

GREAT WORDS FOR 500, ALEX!

ACUMEN, CHICANERY, CIRCUMLOCUTION, DIFFIDENT, EQUINOX, FATUOUS, GAMETE, HEMOGLOBIN, INCOGNITO, JEJUNE, KOWTOW, LEXICON, NIHILISM, OMNIPOTENT, ORTHOGRAPHY, QUASAR, QUOTIDIAN, TAUTOLOGY, TOTALITARIAN, XENOPHOBE

Avocabo Wordlist 24

Exercise 24-1 Definitions.

Fill in the blank with the best word above that matches each definition (20 marks)

1. _____ *n.* Needless repetition of the same sense in different words; redundancy
2. _____ *adj.* Having unlimited or universal power, authority, or force
3. _____ *n.* Quickness and keenness of judgment or insight
4. _____ *n.* Deception by trickery or sophistry. 2. A trick; a subterfuge.
5. _____ *n.* Either of two points on the celestial sphere at which the ecliptic intersects the celestial equator
6. _____ *adj.* Not interesting; dull
7. _____ *intr.v.* -towed, -tow-ing, -tows 1. To kneel and touch the forehead to the ground in expression of deep respect, worship, or submission, as formerly done in China
8. _____ *n.* An extreme form of skepticism that denies all existence
9. _____ *n.* The art or study of standard spelling

10. _____ *adj.* Everyday; commonplace
11. _____ *n.* The use of unnecessarily wordy and indirect language
12. _____ *n., pl.* A dictionary
13. _____ *adj.* Lacking or marked by a lack of self-confidence; shy and timid
14. _____ *adj.* Vacuously, smugly, and unconsciously foolish.
15. _____ *adj.* Of, being, or imposing a form of government in which the political authority exercises absolute and centralized control over all aspects of life
16. _____ *n.* A person unduly fearful or contemptuous of that which is foreign, esp. of strangers or foreign
17. _____ *n.* An extremely distant celestial object whose power output is thousands of times that of our entire galaxy
18. _____ *n.* A reproductive cell having the haploid number of chromosomes, esp. a mature sperm or egg capable of fusing with a gamete of the opposite sex to produce the fertilized egg
19. _____ *n.* The iron-containing respiratory pigment in red blood cells of vertebrates, consisting of about 6 percent heme and 94 percent globin
20. _____ *adv. & adj.* With one's identity disguised

Exercise 24-2: Fill-in-the-blanks

Complete each sentence with the most appropriate word from those in the word list. (16 marks)

1. "Erwin Raphael has been a positive and enthusiastic role-model for his employees and peers," said Tom LaSorda, Chrysler Group Executive Vice President — Manufacturing. "The combination of his business and technical _____ has helped Chrysler Group remain a leader in building one of the best sport utility vehicles on the road today."

2. But in person, she is warm, affable, quick to laugh, and quietly unassuming. She has a reputation for being private and _____, and especially reluctant to address probing questions about her song lyrics, but today Chap-man exhibits none of that timidity. In the spacious windowed lounge of Elektra Records' New York headquarters, she sips a cup of honeyed herbal tea and reflects on her new album and her career, becoming most animated when talking about her stable of guitars and the equipment she uses to coax out their best sonic personalities in the studio and on tour
3. This paternalistic totalitarian government must stop or the people must stand up and revolt. _____ is beginning to sound good.
4. *Hockey Night in Canada's* Don Cherry can be considered a(n) _____ for his unwillingness to pronounce foreign player's names correctly, and for directly criticizing the play of Swedes, Russians, and Czechs.
5. While this frantic handwaving has gone on, recorded in each day's lead story and then dismantled by critics in the back pages a week later, enormous number of issues have been ignored, in a pattern that would do the state-run media of any _____ government proud. The lack of any perceived threat from Iraq to any neighboring country is never mentioned; neither, in relation to an invasion of Iraq, are the words "oil," "Israel," "empire," or "2004 election." Al-Qaeda itself, and the 2001 pledge to deliver Osama bin Laden "dead or alive," is lost to antiquity.
6. It's been suggested that wealthy, white owners simply aren't comfortable with black coaches, though that doesn't seem to be quite as much of a problem in the NBA where the owners are every bit as white and rich. And it has been suggested that the lack of head-coaching experience among black candidates is inevitably a negative factor, though that is a chicken-and-egg argument that is ultimately _____. A host of notable white coaches made the leap to the top spot without boasting a head-coaching notch on their belt.
7. Under a three-year program known as the Savanna Elephant Vocalization Project, Poole and her team are compiling a(n) _____ of the different kinds of calls used when trying to tame a full grown male elephant.
8. Besides banning cloning and regulating the use of embryonic stem cells, Bill C-13 bans the practice of paying a woman to carry a pregnancy. It will also make it illegal to pay a man for his sperm or a woman for her eggs — _____ donation, as both are known.
9. The Turkish army is already in control of northern Iraq so it is something of a(n) _____ to make this parliamentary vote a condition of involvement in the war.
10. Allah (God) in His _____ Wisdom is the Best Knower and The Great Seer. Nothing that happens to us comes by accident or chance.
11. A study reported last week suggests that during the roughly 10 billion years that these black holes power the brilliant light beacons known as _____, they also generate high-speed winds that eject an amount of gas equivalent to billions of suns.
12. And since there are a lot more North Carolinians buying their Budweiser one six pack at a time than there are members of all the fancy tennis, golf, yacht and city dining clubs combined, chances are good a drafted legislature would serve the needs of working folks rather than _____ to the fat cats.
13. Finnish skier Kaisa Varis passed a blood test and had her suspension for a high _____ rate lifted, but she will not compete Saturday due to a fever.
14. In the event of war on Iraq I anticipate very little changing with regards to my _____ existence.
15. O'Donovan began creating his own modified digital photos of the unlucky Hoad. Now he was fleeing from the sinking Titanic. Broadcasting below the Hindenberg. In one photo he even appears in Tokyo just as it suffers another attack from Godzilla. The digital _____ proved both entertaining and educational. Whether intentionally or accidentally each photo reinforced the message of just how easily pictures can be fabricated, demystifying the original shock while giving viewers a chance to laugh at the gullibility in all of us.
16. She was staying at the same London hotel as Corgan's new band, Zwan, but, while Zwan were able to potter around the corridors _____, Aguilera was besieged by fans.

