20 Great Words for the Real World

ABSTEMIOUS, BELIE, MOIETY, OBSEQUIOUS, DELETERIOUS, ENERVATE, EVANESCENT, FACETIOUS, FILIBUSTER, HEGEMONY, HUBRIS, KINETIC, PECUNIARY, PRECIPITOUS, SOLILOQUY, SUFFRAGIST, USURP, VACUOUS, WINNOW, ZIGGURAT

Avocabo Word List 51

Exercise 51-1: Fill in the blanks

Complete the following sentences using the most appropriate word from the word list. (20 marks)

1. Cahill's book describes how internal corruption and the barbarian tribes helped to _____ the Roman Empire.

2. Lack of funding and the nature of _____ law have prevented the perpetual motion machine from being invented.

3. On the day of judgement, God promised to_ _____ the wheat from the tares.

4. Joey suffered both _____ and sentimental losses when the thief stole her wallet because it contained a lot of money and many of her favorite photographs.

5. His nervous laughter _____ the extreme fear he was feeling inside.

6. A rabbitfish sting can be _____ to a diver.

7. The Democrats attempted a congressional _____ on "Article 69" when Senator Kennedy was asked to give the longest speech he could muster on the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal.

8. Women were allowed to vote during the presidential election after protests from the _____ movement.

9. The "adventure racing diet" involves _____ eating habits and 3-4 hours of running or biking three times a week.

10. Last night she dreamt that she had moved out of her father's home; traveled to Iraq and set-up a surfboard shop in an abandoned _____ - 1000 miles from the nearest ocean!

11. Ethan's first climb was difficult due to the _____ rock face that his over zealous instructor chose.

12. The _____ her conscience could not shake prevented her from confessing her sin.

13. Whilst studying Native American history, I learned that the Blackfoot band is actually a <u>moiety</u> of the larger Algonquin tribe.

14. It is human nature to wonder if life is _____ . I have no way of knowing for sure, but it would seem to me that invoking death would provide the least satisfying answers. The only way to know for sure is to live!

15. Her affection for Randy was _____ like the billows of steam wafting from her cozied teapot, yet her memories of him were indelibly stamped on her mind.

16. Rave's_ _____ nature was annoying to most people because it was getting increasingly difficult to tell the difference between his witticisms and his serious comments.

17. Joey was slightly suspicious of her roommate's _____ behavior because she was usually only nice to her when she wanted to borrow something.

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18. Without acknowledging the true will of the people, Stephen, son of Rufus, was able to _____ the throne of England from his uncle, King Henry I, whose popularity had waned following the Welsh Rebellions of 1134.

19. George Bush is attempting to create democratic _____ in the Middle East by forcing western politics down the throats of disinterested nations.

20. The actor's _____ let the audience in on some of the plot that was not revealed during earlier dialogue.

Exercise 99-2: Identifying Appropriate Word Use

In each of the following, only one sentence uses the word appropriately. Correct the sentence that uses a list word inappropriately by writing-in the proper word for each in the space provided. (20 marks)

1. Abstemious

a) The court convicted him in abstemious and fined him $500. _____

b) Danny found whitewater kayaking a bit too abstemious for his liking. _____

2. Belie

a) In an attempt to belie his mental illness, he kept to himself and did not speak. _____

b) The doctor delivered good news when he told the family that the tumor was belied. _____

3. Moiety

a) The Moiety Eel is generally harmless to humans but can become aggressive if provoked. _____

b) The Frisian are sometimes considered a moiety of the Dutch. _____

4. Obsequious

a) It was obsequious to the surfers that the waves were huge considering that they were far above their head when they stood on the beach. _____

b) In *Lord of the Rings*, Grima Wormtongue is an obsequious servant of Saruman the White.

_____

5. Deleterious

a) The deleterious salt water filled my lungs as I sank deeper and deeper beneath the wave. _____

b) The drug overdose caused him to become deleterious because he heard voices inside his head. _____

6. Enervate

a) The adventure racer was able to enervate because he could make a compass out of sewing needle, a magnet, and a piece of string if theirs ever broke. _____

b) Zack didn't realize how much his pride enervated his friendships. _____

7. Evanescent

a) The police collected all of the forensic evanescence they could find at the murder scene. _____

b) The sun's rays greedily licked at the morning dew; an evanescent cocktail of the night's toil and tears.

_____

8. Facetious

a) Benito Mussolini was the arrogant dictator of the facetious Italian government during the Second World War.

_____

b) In addition to being inappropriate and annoying, his facetious comments were sometimes hurtful too.

_____

9. Filibuster

a) Political filibusters are sometimes seen by the general public, as a waste of time and money. _____

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b) A hazelnut and a filibuster are actually the same nut.

