

## Words in Action

All of the following verbs denote a sense of **giving up**. Study their definitions carefully and then use the words to fill in the blanks in the sentences on the next page. In some sentences, more than one verb may be appropriate.

<b>abandon</b>	leave or withdraw completely and forever; give up or bring to an end <b>e.g.</b> <i>He abandoned his wrecked car on the freeway.</i>
<b>forsake</b>	(forsook-forsaken) desert; leave forever; give up completely <b>e.g.</b> <i>He forsook his fortune to devote himself to the church.</i>  (a man may <i>abandon</i> his home or <i>forsake</i> his friends)
<b>abdicate</b>	give up officially (an official position, esp. that of king or queen)
<b>resign</b>	give up (a job or position) <b>e.g.</b> <i>A monarch abdicates while an employee resigns.</i>
<b>quit</b>	stop doing something and leave <b>e.g.</b> <i>He quit his job and went abroad.</i> (quit is used informally)
<b>surrender</b>	give up or give in to power (esp. of an enemy), as a sign of defeat <b>e.g.</b> <i>After days of fighting, the enemy finally surrendered.</i>
<b>cede</b>	give (usually land or a right) to another country or person, esp. after losing a war <b>e.g.</b> <i>The Louisiana colony was ceded to Spain in 1762.</i>
<b>desert</b>	(esp. of military service) leave without authority or permission <b>e.g.</b> <i>A soldier who deserts from the army is severely punished.</i>
<b>relinquish</b>	give up (power, position, a claim, etc.) <b>e.g.</b> <i>One can relinquish a claim, hope or privilege, etc.</i>
<b>discard</b>	(of something useless or unwanted) throw away or put aside <b>e.g.</b> <i>Don't discard your train ticket before you reach your destination.</i>
<b>evacuate</b>	take all the people away from (a place); move (a person) away from a place in order to protect them from danger <b>e.g.</b> <i>The defeated army was forced to evacuate the conquered territory.</i>
<b>renounce</b>	give up (a claim); say formally that one does not own or has no more connection with <b>e.g.</b> <i>He renounced his religion and became a Christian.</i>
<b>yield</b>	give up control of (surrender) to superior forces <b>e.g.</b> <i>A politician may yield to public pressure and an army may yield their position to the enemy.</i>

# Vocabulary Practice

**A. Read the text below and choose the correct word A, B C or D to fit the gaps.**

The Depression didn't end until the production (11)..... of World War II, but Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs (12)..... to help. One, the Securities and Exchange Commission, was created in 1934 to shift the job of (13)..... securities trade from the states to the federal government. Today brokers and dealers must (14)..... with the SEC, to prevent price manipulation, and there are strict (15)..... for the minimum down payments to buy stocks. Of course although we haven't since experienced a depression on the (16)..... of the one in the 1930s, the SEC hasn't rendered the stock market crash extinct. On October 19, 1987, the Dow suffered its largest one-day (17)..... since 1914, and on April 14, 2000, it fell 617.78 points, the largest-ever single-day point loss.

"I used to be quite an (18).....," the economist John Kenneth Galbraith once said. "I thought that by keeping the memory of the 1929 crash alive we would have a (19)..... against the kind of feckless, fatuous optimism which caused people to get in and shove up the markets .... and get (20)..... by the illusion of ever-increasing wealth. I've given up on that hope because we've had it happen too often again since."

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|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 11. A. purge        | B. end          | C. demise      | D. surge        |
| 12. A. asked        | B. aimed        | C. suspected   | D. failed       |
| 13. A. ruling       | B. freeing      | C. regulating  | D. demanding    |
| 14. A. join         | B. announce     | C. ally        | D. register     |
| 15. A. requirements | B. wishes       | C. laws        | D. expectations |
| 16. A. range        | B. climb        | C. scale       | D. ascend       |
| 17. A. increase     | B. collapse     | C. ferocity    | D. fall         |
| 18. A. optimist     | B. egocentric   | C. illusionist | D. pessimist    |
| 19. A. knowledge    | B. warning      | C. radar       | D. speculation  |
| 20. A. carried away | B. enthusiastic | C. swept       | D. obscured     |

**B. Fill the gaps in the following sentences with the correct answer A, B C or D.**

- 21 The police \_\_\_\_\_ the district for the thief.  
 a scoured                      b brushed                      c ran                      d penetrated
- 22 At the \_\_\_\_\_ moment, he backed out.  
 a insignificant                      b meaningful                      c crucial                      d trifling
- 23 Her house was \_\_\_\_\_ at a high value.  
 a considered                      b deemed                      c assessed                      d appreciated
- 24 What a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance he's got!  
 a huge                      b enormous                      c weird                      d benevolent
- 25 Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ to your elders.  
 a affable                      b consistent                      c impertinent                      d respectable
- 26 He's one of the best doctors in town and held in high \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a esteem                      b estimation                      c value                      d appraisal
- 27 You may make any changes to the original plan you \_\_\_\_\_ necessary.  
 a evaluate                      b recommend                      c esteem                      d deem
- 28 I've got something of great importance to \_\_\_\_\_ to you.  
 a impair                      b compare                      c impart                      d deport
- 29 Too many trees round a house \_\_\_\_\_ it of air and light.  
 a deprive                      b deprave                      c deride                      d derive
- 30 The bloodthirsty \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to avenge their leader's death.  
 a mop                      b mob                      c clog                      d flog



## Words in Action

plague - conflagration - deluge - drought - landslide - earthquake - famine - destitution  
avalanche - insanity - contamination - depression - subsidence - holocaust - gale

**Exercise A >>>** The following definitions refer to the words above. They all have **unpleasant connotations** as they are related to disasters, calamities, bad living conditions, natural phenomena, etc. Study them carefully, and then fill each blank with the word that corresponds to its definition.