24-3: Synonyms

Provide a synonym of each word. (8 marks)

1. fatuous _____
2. omnipotent _____
3. nihilism _____
4. incognito _____
5. jejune _____
6. circumlocution _____
7. tautology _____
8. chicanery _____

6. *grovel, genuflect, bootlick...*

What is _____?

7. *Canadian Oxford, vocabulary, words...*

What is _____?

8. *masked, unknown, concealed...*

What is _____?

9. *per diem, routine, once a day...*

What is _____?

10. *guile, trickery, wile...*

What is _____?

24-4: Jeopardy

Using the three related words as a guide, determine the common list word. (10 marks)

1. *astuteness, intelligence, intuition...*

What is _____?

2. *logic, repetition, true...*

What is _____?

3. *vital fluid, plasma, clot...*

What is _____?

4. *almighty, supreme, powerful...*

What is _____?

5. *adolescent, puerile, insipid...*

What is _____?

24-5: Double Jeopardy

Answer the following with the correct list word. (6 marks)

1. This word derives from a Latin word for *nothing*..

What is _____?

2. Take the last two letters off 'GAMETE' and you have 'GAME'. This list word becomes a particular game of bridge if you take off its last two letters..

What is _____?

3. This word stems from the Latin word for *unknown*..

What is _____?

4. This word derives from two Mandarin words meaning 'to knock head'

What is _____?

5. The word means literally 'equal night'

What is _____?

Exercise 24-6: Making Connections

In one or two sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words.

1. *incognito, incognita*

2. *circumlocution, periphrasis*

3. *xenophobe, foreign*

4. *orthography, cacography*

5. *nihilism, grunge*

Exercise 24-7: Final Jeopardy

A word that can be anagrammed to make a word meaning KNOWLEDGE (2 marks)

What is _____?

This space intentionally filled with unsubstantiated trivia. Enjoy!

“Stewardesses” and “reverberated” are the two longest words (12 letters each) that can be typed using only the left hand. The longest word that can be typed using only the right hand is “lollipop.” “Skepticisms” is the longest word that alternates hands. A duck’s quack doesn’t echo, and no one knows why. In the 1940s, the FCC assigned television’s Channel 1 to mobile services (two-way radios in taxicabs, for instance) but did not re-number the other channel assignments. That is why your TV set has channels 2 and up, but no channel 1. A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle, a group of geese in the air is a skein. The underside of a horse’s hoof is called a frog. The frog peels off several times a year with new growth. The San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments. The “save” icon on Microsoft Word shows a floppy disk, with the shutter on backwards. The combination “ough” can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all: “A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed.” The verb “cleave” is the only English word with two synonyms which are antonyms of each other: “adhere” and “separate.” The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is “uncopyrightable.” “Facetious” and “abstemious” contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does “arsenious,” meaning “containing arsenic.” The shape of plant collenchyma cells and the shape of the bubbles in beer foam are the same - they are orthotetrachidecahedrons. The word “pound” is abbreviated “lb.” after the constellation “Libra” because it means “pound” in Latin, and also “scales.” The abbreviation for the British Pound Sterling comes from the same source: it is an “L” for Libra/Lb. with a stroke through it to indicate abbreviation. Same goes for the Italian lira, which uses the same abbreviation (“lira” coming from “libra”). So British currency (before it went metric) was always quoted as “pounds/shillings/pence,” abbreviated “L/s/d” (libra/solidus/denarius). Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason. Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten. The word “checkmate” in chess comes from the Persian phrase “shah mat,” which means “the king is dead.” Pinocchio is Italian for “pine head.” Camel’s milk does not curdle. In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere. An animal epidemic is called an epizootic. Murphy’s Oil Soap is the chemical most commonly used to clean elephants. The United States has never lost a war in which mules were used. Blueberry Jelly Bellies were created especially for Ronald Reagan. All porcupines float in water. “Hang On Sloopy” is the official rock song of Ohio. Did you know that there are coffee flavored PEZ? The world’s largest wine cask is in Heidelberg, Germany. Lorne Greene had one of his nipples bitten off by an alligator while he was host of “Lorne Greene’s Wild Kingdom.” Cat’s urine glows under a black light. If you bring a raccoon’s head to the Henniker, New Hampshire town hall, you are entitled to receive \$.10 from the town. St. Stephen is the patron saint of bricklayers. The first song played on Armed Forces Radio during Operation Desert Shield was “Rock the Casbah” by the Clash. The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases. Non-dairy creamer is flammable. The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the “American Pie.” (Thus the name of the Don McLean song.) Texas is the only state that is allowed to fly its state flag at the same height as the U.S. flag. The only nation whose name begins with an “A” but doesn’t end in an “A” is Afghanistan. Aaron the know-it-all adds: Azerbaijan The names of the three wise monkeys are:

