

(d) Match 1 - 8 with the strongest collocations from i - viii.

1. house	[]	i. listening
2. indie	[]	ii. act
3. easy	[]	iii. album
4. booking	[]	iv. music
5. recording	[]	v. manager
6. studio	[]	vi. contract
7. road	[]	vii. band
8. supporting	[]	viii. agent

(e) Now use the completed phrases from (d) to fill in the blanks below. Use each phrase once only.

1. They were a top draw for this pub for many years, so it seemed a no-brainer to make them the official _____.
2. The _____ was, in my opinion, actually more entertaining than the headline band.
3. These guys are great; I can't wait until their first _____ is released next weekend.
4. What they play is more _____ than mainstream pop. Even so, they've built up a large fan base.
5. He's the king of _____; I can't think of any artist I'd chose over him if I just want to put my feet up and unwind.
6. The _____ has got us an extra gig on Sunday on account of how well the last one went down.
7. As _____s go, she's right up there with the best of them; she makes sure everything runs smoothly but you'd hardly even know she was there from beginning to end of tour.
8. They've somehow bagged a million-dollar _____ with Sony, despite the fact that they have yet to even have a top-ten hit.

The Critics and Reviews

(a) Chose an appropriate word from the box to complete each gap. Use each word once only.

lauded	authentic	compelling	amplify	frenetic	groundbreaking
interwoven	ensemble	hype	abysmal	virtuoso	finale
consensus	incoherent	acclaim	unanimous	unparalleled	suspense

1. The film has thus far met with almost universal _____, with many describing it as a modern-day masterpiece and director Cloud Bond's finest moment.
2. The _____ that surrounded the launch of Mile Down is about the best thing this film ever had going for it - this is a truly _____ dramatization of one of the most significant moment's in our nation's history.
3. This is a essentially two stories expertly _____ by the author into one utterly _____ novel.
4. _____ as one of the most successful remakes in cinematic history, fans of the original will love this film as director Willheim Nording has stayed true to the story here on almost every possible level while somehow creating something refreshingly original and new.
5. I would go along with the _____ on this one; while Yardie has punched above its weight at the box office and supplanted Maori Wave in the number-one position, it is at best lightweight and mediocre, and the director has played it very safe here.
6. This movie steams along at a _____ pace. It is full of _____ and the director produces some truly intense, edge-of-seat moments in the lead up to and during the big _____.
7. Stevens is _____ as an actor in his generation, and only he could have delivered the _____ performance the role of this particular protagonist demands.
8. Both the leading actor and director have received _____ praise for their parts in this production, praise which this critic believes is entirely justified, for it is rare indeed for two artists at their peak to _____ one another's gifts so brilliantly.
9. While hardly _____ in the sense that it sticks to tried and tested special effects methods, this film is technically brilliant and possessed of an _____ feel of which so many of its recent cinematic counterparts have been bereft.
10. The plot is largely _____ and there is more talent in my right thumb than is possessed by the entire _____ that makes up this sorry cast.

(b) Choose a verb from the box to fill each blank. Use each verb once only. You may need to change the tense or form.

come	deliver	convey	promise	tackle	delve
scratch	trivialise	evoke	miss	rave	

Most critics have _____ about this movie. I must admit to having been left somewhat disappointingly underwhelmed, however, and feeling as if this very complex subject has but barely had its surface _____ in *Abdominal Pain*. I mean, the issue of teen suicide is a very serious, important and current one, so it is admirable that the filmmakers have tried to _____ it, but, in doing so, they have _____ little into the underlying causes of the problem, which is a _____ opportunity, I feel. *Abdominal Pain* _____ much but _____ little, I'm afraid. The sense of desperation teens struggling with their identity and having no one to turn to must feel is not really _____ here. And while the director does succeed in _____ a certain sympathy in the audience for the lead character, Rory Mole, a terrible depressed and lonely 15-year-old suffering from undiagnosed bi-polar disorder, his plight is _____ and there is an almost comedic element to his what should be tragic story. Mike Clough has _____ up short here in his directorial debut, and he will do well to recover from this big-screen disappointment.

(c) Use the clue- or stem-word to create an adjective to describe a novel or aspect thereof, as in the example below.

1. a (nail) _____ finale
2. a (harrow) _____ tale
3. an (enigma) _____ character
4. an (toxic) _____ experience
5. a (viscera) _____ hatred
6. a (buoy) _____ ending
7. an (apology) _____ and bold critique
8. an (engage) _____ story
9. a (pretend) _____ and shallow effort
10. a (fresh) _____ honesty

(d) Use the answers from (c) above to fill in the gaps in the sentences below. Use each word once only.

1. It is _____ to see how frank the author is in this biography, and his honesty is all the more laudable on account of it being his own memoirs that he is penning here.
2. Hume adopts a tried and tested formula in his new rom-com, and is _____ about doing so.
3. The _____ prospect of having to relive her ordeal in the courtroom does not deter our heroine.
4. One leaves the theatre feeling decidedly _____ after this feel-good play.
5. It is an _____ combination of intensity and passion that has the viewer rapt throughout and yearning for more at the end.
6. The audience is on the edge of its collective seat during this _____ climax, and there is a delightful twist in the very last scene to surprise and even shock you.
7. He doesn't pull off sophisticated, which appears to have been the aim here, but simply comes across as _____.
8. Joseph is a fascinating and _____ creature. Oh to get inside the head of our hero! But, alas, the author gives us only the occasional tantalising peak into his thought process and we are left pining for the sequel to find out more about this curious and oddly endearing fellow.
9. The idea of Nell Burges and Ed Reeves acting alongside one another again is an _____ thought.
10. His approach to writing is _____ rather than intellectual.

(e) Find the eight synonyms of **VERY INTERESTING** and the eight synonyms of **BORING** and group them below.

dull	riveting	prosaic	enthraling	bromidic	enrapturing	pedestrian	captivating
vapid	spellbinding	wearisome	insipid	absorbing	gripping	fascinating	lustreless

1. **Very Interesting :** _____
2. **Boring:** _____