**Vocabulary List 5**

1. **altruistic** (adj) unselfish, concerned with the welfare   
 of others

synonym: selfless  
 antonyms: selfish, self-centered

2. **assent** (v) to express agreement; (n) an agreement

synonyms: (v) consent, concur

antonyms: (v) disagree, differ, dissent

3. **chivalrous** (adj) marked by honor, courtesy, and courage;   
 knightly

synonyms: civil, valiant, courtly

antonyms: uncouth, churlish

4. **clemency** (n) mercy, humaneness; mildness, moderateness

synonyms: leniency, forbearance, gentleness

antonyms: harshness, severity, cruelty, inflexibility

5. **diffident** (adj) shy, lacking self-confidence; modest, reserved

synonyms: timid, bashful, unassertive, withdrawn

antonyms: bold, brash, self-confident

6. **facile** (adj) easily done or attained; superficial; ready,   
 fluent; easily shown but not sincerely felt

synonyms: effortless, assured

antonyms: labored, awkward

7. **infallible** (adj) free from error; absolutely dependable

synonyms: unerring, certain

antonym: imperfect

8. **pungent** (adj) causing a sharp sensation; stinging, biting

synonyms: sharp, spicy

antonyms: unappetizing, colorless

9. **remiss** (adj) neglectful in performance of one’s duty,   
 Careless

synonyms: negligent, slack

antonym: dutiful

10. **truculent** (adj) fierce and cruel; aggressive; deadly,  
 destructive; scathingly harsh  
 synonyms: savage, belligerent

antonyms: gentle, mild, unthreatening

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**Choosing the Right Word**: Choose the word that better completes each sentence.

1. The recipe for my great-grandfather’s spaghetti sauce, (pungent, facile) with bay leaves and other herbs, has been passed down for several generations.
2. You will surely win more support for your view by quiet discussion than by (truculent, chivalrous) attacks on your opponents.
3. The critic’s (pungent, facile) comments during the TV panel show were not only amusing but also very much to the point.
4. I admired the speaker’s (remiss, facile) flow of words, but they failed to convince me that she had practical ideas to help solve our problems.
5. We soon learned that behind his retiring and (truculent, diffident) manner, there is a keen mind and a strong will.
6. In the violent world of today’s pro football, good sportsmanship and (chivalrous, pungent) behavior still have a place.
7. He is not too well informed on most matters; but when it comes to big-league baseball, he is all but (altruistic, infallible).
8. As a state legislator, you should not give your (assent, chivalry) to any measure unless you truly believe in it.
9. In a grim old joke, a man found guilty of murdering his parents appeals for (clemency, assent) because he is an orphan.

**Completing the Sentence**: Choose the word from the unit that best completes each sentence. Write the word in the space provided.

Words will be used more than once.

1. People with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dispositions can make life miserable for those who have to work with them.
2. The kitchen of the French restaurant was filled with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aroma of onion soup.
3. When I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in doing daily chores, I have to spend a big part of the weekend catching up.
4. Most people support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ programs to help the less fortunate of this world.
5. Some critics seem convinced that their expert knowledge makes them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ judges of the quality of an artist’s work.
6. Workers hope that the threat of a long strike will force management to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to their demands.
7. Writing is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ process for some authors but a laborious task for others.
8. In today’s busy world, where people are often heedless of others, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ act is admired by all.
9. Many a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suitor has lost his beloved to a bold rival.
10. Many judges are willing to show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to first offenders who express regret for their wrongdoing.
11. We were all impressed by your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ use of unusual words and expressions that you had learned only a few hours before.
12. It was quite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of you to give up your seat so that the man with the cane did not have to stand during the bus trip.
13. I rarely join in the discussions because I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
14. Humor should be clever and amusing but never so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that it hurts the feelings of other people.
15. The custom of putting erasers on pencils is one way of recognizing the fact that no one is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. My parents will not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to my going to the dance unless I promise faithfully to be home no later than 1:00 a.m.
17. Emphasizing the youth of the convicted man, the defense attorney pleaded for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. He is not merely unpleasant but actually dangerous whenever he gets into one of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ moods.
19. As a school cafeteria guard, I would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in my duties if I failed to report a serious disturbance.
20. What good are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ principles if no real attempt is made to help people by putting those principles into practice?

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**Synonyms**: Choose the word from the unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **bold** word in the phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. **gallant** actions are not a thing of the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. refused to **accede** to the will of the majority  
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. a **brutal** band of hardened criminals  
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. made a **sacrificial** contribution for his family   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. **careless** in one’s words and deeds   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Antonyms**: Choose the word from the unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **bold** word in the phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. a **self-confident** response to the pointed question  
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. the **harshness** of the judge’s sentencing

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. the **halting** nature of his speech  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. an extremely **bland** spice  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. made a **nonthreatening** protest in the streets  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary in Context**: Complete each sentence below the literary excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. Grandmother looked anxiously at grandfather. He took off his hat, and the other men did likewise. I thought his prayer remarkable. I still remember it...He prayed that if any man had been **remiss** toward the stranger come to a far country, God would forgive him and soften his heart.

To be **remiss** is to be:

1. ambitious c. inoffensive
2. courteous d. Thoughtless

2. I loved the dim superstition, the propitiatory intent, that had put the grave there; and still more I loved the spirit that could not carry out the sentence--the error from the surveyed lines, the **clemency** of the soft earth roads along which the home-coming wagons rattled after sunset.

If a road seems to have **clemency**, it is  
 a. paved c. smooth  
 b. winding d. bumpy

3. Why had Coronado never gone back to Spain, to his riches and his castles and his king? I couldn’t tell them. I only knew the schoolbooks said he “died in the wilderness, of a broken heart.”  
“More than him has done that,” said Antonia sadly, and the girls murmured **assent**.  
 To show **assent** is to show  
 a. humility c. opposition

b. confusion d. Accord

4. When Mrs. Shimerda opened the bag and stirred the contents with her hand, it gave out a salty, earthy smell, very **pungent**, even among the other odors of that cave.

A **pungent** odor is NOT  
 a. musky c. rich  
 b. mild d. strong

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**Original Sentences**: Select five words from the unit and compose an original sentence with each one. Be sure the context you provide indicates your complete understanding of the word.  
1.  
  
  
2.  
  
  
3.  
  
  
4.  
  
  
5.

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**Writing**: Consider this statement: “Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.” --Thomas Jefferson  
Do you agree or disagree with Thomas Jefferson’s statement? In a short essay, paraphrase what Jefferson is saying, and support your opinion of his statement with specific examples from your observations, studies, reading, or personal experiences. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from the unit.