



# Definitions

You were introduced to the words below in the passage on pages 26–27. Study the pronunciation, spelling, part of speech, and definition of each word. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

## Remember

A **noun** (*n.*) is a word that names a person, place, or thing.

A **verb** (*v.*) is a word or words that express action or a state of being.

An **adjective** (*adj.*) is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

**1. bluff**  
(bluf)

(adj.) direct and outspoken in a good-natured way

*He seemed a hearty, \_\_\_\_\_ fellow.*

(n.) a steep, high cliff or bank; an attempt to fool someone

*A scout stood on a \_\_\_\_\_ overlooking the valley.*

(v.) to deceive or trick; to try to fool others by putting on a confident front

*The thieves tried to \_\_\_\_\_ their way past the security guard.*

SYNONYMS: (adj.) hearty; (n.) a ridge; a trick, hoax; (v.) to mislead, pretend, fake  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) insincere, artful, sly



**2. cautious**  
(kô' shəs)

(adj.) avoiding unnecessary risks or mistakes

*A \_\_\_\_\_ traveler prepares for emergencies.*

SYNONYMS: careful, watchful, wary, guarded  
ANTONYMS: daring, reckless, wild

**3. consist**  
(kən sist')

(v.) (used with *of*) to be made up of

*Many salad dressings \_\_\_\_\_ of oil, vinegar, and spices.*

SYNONYMS: to contain, include, involve, comprise

**4. despise**  
(di spīz')

(v.) to look down on intensely or feel contempt for, dislike strongly

*I \_\_\_\_\_ bullies.*

SYNONYMS: to hate, scorn, detest, loathe  
ANTONYMS: to love, admire, esteem, adore, praise

**5. haven**  
(hā' vən)

(n.) a safe place

*The captain sought a \_\_\_\_\_ from the storm.*

SYNONYMS: a harbor, port, refuge, retreat, shelter, sanctuary  
ANTONYMS: a trap, snare, ambush





**6. miniature** (n.) a very small copy, model, or painting  
(mi' nē ə chūr) Her collection of \_\_\_\_\_ is quite valuable.

(adj.) on a very small scale

A \_\_\_\_\_ railroad was on display in the toy department of the store.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) little, tiny, minute

ANTONYMS: (adj.) huge, giant

**7. monarch** (n.) a person who rules over a kingdom or empire  
(mä' nərĕk) Queen Victoria was Great Britain's \_\_\_\_\_ from 1837 to 1901.

SYNONYMS: a ruler, king, queen, emperor, empress, czar

ANTONYMS: a subject, follower, commoner

**8. obstacle** (n.) something that gets in the way  
(äb' sti kəl) Shyness need not be an \_\_\_\_\_ to success.

SYNONYMS: a hurdle, barrier, snag, hindrance

ANTONYMS: an aid, help, support, advantage

**9. postpone** (v.) to put off until later  
(pōst pōn') Coach decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the practice.

SYNONYMS: to delay, suspend, shelve, defer

ANTONYMS: to advance, move up

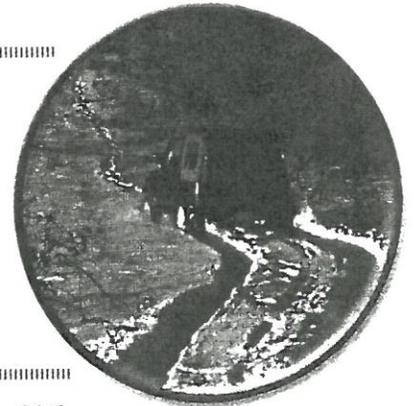
**10. straggle** (v.) to stray off or trail behind; to spread out in a scattered fashion  
(stra' gəl) Students who \_\_\_\_\_ from the group may get lost.

SYNONYMS: to ramble, drift, wander, roam, rove, detour

**11. treacherous** (adj.) likely to betray; seemingly safe but actually dangerous  
(tre' chə rəs) That hill can be a \_\_\_\_\_ climb in winter.

SYNONYMS: disloyal, untrustworthy, unreliable; chancy, deceptive, tricky, hazardous

ANTONYMS: faithful, trustworthy; safe, harmless



**12. vivid** (adj.) bright and sharp, giving a clear picture; full of life  
(vi' vəd) She gave a \_\_\_\_\_ description of her trip.

SYNONYMS: lively, intense, brilliant, dazzling, spirited, clear

ANTONYMS: lifeless, dull, drab, hazy, foggy