_____

10. Hegemony

a) All milk in Canada has to pass strict pasteurization and hegemony standards. _____

b) The Nazis created hegemony when they allowed the Vichy government to coexist with their own occupation of France during WWII. _____

11. Hubris

a) The proverbial stench of hubris was overwhelming when Tommy walked into the room. _____

b) Hubris is an Arabic puree of garbanzo beans, sesame seeds, olive oil, garlic and lemon juice. _____

12. Kinetic

a) It has been said that intellect is kinetic and generally inherited from the paternal side of the family.

_____

b) Evil Knievel could have benefited from a lesson in basic kinetics before his unsuccessful attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon on a rocket-propelled-motorcycle.

_____

13. Pecuniary

a) Some insurance companies are more interested in collecting premiums than they are in paying out pecuniary settlements to their insured. _____

b) There was something pecuniary about it being so dark at mid-day. _____

14. Precipitous

a) The potential for precipitous was high so we brought lots of rain wear for my sailing trip. _____

b) The mountain bike trail had to be tiered into the side of the mountain due to the precipitous inclines.

_____

15. Soliloquy

a) During the overly long soliloquy, the other actors appeared restless and out of place. _____

b) The tractor backed the wagon up to the soliloquy and dumped the load of corn inside. _____

16. Suffragist

a) Joe endured much suffragist after he was attacked by a shark while he was paddling out on his surfboard.

_____

b) Women in that culture are looking for a strong suffragist to shoulder their cause and carry the banner of equal rights.

_____

17. Usurp

a) My neighbour tried to usurp 3 feet from my property when he built his new fence. _____

b) The rodeo cowboy threw his usurp around the legs of the frightened calf. _____

18. Vacuous

a) She was so tired that the vacuous look in her eyes gave no indication of her true feelings. _____

b) The surfers were ordered to vacuous the water when the two shark fins surfaced from beneath the water.

_____

19. Winnow

a) The old man was near blind, but he hadn't lost his talent of winnowing an ostrich from a piece of wood with his pocket knife. _____

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b) The old man was near blind, but he hadn't lost his talent of winnowing the weeds from his garden.

_____

20. Ziggurat

a) The Kontiki Tour ended with free time to explore the ancient ziggurat on our own. _____

b) Jesse found that fresh orange juice and a quick run were all he really needed to ziggurat himself first thing in the morning. _____

Exercise51-3: Antonyms

Choose the word that is the most suitable antonym for each list word. Some words do not have true, clear-cut antonyms so logic and imagination may be required. (20 marks)

1. Abstemious

a) glutinous b) spartan c) abscessed

2. Belie

a) rely b) revelation c) misrepresent

3. Moiety

a) mornay b) whole c) fraction

4. Obsequious

a) uncooperative b) subservient c) obvious

5. Deleterious

a) dermatology b) beneficial c) harmful

6. Enervate

a) strengthen b) inertia c) pulverize

7. Evanescent

a) vaporize b) indelible c) evidently

8. Facetious

a) communism b) serious c) sarcastic

9. Filibuster

a) delay b) hazelnut c) expedite

10. Hegemony

a) independent b) alimony c) colonial

11. Hubris

a) telescope b) arrogance c) humility

12. Kinetic

a) pathological b) motionless c) genealogy

13. Pecuniary

a) pro bono b) strange c) monetary

14. Precipitous

a) condensation b) precipice c) flat

15. Soliloquy

a) dialogue b) masquerade c) self-talk

16. Suffragist

a) slave b) yeti c) protestor

17. Usurp

a) relinquish
b) confiscate
c) slob

18. Vacuous

a) empty
b) full
c) osmosis

19. Winnow

a) carve
b) emulsify
c) kipper

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20. Ziggurat

a) ineptitude

b) restful

c) subterranean cave

Exercise 51-4: Making Connections

In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each word pair. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. (10 marks)

1. abstemious spartan

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. obsequious ingratiate

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. enervate erode

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. facetious sardonic

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. soliloquy aside

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Exercise 51-5: Etymologies

Choose the list word that is best defined by the etymology information provided.(5 marks)

1. _____ from the Greek word: meaning *leader*

2. _____ from the Latin word: meaning *property or wealth*

3. _____ from the Old English word: meaning *to deceive or lie*

4. _____ from the Dutch word: meaning *pirate or freebooter*

5. _____ from the Old English word: meaning *wind*

Avocabo Unit 51 courtesy of Alex Marsland, June 2004. The words were winnowed from the Houghton Mifflin list of *100 Words That All High School Graduates — And Their Parents — Should Know*

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