

## Unit 1 Vocabulary Activities

### Part I: Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Famous for his monosyllabic replies to questions and **(taciturn, tenable)** nature, President Coolidge had the nickname "Silent Cal."
2. Aerial **(reconnaissance, encomium)** of the enemy's positions provided the general with the information he needed to plan his attack.
3. Your critical comments about my "lack of social background" may be true, but they are not **(coherent, germane)** to my qualifications for office.
4. What evidence can you offer to **(substantiate, congeal)** the assertion that capital punishment does not deter potential murderers?
5. Suddenly a band of ruffians set up on us and began to **(coherent, belabor)** us with blows and curses.
6. Even a very imperfect human being may sometimes have virtues of mind or character that are worthy of **(substantiation, emulation)**.
7. Aristotle had such a(n) **(reconnaissance, acquisitive)** mind that his writings are a veritable gold mine of odd and interesting information.
8. The mood of cordiality with which we began the meeting soon **(congealed, emulated)** into icy politeness.
9. The historian needed to scrutinize additional handwriting samples before he could **(eschew, substantiate)** the signature on the document.
10. Instead of opening voters' minds to new ideas, the debate actually **(arrogated, congealed)** their previous objections to the proposed legislation.
11. The **(carping, largesse)** of grateful patients made the clinic's expansion possible.
12. The poor woman was in such a state of shock after the accident that she couldn't give a **(coherent, taciturn)** account of what happened.
13. The new batting champion in our softball league is a(n) **(insatiable, taciturn)** young man who prefers to let his bat do his talking for him.
14. I am proud to have it said of me that I am stubborn and **(invidious, intransigent)** when genuine moral issues are involved.
15. His figure bears witness to his **(acquisitive, insatiable)** appetite for the pleasures of the table.
16. When the evidence of his misconduct became irrefutable, he saw that his position was not **(tenable, congealed)** and resigned.
17. In that moment of grief, the conventional expressions of sympathy I had always considered **(tenable, banal)** were surprisingly comforting.
18. The speech was so filled with **(encomiums, reconnaissance)** that I found it hard to believe that the subject of all this acclaim was plain old me.
19. "That word has such **(invidious, germane)** connotations in modern American parlance," I said, "that I would hesitate to use it, even in jest."
20. Ethelred the Unready was so reluctant to face the Vikings who invaded his kingdom that in effect he **(temporized, belabored)** himself off the throne.
21. In our attempt to improve the quality of life in America, we should not be too quick to **(eschew, cohere)** old ideas simply because they are old.
22. The constitution is uniquely designed to provide protection against those who might seek to **(substantiate, arrogate)** undue power to themselves.
23. After the editor read the story, he returned it to the author with only a few **(carping, coherent)** criticisms of minor faults in the margins.
24. After I mowed the lawn for an hour, he gave me a whole dollar with the air of a feudal lord bestowing **(largesse, intransigence)** on a grateful serf.



25. Because this committee has **(belabored, emulated)** the issue of zoning laws for months, we will not invite public comments on it again at tonight's meeting.

**Part II: A. Choose the word that is a synonym for the boldface word or words.**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Harp on</b> the same point again and again.</li> <li>2. The <b>grasping</b> real estate developer</li> <li>3. The puppy's <b>voracious</b> hunger</li> <li>4. Led the scouting <b>expedition</b> into the jungle</li> <li>5. Tried to <b>usurp</b> control of the finances</li> <li>6. Received a well-deserved <b>commendation</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Could not <b>verify</b> the claim</li> <li>8. Blood that does not <b>coagulate</b></li> <li>9. Tends to <b>hedge</b> when confronted by direct questions</li> <li>10. Was thanked for her <b>munificence</b></li> </ol>
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**Part II B: Choose the word that is an antonym for the boldface word or words.**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. An <b>unretentive</b> mind that cannot remember details</li> <li>12. Butter that does not <b>soften</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. The <b>inspired</b> lyrics to that song</li> <li>14. Made a very <b>magnanimous</b> remark</li> <li>15. Mayor who tries to <b>relinquish</b> power</li> </ol>
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**Part III: Fill in the blank with the word that best completes the sentence.**

1. There is nothing wrong with \_\_\_\_\_ the great singers of the past as long as you eventually develop a style that is all your own.
2. When the temperature outside dropped suddenly, the muddy water in the ditch \_\_\_\_\_ into a mass of icy sludge.
3. In spite of his size, he was so \_\_\_\_\_ that we tended to forget he was even in the room.
4. The novel contains an interesting study of a miser's \_\_\_\_\_ lust for gold and its evil effects on those around him.
5. "There is no need for you to \_\_\_\_\_ the point," I replied, "when I already understand what your criticism is.
6. As a result of research, earlier theories about the origin of the universe are no longer \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I doubt very much that he can \_\_\_\_\_ his assertion that he won two gold medals in the 1956 Olympics.
8. Your essay would be a great deal tighter and more \_\_\_\_\_ if you removed all the extraneous information it now contains.
9. The purpose of military \_\_\_\_\_ remains the same whether cavalry or helicopters are used: to learn as much as possible about the enemy.
10. Never having any money in one's pockets can be a real trial for someone born with the \_\_\_\_\_ instincts of a pack rat.
11. Some of the episodes in the series were wonderfully fresh and original; others were just plain \_\_\_\_\_.
12. In any crisis, the longer a person \_\_\_\_\_ the greater the danger is likely to become.
13. She received housing vouchers and food stamps as a result of the government's \_\_\_\_\_.
14. How can we "meet them halfway" when they are so \_\_\_\_\_ in their opposition to what we propose to do?
15. Despite the \_\_\_\_\_ and nit-picking of a few petty minds, I feel we have substantially improved our local system of late.
16. I don't object to the inclusion of anecdotes in a serious lecture, but they should at the very least be \_\_\_\_\_ to the subject.
17. By whose authority did you \_\_\_\_\_ to yourself the right to decide how the club's money would be spent?
18. Students who seek high grades must learn to \_\_\_\_\_ the joys of that one eyed monster, the television.
19. In my opinion, there is absolutely no justification for making such \_\_\_\_\_ distinctions between the two types of product.
20. Even the most severe critics showered \_\_\_\_\_ on the young writer for the remarkable narrative power of her first novel.