

# VOC 2 Level 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

### 1. aegis

(e' jīs)

(n.) protection; patronage; sponsorship

The arts and education programs of the United Nations are under the \_\_\_\_\_ of UNESCO.

SYNONYMS: auspices

### 2. apprise

(ə prīz')

(v.) to inform of; to make aware of by giving oral or written notice

The spokesperson will \_\_\_\_\_ us of the latest developments.

SYNONYMS: acquaint, notify

ANTONYMS: keep secret, withhold information

### 3. bibulous

(bīb' yə ləs)

(adj.) fond of or inclined to drink; absorbent

The retired sailor was a \_\_\_\_\_ old codger.

SYNONYMS: inebrious, alcoholic

ANTONYMS: teetotaling, abstemious, temperate

### 4. clique

(klīk)

(n.) a group of people hired to applaud a performer or performance; enthusiastic or fawning admirers; an opera hat

The soprano's \_\_\_\_\_ was in attendance, as usual.

SYNONYMS: fan club, flatterers, hangers-on

### 5. deracinate

(dī ras' ə nāt)

(v.) to pull up by the roots; to root out, uproot, or dislocate; to eliminate all traces of

One way to \_\_\_\_\_ prejudice from our society is to heighten public awareness.

SYNONYMS: extirpate, eradicate, expunge

ANTONYMS: implant, nurture, foster, instill

### 6. eleemosynary

(el i mōs' ə nər ə)

(adj.) charitable; dependent upon or supported by charity; derived from or provided by charity

Some \_\_\_\_\_ institutions use phone solicitations to obtain contributions.

SYNONYMS: philanthropic, beneficent

ANTONYMS: selfish, self-seeking, uncharitable

### 7. indigenous

(in dīj' ə nəs)

(adj.) originating in the country or region where found; native; inborn; inherent

Grizzly bears and mountain lions are two examples of wildlife \_\_\_\_\_ to the Rockies.

SYNONYMS: endemic, domestic, homegrown

ANTONYMS: foreign, alien, exoteric, imported

### 8. lachrymose

(lak' rə mōs)

(adj.) given to tears or weeping; causing to shed tears; mournful, lugubrious

It was a \_\_\_\_\_ tale of poverty and woe.

SYNONYMS: tearful, doleful, dolorous

ANTONYMS: dry-eyed, cheerful, merry, hilarious

### 9. lexicon

(lek' sə kən)

(n.) a dictionary of a language; the special vocabulary of a person, group, or subject; a compendium

The \_\_\_\_\_ of computer technology is large and growing.

SYNONYMS: wordbook, glossary

### 10. melee

(mā' lē)

(n.) a confused struggle; a violent free-for-all; a tumultuous mingling

Many fans were hurt in the \_\_\_\_\_ that followed the soccer match.

SYNONYMS: fracas, brawl, scuffle, donnybrook

ANTONYMS: friendly chat, peace and quiet

### 11. microcosm

(mī' kra kos əm)

(n.) a miniature world or universe; a group or system viewed as the model of a larger group or system

The ocean liner is a \_\_\_\_\_ of society in the novel *Ship of Fools*.

SYNONYMS: epitome, world in little

ANTONYMS: universe, macrocosm, cosmos, totality

### 12. minuscule

(mīn' əs kyūl)

(adj.) very small, tiny; (n.) a lowercase letter

I ate only a \_\_\_\_\_ portion of the dessert.

In the typeface that the poet chose, every letter used in the poem is a \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) infinitesimal, insignificant

ANTONYMS: (adj.) huge, massive, monumental

### 13. obfuscate

(ob' fə skāt)

(v.) to darken or obscure; to confuse or bewilder

The pedantic lecturer's long-winded explanation served only to \_\_\_\_\_ the meaning of the thesis.

SYNONYMS: muddy the waters

ANTONYMS: clarify, elucidate, explicate

**14. paternalism**  
(pə tər' nə liz əm)

(n.) the policy or practice of treating or governing people in the manner of a father dealing with his children

The President won over the worried populace with his attitude of kind \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: benevolence, solicitude, fatherliness

**15. polarize**  
(pō' la rīz)

(v.) to cause to concentrate around two conflicting or contrasting positions; to cause light to vibrate in a pattern

The debate served to \_\_\_\_\_ public opinion on the issue.

SYNONYMS: split, divide, alienate, estrange

ANTONYMS: unite, unify, reconcile

**16. purview**  
(pər' vyū)

(n.) the range, extent, or scope of something; in law, the scope or limit of what is provided in a statute

The subject was outside the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mayor's authority.

SYNONYMS: jurisdiction, orbit

**17. sanguine**  
(səŋ' gwīn)

(adj.) having a ruddy complexion; of a naturally cheerful, confident, or optimistic outlook

Scientists remain \_\_\_\_\_ about the chances of finding a cure for the deadly disease.