- Mizaru: See no evil • Mikazaru: Hear no evil • Mazaru: Speak no evil.

This episode of GREAT WORDS FOR 500, ALEX! was brought to you by Matt Russell. The words comes from the Houghton-Mifflin list of 100 Words that Every Highschool Graduate (and their Parents) Should Know

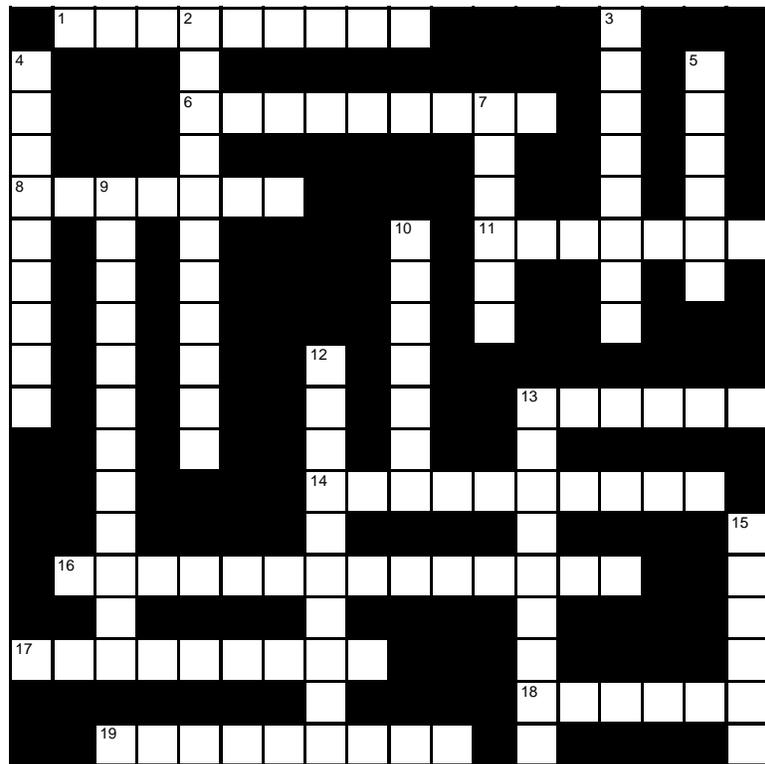
When opossums are playing ‘possum, they are not “playing.” They actually pass out from sheer terror. The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

ACROSS

1. With your identity concealed
6. (in logic) a statement that is necessarily true
8. Complacently or inanely foolish
11. Either of two times of the year when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator and day and night are of equal length
13. A starlike object that may send out radio waves and other forms of energy; large red shifts imply enormous recession velocities
14. Having unlimited power
16. An indirect way of expressing something
17. One who has a fear of foreigners or strangers
18. Shrewdness shown by keen insight
19. The use of tricks to deceive someone (usually to extract money from them)

DOWN

2. A method of representing the sounds of a language by written or printed symbols
3. A revolutionary doctrine that advocates destruction of the social system for its own sake
4. Lacking self-confidence
5. A former Chinese custom of touching the ground with the forehead as a sign of respect or submission



7. A mature sexual reproductive cell having a single set of unpaired chromosomes
9. Characterized by a government in which the political authority exercises absolute and centralized control
10. A reference book containing an alphabetical list of words with information about them
12. it functions primarily to transport oxygen from the lungs to the body tissues
13. Found in the ordinary course of events
15. Displaying or suggesting a lack of maturity