

Word Wise: 102 Words to Know

Throughout this school year, our Words to Know and Word Wise features have introduced and defined many terms. How well do you remember what they mean?

Check your word wisdom by filling in the circled letter of the best synonym or definition for each of

the terms below. Then, on the line that follows the word, write whether it is being defined as an adjective, a noun, or a verb. For extra credit, write a sentence for each word, using it in the proper context, on a separate sheet of paper.

1. **absolve:** _____

- (A) follow a clue (C) take a hint
(B) judge not guilty (D) take to court

2. **abyss:** _____

- (A) bottomless space (C) steep cliff
(B) high mountain (D) tropical climate

3. **acute:** _____

- (A) adorable (C) handsome
(B) extremely sharp
or severe (D) unusually
attentive

4. **adverse:** _____

- (A) bringing good luck (C) complex
(B) causing harm (D) eager for adventure

5. **advocate:** _____

- (A) optimist (C) supporter
(B) pessimist (D) writer of TV ads

6. **archaeologist:** _____

- (A) author of
historical novels (C) scientist who
studies sea
creatures
(B) scientist who studies
remains of past lives (D) wildlife
protector

7. **aristocrat:** _____

- (A) attorney-at-law (C) poor farmer
(B) person of a
prominent family (D) superb athlete

8. **asylum:** _____

- (A) headquarters (C) place of refuge
(B) place of danger (D) poor, rundown area

9. **authoritarian:** _____

- (A) copyrighted (C) relating to experts
(B) having to do with
novel writing (D) relating to a government
with absolute power

10. **ballast:** _____

- (A) songwriter (C) stuffing inside a baseball
(B) stabilizer (D) swimming ability

11. **benevolent:** _____

- (A) important (C) mean and stingy
(B) kind and generous (D) oily

12. **blog:** _____

- (A) online diary (C) online social network
(B) online etiquette (D) Webcam image

13. **Cabinet:** _____

- (A) group of government
advisers (C) military squadron
(B) lawmaking body (D) unit of measurement

14. **capital:** _____

- (A) demand (C) money and other assets
funding a business
(B) illegal drugs (D) supply

15. **cartel:** _____

- (A) group of businesses
that controls prices (C) typical way of
doing things
(B) horse-drawn wagon (D) working condition

16. **catacomb:** _____

- (A) hairstylist (C) pet groomer
(B) open doorway (D) underground passageway

17. **caveat:** _____

- (A) card game (C) explorer of caves
(B) engagement party (D) warning

18. **censor:** _____

- (A) burn incense (C) use up purposely
(B) ridicule (D) suppress the objectionable

19. **charismatic:** _____

- (A) colorful (C) magnetic charm
(B) impatient (D) rude

20. **chronic:** _____

- (A) having a cough (C) occasional
(B) long-lasting (D) unusually sharp

21. **coalition:** _____

- (A) disagreement (C) team of advisers
(B) establishment (D) temporary alliance of countries or political groups

22. **commonwealth:** _____

- (A) healthy (C) political unit governed by popular consent
(B) medical insurance (D) public park

23. **Communist:** _____

- (A) having a free and open society (C) protecting the right to vote
(B) having a government that controls all aspects of the economy (D) working toward new methods of protecting the environment

24. **commute:** _____

- (A) find a seat (C) leave work
(B) go in the opposite direction (D) travel back and forth

25. **confiscate:** _____

- (A) encourage (C) seize
(B) forgive (D) take part

26. **conquistador:** _____

- (A) commander in the Confederate Army (C) expedition member in a corps of discovery
(B) commander in the Spanish invasion of the Americas (D) video-game champion

27. **consul:** _____

- (A) camp counselor (C) tax collector
(B) official representing business interests abroad (D) wise adviser

28. **consumer:** _____

- (A) one who appraises goods (C) one who makes goods
(B) one who buys goods (D) one who sells goods

29. **converge:** _____

- (A) come apart (C) continue
(B) come together (D) turn aside

30. **cyberbully:** _____

- (A) off-limits Web site (C) one who hacks into Web sites
(B) one who causes harm online (D) robotic device

31. **cyberspace:** _____

- (A) keyboard spacebar (C) online avatar
(B) land area of a planet (D) virtual world

