Words denoting Loudness vs Faintness

Avocabo Word List 16

BAFFLE, BLATANT, BRAGGART, CLAMOROUS, CLARION, DIN, FORTISSIMO, FULMINATE, MURMUR, OBSTREPEROUS, PANDEMONIUM, PLANGENT, PURLING, RETICENT, QUIESCENT, RESONANCE, SHRILL, SQUELCH, STEALTHY, STENTORIAN, STRIDENT, SUBDUE, SUSURRATION, TACIT, VOCIFEROUS

Those who find that too much noise makes them ill will not be surprised that the word *noise* can possibly be traced back to the Latin word *nausea*, "seasickness, feeling of sickness." Our words *nausea* and *noise* are doublets, that is, words borrowed in different forms from the same word. *Nausea*, first recorded probably before 1425, was borrowed directly from Latin. *Noise*, first recorded around the beginning of the 13th century, came to us through Old French, which explains its change in form. Old French *nois* probably also came from Latin *nausea*, if, as seems possible, there was a change of sense during the Vulgar Latin period, whereby the meaning "seasickness" changed to a more general sense of "discomfort." Word meanings can sometimes change for the better, and nowadays, of course, a noise does not have to be something unpleasant, as in the sentence "The only noise was the wind in the pines."

Exercise 16-1: Loud or Faint?

Sort the list words in columns, indicating whether you think the word denotes swiftness or slowness. Following the exercises associated with this word list, you can return to verify or modify your choices. Use pencil!

LOUDNESS	FAINTNESS
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Exercise 16-2: Synonyms

From the three choices, circle the word that is *closest in meaning* to the ***list word*** in the context shown.

1. Outside sounds were ***baffled*** by the wall
a) amplified b) checked c) bewildered

2.A ***stentorian*** voice suits a circus ringmaster
a) booming b) unpleasant c) muted

3.The ***strident*** sound of a train stopping
a) rough b) murmurous c) shrill

4. ***Plangent*** sounds beckoned the somber townsfolk to the funeral
a) resounding b) rich c) botanical

5. I thought I'd heard a ***susurration*** of voices coming from the darkened corner of the library
a) argument b) scream c) murmur

6. His voice rang like a ***clarion***
a) heavy bell b) trumpet c) war cry

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7. There are those who find trombones ***blatant***
a) shameless b) clamorous c) shiny

8. The ***braggart*** was challenged to put his money where his mouth was
a) senseless ruffian b) loud boaster c) false teacher

9. ***Stealth*** is the thief's key to success
a) deliberation b) furtiveness c) speed

10. The ***clamorous*** garage band soon alienated the entire street
a) amateur b) percussive c) blatant

11. Play the music ***fortissimo*** during the climax of this scenea) very loudly b) confidently c) with rapidity

12. The teen's fall from the roof ***subdued*** the party
a) quieted b) aggravated c) triggered

13. The ***vociferous*** man was very noticeable when he entered the room
a) mute b) out crying c) noisy

14. The bear lay ***quiescent*** in the middle of winter
a) dormant b) sleeping c) stimulated

15. a horrible and sudden ***din***
a) clamor b) supper c) uprising

16. his ***tacit*** approval of the deal
a) fervent b) implied c) written

17. the rumor was ***squelched*** by John's unexpected arrival
a) confirmed b) splashed widely c) silenced

18. Joan is a ***reticent*** employee, and not much is known about her home life
a) reserved b) aristocratic c) mendacious

19. the fife and piccolo are ***shrill*** instruments
a) high-pitched b) muted c) expensive

20 the tenor's voice has a ***resonance*** that stirs the soul
a) timbre b) despondency c) sonority

21. a faint ***purling*** awoke him and he looked about to determine where he was
The sound made by a) rippling water b) snickering knitting needles c) kittens

22. the ***obstreperous*** child disturbed the entire floor of the mall
a) mischievous b) noisily defiant c) enthusiastic

23. the activist gave a ***fulminatory*** speech against the hypocrisy shown by the multinational corporations
a) explosive b) adulatory c) long winded

24. who can even guess at the ***pandemonium*** of Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001?
a) terror b) chaos c) mess

25. I love the ***squelch*** of boots on spring time walks
a) dampness b) comfort c) squishing, sucking, splashing sound

Exercise 16-3: Antonyms
From the three choices, circle the word that is opposite in meaning to the ***list word***.

1. ***stentorian***
a) earsplitting b) deafening c) soft-spoken

2. ***subdue***
a) incite b) mute c) quash

3. ***clamorous***
a) strident b) blatant c) muted

4. ***baffle***
a) thwart b) amplify c) check

5. ***blatant***
a) strident b) quiet c) conspicuous

6. ***stealthy***
a) sneaky b) surreptitious c) conspicuous

7. ***quiescent***
a) dynamic b) inactive c) dormant

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8. ***plangent***
a) tranquil b) loud c) resounding

9. ***strident***
a) raucous b) hushed c) cacophonic

10. ***fortissimo***
a) strong b) robust c) pianissimo

11. ***vociferous***
a) noisy b) subdued c) clamorous

12. ***clarion***
a) slogan b) battle cry c) tentative

13. ***braggart***
a) meek b) blowhard c) boaster

14. ***reticent***
a) untalkative b) taciturn c) garrulous

15. ***tacit***
a) unspoken b) explicit c) implied

Exercise 15-4: Discriminating Appropriate / Inappropriate Usage

Indicate whether the sentences below use the list word correctly ☑ or incorrectly ☒ by circling or highlighting the appropriate icon. You will find explanations for incorrect usage in the answer portion of this workbook.

☑ ☒ 1. Mr. Janeff deserves to be where he is. He earned it all by ***din*** of hard work and effort.

☑ ☒ 2. If you can't dazzle them with your brilliance, ***baffle*** them with your bull.

☑ ☒ 3. A week of masses, prayers, religious instruction and concerts that will ***fulminate*** in a huge open-air mass on Sunday.

☑ ☒. 4. "I just fell so in love with Jacob," she says, an ethereal ***murmur*** wafting into her speech.

☑ ☒. 5. Wang Liping, a ***strident*** athlete from The People's Republic of China, excels in the women's 20 km speedwalking event.

☑ ☒ 6. One has to question the ***blatant*** use of product placements in feature films. The Pepsi, Lexus and Gap ads in Steven Spielberg's *Minority Report* were conspicuous and unnecessary.

☑ ☒ 7. Major Asian stock markets slid today on growing fears that business scandals in the United States may set off a domino-like tumble in worldwide shares and ***squelch*** a fledgling recovery on both sides of the Pacific.

☑ ☒ 8. Tuesday's decision augurs badly for Trichet, who hopes to take over in a year the presidency of the European Central Bank from Wim Duisenberg, who said in February that he plans to step down on his 68th birthday, July 9, 2003 – three years before his mandate ends. That was in keeping with a ***tacit*** accord that Duisenberg's mandate, begun in 1998, be shared by Trichet.

☑ ☒ 9. Gentile said that although officers did ***subdue*** and handcuff McGowan after she punched a firefighter, she was not struck or treated with undue force.

☑ ☒ 10. Romer, who opposed Frazer's mayoral bid in 1998, has since become Frazer's most ***vociferous*** critic in the pages of the Voice of Southern Maryland, a northern Calvert newspaper.

Exercise 15-5: Making Connections

In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words.

1. loud	gaudy
2. aposiopesis	quiet
3. shrill	ac
4. sough	m
5. stealth	su

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