barn caused the fire.
12. The _____ of a song about the fire claim that Mrs. O'Leary's cow started it by kicking over a lantern.
13. The city's most _____ citizens wanted to _____ the damage by punishing the O'Learys.
14. Eventually it was decided that the fire had not been set on purpose; it had just been a(n) _____ of fate.

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15. Even though much of the city had been destroyed, the citizens did not sit back and watch their town _____.
 16. They did not want the fire to _____ their reputation as a growing, bustling city, so they immediately began to rebuild.
 17. A(n) _____ for a change in the construction of houses was addressed by the city government.
 18. Elected officials and _____ helped pass a construction code that required new buildings in Chicago to be made of brick.
 19. To this day, the _____ of buildings in Chicago requires strict adherence to the city's fire code.

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meanings. Choose the word from this unit that is the synonym for each of the following groups of words. Write your answer on the line.

1. maintenance, repair, preservation _____
2. soaked, dripping, saturated _____
3. irregularity, peculiarity; characteristic _____
4. an appeal, plea; to ask, beg _____
5. a stir, fuss, hubbub _____
6. quick-tempered, irritable, excitable _____
7. consuming fear, panic, or excitement _____
8. to wince, shrink, recoil _____
9. to glide by, expire _____
10. decayed, run-down, neglected _____
11. to rot, disintegrate; to break up _____
12. a calamity, upheaval; destruction _____
13. to punish for, retaliate _____

14. to pollute, corrupt _____

15. a ravine, chasm; to cram, fill _____

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words that have the opposite or nearly the opposite meanings. Choose the word from this unit that is the antonym for each of the following groups of words. Write your answer on the line.

1. dry, dehydrated, arid _____

2. to forgive, turn the other cheek _____

3. calm, agreeable, gracious _____

4. to calm, reassure; assurance, boldness _____

5. to fill; to replenish; to preserve _____

6. renewed, rebuilt, refinished _____

7. to grow, improve, multiply _____

8. to purify, cleanse _____

9. a command; to demand, require _____

10. a mountain peak; to empty _____

CHOOSING THE RIGHT WORD

Underline the word that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. Karen's pearl necklace is her favorite (accessory, upkeep).

2. The (lyrics, petitions) of that song are impossible to understand.

3. Each political party will choose a presidential (accessory, nominee) at its convention.

4. The (irascible, sopping) dog ran onto the porch and splattered us with water.

5. Spring rains caused a flash flood in the (quirk, gorge).

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6. David (elapsed, flinched) when his alarm clock went off.
 7. The (ruckus, dismay) in our backyard woke the baby from his nap.
 8. We have (flinched, exhausted) our supply of clean drinking water, so we will have to boil more.
 9. We were (dismayed, elapsed) by the amount of litter left by the last group of campers.
 10. The volcano erupted before the village had time to recover from the previous (petition, catastrophe).
 11. Max wanted to (taint, avenge) the insult, but I persuaded him to drop the whole issue.
 12. We are going to present the administration with a (petition, ruckus) asking for a vegetarian option on the school lunch menu.
 13. Mom says if I don't do a better job with the (upkeep, catastrophe) of my room she's going to ground me.
 14. The leaves lying in a small hollow had (exhausted, decomposed) during the winter and spring.
 15. The roof of our (dilapidated, irascible) old storage shed is about to cave in.
 16. An hour (elapsed, avenged) before we finally chose a movie to rent.
 17. Mass (hysteria, upkeep) swept through the crowd when the ground began to tremble and someone shouted "Earthquake!"
 18. "Get out of my flowers," the (dilapidated, irascible) woman yelled at her neighbor's cat.
 19. We all have our own (quirks, accessories); for example, Jim can't sleep unless his pillow is turned sideways.
 20. Grandma thinks telling jokes in the school talent show will (taint, flinch) my reputation as a serious student.