32. **deficit:** _____

- (A) appetite (C) malfunction
(B) losing score (D) shortfall

33. **delegate:** _____

- (A) candidate (C) officeholder
(B) counselor (D) representative

34. **digital:** _____

- (A) computerized (C) online
(B) like fingers and toes (D) single

35. **dissident:** _____

- (A) one who casts a vote
 (B) one who disagrees privately
 (C) one who disagrees publicly
 (D) one who has no opinion

36. **drone:** _____

- (A) drain cleaner
 (B) elderly witch
 (C) pilotless craft
 (D) wireless phone

37. **economics:** _____

- (A) investments
 (B) losses
 (C) the practice of exchanging money
 (D) the study of how money is used

38. **emancipation:** _____

- (A) a boy's coming-of-age rite
 (B) a gymnastics move
 (C) a release from slavery
 (D) the right to vote

39. **excommunicate:** _____

- (A) engage in conversation
 (B) install communications networks
 (C) refuse to speak to
 (D) take away a person's right to church membership

40. **executive:** _____

- (A) being in Congress
 (B) being in court
 (C) having legal authority
 (D) having managerial authority

41. **expedition:** _____

- (A) camping trip
 (B) journey for a specific purpose
 (C) rapid transit
 (D) travel by boat or airplane

42. **extinguish:** _____

- (A) idolize
 (B) put in place
 (C) put out
 (D) set fire to

43. **foreclosure:** _____

- (A) legal process for seizing a house
 (B) legal purchase of a home
 (C) loan from a bank
 (D) loss of a job

44. **friar:** _____

- (A) hot-grease food cooker
 (B) monklike member of a Catholic order
 (C) thorn on a rosebush
 (D) Zen master

45. **fundamentalist:** _____

- (A) exploring new lands
 (B) following religious ideas loosely
 (C) following religious ideas rigidly
 (D) opportunistic

46. **genocide:** _____

- (A) etiquette
 (B) mass slaughter of a specific group
 (C) protection
 (D) system of government with few rules

47. **ghetto:** _____

- (A) city area where a minority group is confined
 (B) haunted house
 (C) operating room
 (D) railway system

48. **guerrilla:** _____

- (A) jungle-dwelling ape
 (B) member of an exclusive club
 (C) member of an irregular army
 (D) mountain-dwelling ape

49. **habitat:** _____

- (A) clothing for a hunting trip
 (B) natural environment of a plant or an animal
 (C) normal way of doing things
 (D) nun's outfit

50. **heretic:** _____

- (A) believer
 (B) judge
 (C) prophet
 (D) religious dissenter

51. Holocaust: _____

- (A) concentration camp (C) Nazi officer
(B) mass slaughter (D) nightmare

52. human rights: _____

- (A) basic beliefs (C) cruelty to animals
(B) basic freedoms (D) guarantees

53. imperialism: _____

- (A) acts of injustice committed by a king (C) system in which powerful countries dominate others
(B) illegal property (D) use of the metric system

54. incentive: _____

- (A) discouragement (C) reluctance
(B) motivation (D) surprise attack

55. incumbent: _____

- (A) current officeholder (C) past officeholder
(B) official Web site (D) post office employee

56. indigenous: _____

- (A) mysterious (C) suspicious
(B) native (D) very clever

57. infrastructure: _____

- (A) basic beliefs (C) operating costs
(B) facilities of a society (D) urban planning

58. insatiable: _____

- (A) evil (C) impossible to satisfy
(B) good enough (D) unappetizing

59. interest: _____

- (A) loan used to buy housing (C) percentage earned on a bank account
(B) percentage in a pie chart (D) rent paid to a landlord

60. Jim Crow: _____

- (A) Civil War general (C) segregation laws against black Americans
(B) inventor of an early automobile (D) species of black birds

61. judicial: _____

- (A) belonging to a candidate (C) guilty as charged
(B) covering a news event (D) having to do with courts of law

62. juxtapose: _____

- (A) clarify (C) place side by side
(B) confuse (D) put in chronological order

63. karma: _____

- (A) existence (C) fortune
(B) fate (D) wealth

64. kiosk: _____

- (A) garden shelter with deck chairs and umbrellas (C) small building from which goods are sold
(B) shelter for a pet (D) storage site

65. lame duck: _____

- (A) elected official charged with a crime (C) elected official who is running for re-election
(B) elected official not running for re-election, with little real power (D) representative of a political party

