

Completing the Sentence

1. Who can ever forget those pictures showing the _____ faces of the people who had been in concentration camps?
2. Though most of our players were the equals of theirs, the awesome size of their _____ center filled us with apprehension.
3. I became desperately tired of listening to him _____ about how important he was, how much money he had, and so forth.
4. Whenever she serves as chairperson, she is so _____ that she insists on observing every fine point of parliamentary procedure.
5. At a time when we need a modest, low-cost housing program, how can we be expected to accept such a _____ scheme?
6. His work on behalf of the homeless was merely the latest in a long line of _____ undertakings.
7. Fond remembrances of happy days of family life intensified rather than _____ his grief after the passing of his grandmother.
8. They _____ the funeral service by talking loudly during the ceremony, laughing, and generally showing a complete lack of respect.
9. Though she looked rather frail, her _____ spirit made her a tireless crusader for women's rights.
10. We are, I trust, long past the time when it was considered quite "natural" for newly elected officials to _____ the treasury.
11. I'm telling you this not to _____ you for having made a mistake but to prevent the mistake from being repeated.
12. I found that beneath his rather _____ manner and appearance, there was a warm, sympathetic person.
13. An official who is responsible for shaping vital national policies should not waste time and energy on such _____ matters.

14. Even a so-called minor _____ of the traffic laws may lead to a serious accident.
15. Is there any way that we can make _____ for the terrible wrong we have done them?
16. Before they arrived home from the party, they _____ an elaborate story that they hoped would excuse their being two hours late.
17. It is hard to forgive the _____ selfishness with which they took most of the food supplies for their own use.
18. Our democracy, I believe, is more _____ to decay from within than it is to attack from the outside.
19. She has _____ her considerable talents by writing books that are designed to appeal to the lowest tastes.
20. He went right on with his speech, refusing to be _____ by the heckling of a few loudmouths.

Synonyms

21. not **perturbed** by the noise _____
22. to **chatter** boringly about the weather _____
23. **diminish** the horror of the crime _____
24. **loot** the museum of its valuables _____
25. an **intrepid** and faithful sidekick _____
26. was **reproached** for his mistakes _____
27. happy results from **magnanimous** choices _____
28. **fabricate** an excuse _____
29. exaggerating **trivial** flaws _____
30. a **breach** of our agreement _____
31. **vulgar** appeal for money _____

32. **exposed** to wind and high water

33. **compensation** for his misdeeds

34. an **ascetic** life of plain food and little sleep

Antonyms

35. her **unaffected** delivery of Shakespeare's lines

36. **honor** this ritual of the tribe

37. **laughable** as a challenger

38. **negligent** in filling out the form

39. a **robust** specimen

40. to **enhance** our group's reputation

Choosing the Right Word

41. That sum may seem (**inconsequential, vulnerable**) to you, but to me it is a great deal of money.

42. By concentrating on personal gain, he has (**debased, disconcerted**) both himself and the high office to which he was elected.

43. Whenever I go to a concert, I seem to spend half my time shushing the (**crass, austere**) boors who chitchat while the orchestra is playing.

44. His (**grandiose, beneficent**) schemes for world conquest collapsed in a nightmare of military defeat and internal revolt.

45. In her clumsy effort to be recognized as an intellectual, she (**prates, desecrates**) endlessly about matters she does not really understand.

46. All the power of Great Britain could not shake the American colonists in their (**stalwart, beneficent**) opposition to measures that they considered unfair and tyrannical.
47. The fact that he did everything possible to help the poor child after the accident tends to (**mitigate, desecrate**) his responsibility for the tragedy.
48. She is such a (**redoubtable, punctilious**) foe of the trite phrase that her students tremble lest her wrath descend on them for using clichés in their writing.
49. As (**restitution, infraction**) for the damage he had caused to the family car, Phil promised to clean and polish it regularly for a whole year.
50. The master chef has (**debased, concocted**) a dessert that is so rich that it will be a menace to weight watchers throughout the country.