SYNONYMS: flushed, rosy

ANTONYMS: bloodless, ashen, pessimistic, gloomy

**18. solecism**  
(sol' ə siz əm)

(n.) a substandard or ungrammatical usage; a breach of etiquette; any impropriety or mistake

One common \_\_\_\_\_ is "irregardless."

SYNONYMS: misusage, blunder, faux pas

ANTONYM: correct usage

**19. vassal**  
(vas' əl)

(n.) a person under the protection of a feudal lord to whom he or she owes allegiance; a subordinate or dependent; a servant; (adj.) subservient

The duke's \_\_\_\_\_ was forced to fight for the king, to whom the duke owed allegiance.

As a \_\_\_\_\_ nation, India provided troops for British armies.

SYNONYMS: (n.) menial, minion; (adj.) servile

ANTONYM: (n.) overlord

**20. verisimilitude**  
(ver ə si mil' ə tūd)

(n.) the quality of appearing to be true, real, likely, or probable

The play's \_\_\_\_\_ won praise from critics.

SYNONYMS: realism, lifelikeness, authenticity

**Completing the Sentence**

From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

- I am not given to undue optimism, but the preliminary results of the polls make me \_\_\_\_\_ about the outcome of the election.
- A hard-line speech may gain her the applause of her followers, but overall it will \_\_\_\_\_ sentiments throughout the country and impair national unity.
- Is the expression "It is me" to be regarded as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ or as an acceptable idiomatic form?
- He came to realize that the inner city in which he had been raised was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of the sufferings of poor people all over the world.
- She defended her policy of hiring a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ by noting that even with a supportive audience, someone is needed to get the applause started.
- The third period was marred by a bench-clearing \_\_\_\_\_ that left the hockey rink littered with discarded gloves and sticks.
- A case of that type, which does not involve a Federal law or constitutional issue, does not come within the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Supreme Court.
- "The rash and \_\_\_\_\_ behavior of that young hothead almost cost us the battle, to say nothing of the war," the general remarked sourly.
- Without expressing opinions, simply \_\_\_\_\_ us as promptly as possible of the results of the conference.
- No matter how fantastic and far-fetched the themes of Ray Bradbury's stories may be, he seems able to achieve an extraordinary effect of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Both sides let on that the negotiators were still miles apart, when in fact the distance that separated them was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Only within recent years has a complete \_\_\_\_\_ of the Latin language been compiled.
- The issue is basically a simple one, and your efforts to \_\_\_\_\_ it by raising endless technical objections will have no effect on us.
- It is easy to be cynical about the motives that lie behind their \_\_\_\_\_ activities, but I truly believe that they want to help people.
- Surprisingly, the white potato, which I have always associated with Ireland, is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Americas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ from their Old World environments, European immigrants had difficult adjustments to make.
- The people of this impoverished area need a program that will "help them to help themselves"—not a form of \_\_\_\_\_ that will make them completely dependent on outside aid.

18. If you are ever to get out of this tangled mess, now is the time for action, not indulgence in \_\_\_\_\_ self-pity.
19. When South Korea was invaded, the United States organized a collective defense effort under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United Nations.
20. At the outset of World War II, Lithuania lost its sovereignty and became an unwilling \_\_\_\_\_ of the Soviet Union.

### Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the boldface word or expression in the given phrase**. Write the word on the line provided.

1. acknowledged for its **authenticity** \_\_\_\_\_
2. under the **auspices** of the church \_\_\_\_\_
3. left early and missed the **donnybrook** \_\_\_\_\_
4. within the **jurisdiction** of the sheriff \_\_\_\_\_
5. neglected to **notify** the townspeople \_\_\_\_\_
6. a small, private, **philanthropic** organization \_\_\_\_\_
7. the **hangers-on** waiting by the stage door \_\_\_\_\_
8. using the programmers' **special vocabulary** \_\_\_\_\_
9. a **menial** in the royal family's service \_\_\_\_\_
10. to **divide** voters' sympathies \_\_\_\_\_
11. **native** to the region \_\_\_\_\_
12. hopes to **expunge** the bad blood \_\_\_\_\_
13. commits a **faux pas** at every turn \_\_\_\_\_
14. the **benevolence** of the dictator \_\_\_\_\_
15. a **model** of the entire park \_\_\_\_\_

### Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite in meaning to the boldface word or expression in the given phrase**. Write the word on the line provided.

