

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 174–175 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Try as he might, the sideshow barker couldn't convince me that the "real live mermaid" inside the tent wasn't just a clever (**hoax, gala**).
2. After a lifetime of travel in dozens of countries all over the world, she is highly (**cosmopolitan, akin**) in her tastes and ideas.
3. Mere words cannot express our (**affliction, gratitude**) for your splendid services to our school.
4. The spokesperson had important things to say, but his way of expressing himself was so unimaginative and (**nutritious, pedestrian**) that he lost our interest.
5. The speaker was greeted by a (**meager, gaudy**) round of applause, but before she left the stage, she had the audience cheering.
6. My mind and body were so (**oppressed, heeded**) by the stifling heat that afternoon that I couldn't do anything at all.
7. Such extravaganzas as the "Night of 100 Stars" are usually designed to be (**wan, gala**) charity benefits for worthy causes.
8. Each scholarship candidate was identified by a number so that the people doing the grading would be absolutely (**impartial, pedestrian**).
9. Is it necessary for you to go into the woods to (**inflate, meditate**) every time you have to make a routine decision?
10. By continuing to praise his extremely modest accomplishments, you are helping to (**inflate, transmit**) his already oversized ego.
11. He claimed to be a famous multimillionaire, but when he tried to borrow bus fare, we realized he was a(n) (**pedestrian, impostor**).
12. Education and compassion are the only weapons by which we will (**heed, vanquish**) prejudice and superstition once and for all.
13. The glowing review of my performance must be accurate, as critics do their best to be (**impartial, oppressive**) in their reviews.
14. The man's pathetically (**wan, elongated**) personality is matched only by the hopelessly bland and lifeless statements that issue from his mouth.
15. I'd describe nostalgia as a feeling more (**meager, akin**) to yearning than to grief.



A sideshow barker in the 1930s tries to persuade an audience to see the exhibits.