66. legislative: _____

- (A) administrative (C) managerial
(B) charged with making laws (D) of limited power

67. lobbyists: _____

- (A) cleaning crew (C) hotel staff
(B) diplomats (D) professional influencers

68. magistrate: _____

- (A) Congress member (C) military officer
(B) legal officer (D) police officer

69. martial law: _____

- (A) civil disobedience (C) military rule
(B) marching orders (D) wedding vows

70. merchant: _____

- (A) despairing (C) relating to trade
(B) hopeful (D) relating to world affairs

71. migrant: _____

- (A) immigrant (C) medical specialist
(B) loan to purchase a house (D) person who moves from place to place

72. mortgage: _____

- (A) foundation of a building (C) stock market crash
(B) loan used to buy a home (D) taxes on a home

73. mudslinging: _____

- (A) congratulating (C) nasty campaigning
(B) making dirty (D) voting

74. nonpartisan: _____

- (A) conservative (C) liberal
(B) free from party bias (D) moderate politically

75. opium: _____

- (A) disease caused by the seeds of the poppy plant (C) medicine for treating malaria
(B) drug made from the seeds of the poppy plant (D) one who holds an opinion

76. pharaoh: _____

- (A) director of stage plays (C) ferry operator
(B) Egyptian king (D) funeral director

77. philosopher: _____

- (A) librarian (C) volunteer
(B) stamp collector (D) wisdom seeker

78. poacher: _____

- (A) person who catches or kills wild animals illegally (C) short-order cook
(B) person who skips work without permission (D) someone who rebels against authority

79. precipitous: _____

- (A) overheated (C) very steep
(B) slippery (D) wet

80. prosecute: _____

- (A) bring about change (C) take offense
(B) bring charges against (D) treat unfairly

81. pundit: _____

- (A) campaign manager (C) person who interviews political figures
(B) person who gives political opinions as an authority (D) policymaker in a President's Cabinet

82. rampage: _____

- (A) hold a protest march (C) rush wildly
(B) plead for help (D) sell at a discount

83. recant: _____

- (A) affirm an opinion (C) open a bottle
(B) break a rule in a game (D) renounce a belief or an opinion

84. recession: _____

- (A) economic upturn (C) play period
(B) hair loss (D) period in which the economy declines

85. reincarnation: _____

- (A) horse-riding skills (C) rebirth of the soul
(B) physical exam (D) vehicle repair

86. repressive: _____

- (A) allowing little freedom (C) open to criticism
(B) improving (D) worthy of praise

87. rig: _____

- (A) arrange for an unfair outcome (C) grab hold of
(B) borrow too much money (D) work on an assembly line

88. rural: _____

- (A) national (C) relating to the countryside
 (B) relating to a city (D) trendy

89. sanctuary: _____

- (A) courtyard (C) place of refuge or protection
 (B) hallway in a church (D) treasure chest

90. scapegoat: _____

- (A) endangered species (C) one who is unfairly blamed
 (B) farm animal (D) one who tries to help

91. seawall: _____

- (A) barrier built to contain marine life (C) post for a lifeguard
 (B) barrier built to protect a shoreline (D) surface formed by coral

92. sect: _____

- (A) religious holiday (C) religious leader
 (B) religious idol (D) religious subdivision

93. slum: _____

- (A) arena (C) losing score
 (B) crowded, poor, rundown urban area (D) wealthy area in a densely populated city

94. sporadic: _____

- (A) annoying (C) permanent
 (B) occasional (D) repetitive

95. stock: _____

- (A) cattle feed (C) stem of a plant
 (B) share of ownership in a business (D) temporary staff members

96. supply: _____

- (A) available goods (C) open market
 (B) black market (D) pipeline

97. Taliban: _____

- (A) Afghan farmer (C) militant Islamic political group
 (B) follower of Buddhism (D) tribal chief

98. tramway: _____

- (A) GPS locator (C) high-speed train
 (B) heating duct (D) streetcar line

99. tributary: _____

- (A) body of water that juts into a coastline (C) river or stream that flows into a larger body of water
 (B) racecourse (D) words of praise

100. tribute: _____

- (A) bribe (C) refund
 (B) encouragement (D) return on an investment

101. urban: _____

- (A) national (C) relating to the countryside
 (B) relating to a city (D) trendy

102. virtue: _____

- (A) beauty (C) moral sense
 (B) high intelligence (D) reality