16. sought to **clarify** my view of the event \_\_\_\_\_
17. **pessimistic** about the test results \_\_\_\_\_
18. invited all their **teetotaling** relatives \_\_\_\_\_
19. in the **cheerful** moment that followed \_\_\_\_\_
20. had a **monumental** effect on the crowd \_\_\_\_\_

### Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. Their standards are so rigid and so devoid of a sense of proportion that they elevate every minor (**lexicon**, **solecism**) to the level of a major crime.
2. Falstaff, as conceived by Shakespeare, is not just a (**lachrymose**, **bibulous**) old braggart but an archetype of human appetites and joy in living.
3. Is it any wonder that the young quarterback is getting a swelled head when he seems always to be surrounded by a(n) (**claque**, **aegis**) of fawning admirers?
4. It is not enough merely to push aside our prejudices and pretend they don't exist; we must (**deracinate**, **apprise**) these evils from our minds and personalities.
5. From the observatory atop the Empire State Building, the pedestrians on the streets below look as (**sanguine**, **minuscule**) as ants.
6. Even the public opinion polls, which showed a strong trend toward our candidate, did not make us overly (**indigenous**, **sanguine**) about our chances of winning.
7. Those later scenes, in the opinion of many critics, had so much self-conscious pathos that they lacked conviction and (**verisimilitude**, **microcosm**).
8. For many years, there was a tendency among Americans and Europeans to ignore the highly developed (**elemosynary**, **indigenous**) cultures of the peoples of Africa.
9. Compared to today's free agents, the ballplayers of yesteryear were practically the (**lexicon**, **vassals**) of the team owners.
10. A basketball team will be sent to the Far East under the (**claque**, **aegis**) of the State Department to play native teams in various countries.
11. I think it was very inconsiderate of her to wait until this late date before she (**apprised**, **obfuscated**) us of her intention to quit the class show.
12. In spite of the development of social security and insurance plans by the government, there is still a need for private (**minuscule**, **elemosynary**) institutions to provide special services for needy people.
13. If we disregard the emotions and desires of other groups in our area, we are simply going to increase partisanship and (**deracinate**, **polarize**) the whole community.
14. The movie started off well, but the later scenes, with the beautiful young heroine slowly dying of cancer, became overwrought and (**bibulous**, **lachrymose**).
15. In the tragedy that overtakes the pathetic Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*, we see in (**microcosm**, **purview**) the cruelty and injustice that pervade our society.
16. Please do not try to (**apprise**, **obfuscate**) your responsibility in this matter by irrelevant criticisms of other people's behavior.
17. I came to resent the company's (**solecism**, **paternalism**) because it assumed that employees lacked the self-reliance to take care of themselves.
18. Under the American system of personal liberty, there are many aspects of daily life that are not within the (**claque**, **purview**) of any governmental authority.
19. Morality is not a criterion that can be used to judge whether or not a word belongs in a (**microcosm**, **lexicon**) of the language in which it is used.
20. At rush hour, I always have a hard time fighting my way through the (**melée**, **claque**) of tired commuters scurrying through the station.

## Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same or almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

### Noah's Mark

(Line)

In his lifetime, Noah Webster compiled and published two major works that irrevocably distinguished the English spoken in the United States from that spoken in Great Britain. These works eloquently expressed their author's **sanguine** conviction that the citizens of the burgeoning United States ought to express themselves in an idiom as unique and rich as their young nation's spirit. (5)

The first of the two, *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*, was published in 1783, when Webster was twenty-five years old. The "Blue-Backed Speller," so nicknamed for its blue cover, quickly replaced the British textbooks then in use. Within the author's **purview** was no less than the creation of a uniform (10)

American-English language, with American words and American spellings. Webster sought to simplify spellings in order to differentiate them from those in British dictionaries. *Musick* became *music*. *Colour* became *color*. Such changes in spelling became the American standard. (15)

During its one hundred years of use, Webster's book eradicated many distinctions between different provincial colonial dialects. It became one of the most popular books of its time, with sales second only to those of the Bible. (20)

In 1828, after laboring for nearly thirty years, Webster published his masterpiece, the first comprehensive **lexicon** of American English. (25)

*An American Dictionary of the English Language* contained 70,000 entries and was published in two volumes. In addition to revising spellings and pronunciations to reflect national practice, Webster included a number of words **indigenous** to North America. So it was that the words *hickory*, *skunk*, *squash*, and others made their first appearance in a dictionary. (30)

Sales of Webster's highly praised but expensively priced dictionary were lackluster. When Charles and George Merriam acquired the rights to publish new editions, they lowered the price—a sound business decision. Sales of the first Merriam-Webster dictionary boomed.

The word for this animal first appeared in Webster's 1828 dictionary.



1. The meaning of **sanguine** (line 3) is
  - a. abandoned
  - b. recovered
  - c. confident
  - d. closed
2. The meaning of **purview** (line 9) is
  - a. sponsorship
  - b. scope
  - c. fan club
  - d. struggle
3. **Lexicon** (line 24) most nearly means
  - a. orbit
  - b. clarification
  - c. model
  - d. workbook
4. **Indigenous** (line 27) most nearly means
  - a. native
  - b. given
  - c. doleful
  - d. paternal