- 1 A wide-spread scarcity or dearth of food that causes people to suffer from extreme hunger. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 An unusually great flood accompanied by heavy rainfall that causes inundation such as that which affected Noah and his ark. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A long continuous spell of dry weather with marked lack of rain that stems the growth of plants. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Extreme poverty often accompanied by lack of property. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The sinking of the earth to a lower level because of underground movements and workings. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 A strong and violent wind but of less force than that of a storm or tempest. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 A very large scale destruction and loss of life that may result from use of strategic weapons, as in a nuclear war. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 The slipping of a mass of land from a higher to a lower level. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 An extremely contagious pestilence or epidemic disease, also known as the Black Death, that decimated Europe's population in the Middle Ages. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 A decline in business marked by an extreme slump in production and purchase of goods such as the Great Crash on Wall Street in 1929, which ruined international trade. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 A condition or state where the environment (water, air, soil) is made impure because of harmful chemicals and poisonous matter. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 The fall of a mass of snow or ice down a mountain slope. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 A great or disastrous fire, especially one breaking out in a forest. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 A vibration of the earth's crust caused by disturbances of the inner layers of the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Any mental disorder characterized by irrational or violent deviation from normal thinking. \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Practice

A. Read the text below and choose the correct word A, B C or D to fit the gaps.

Detroit (11).....St. Patrick's Day in Corktown, a neighborhood named for the many (12)..... workers from County Cork. Some of the original workers' row houses there are being (13)....., and the area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The parade covers about a dozen blocks along Michigan Avenue, on Sunday, March 12.

The March 12 parade in San Francisco begins at 11:30 a.m. at Second and Market Streets and (14)..... to the Civic Center Plaza. San Francisco's first celebration, in 1851, (15)..... of a small party in Hayes Valley and a Shamrock Ball at a saloon on Pacific Street. Enthusiasm for the holiday waxed and waned over the years, but by 1956 it had become (16)....., with 35,000 marchers.

San Diego (17)..... its twenty-sixth St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 11, at 11 a.m. Glittery Las Vegas, Nevada, will have its fortieth one on Saturday, March 18, at 11 a.m. To the south, the Irish in Tucson, Arizona, will step out at the same time.

(18)..... in bathing suits usually line the parade route in the Waikiki Beach district of Honolulu. (19)..... to Pat Bigold, a writer who is half Irish, his city's St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 is the closest to the international (20)..... . It takes place at noon, which is 5 p.m. in Boston.

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|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 11. A. commemorates | B. commiserates | C. celebrates | D. participates |
| 12. A. immigrant    | B. vagrant      | C. destitute  | D. hard         |
| 13. A. kept         | B. flooded      | C. demolished | D. preserved    |
| 14. A. detours      | B. diverts      | C. heads      | D. retreats     |
| 15. A. was          | B. consisted    | C. devised    | D. contrived    |
| 16. A. common       | B. unpopular    | C. localised  | D. mainstream   |
| 17. A. kicks off    | B. forwards     | C. redirects  | D. hands over   |
| 18. A. Audience     | B. Addressers   | C. Listeners  | D. Spectators   |
| 19. A. According    | B. Assuming     | C. Listening  | D. Deliberating |
| 20. A. border       | B. code         | C. dateline   | D. season       |

B. Fill the gaps in the following sentences with the correct answer A, B C or D.

- 21 The ship's masts were all destroyed in the strong \_\_\_\_\_.  
a gales                      b deluge                      c famine                      d eruption
- 22 They were, superficially at any \_\_\_\_\_, a very unlikely pair to become friends.  
a aspect                      b chance                      c extent                      d rate
- 23 The kidnapper had tried to \_\_\_\_\_ her before.  
a speculate                      b abduct                      c dispel                      d infer
- 24 He's a very \_\_\_\_\_ writer whom few people have ever heard of.  
a wrinkled                      b congested                      c pale                      d obscure
- 25 His untimely death \_\_\_\_\_ the decline of the empire.  
a shrank                      b ameliorated                      c precipitated                      d exaggerated
- 26 David was given all the \_\_\_\_\_ for rescuing the drowning boy.  
a merit                      b blame                      c credit                      d reputation
- 27 Empires are born, they \_\_\_\_\_ and finally fall into decline.  
a profit                      b culminate                      c deviate                      d convert
- 28 During the \_\_\_\_\_, he was afraid none of his family would survive.  
a famine                      b destitution                      c subsidy                      d eloquence
- 29 The whole forest area was devastated by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a plague                      b famine                      c insanity                      d conflagration
- 30 Hedgehogs, bears and other animals that hibernate remain \_\_\_\_\_ during winter.  
a superficial                      b passive                      c dormitory                      d dormant