

Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

1. To find out what her husband bought for her birthday, Susan attempted to _____ his family members about his recent shopping excursions.
 1. prescribe
 2. probe
 3. alienate
 4. converge
 5. rever
2. Juan's friends found him in a _____ mood after he learned he would be homecoming king.
 1. jovial
 2. stealthy
 3. paltry
 4. gullible
 5. depleted
3. His suit of armor made the knight _____ to his enemy's attack, and he was able to escape safely to his castle.
 1. vulnerable
 2. churlish
 3. invulnerable
 4. static
 5. imprudent
4. Choosing a small, fuel-efficient car is a _____ purchase for a recent college graduate.
 1. corrupt
 2. tedious
 3. unhallowed
 4. sardonic
 5. judicious
5. Such a _____ violation of school policy should be punished by nothing less than expulsion.
 1. copious
 2. flagrant
 3. raucous
 4. nominal
 5. morose
6. With all of the recent negative events in her life, she felt _____ forces must be at work.
 1. resurgent
 2. premature
 3. malignant
 4. punctilious
 5. antecedent
7. The _____ rumors did a great deal of damage even though they turned out to be false.
 1. bemused
 2. prosaic
 3. apocryphal
 4. ebullient
 5. tantamount
8. When her schoolwork got to be too much, Pam had a tendency to _____, which always put her further behind.
 1. dedicate
 2. rejuvenate
 3. ponder
 4. excel
 5. procrastinate
9. Racha's glance was a _____ invitation to speak later in private about events of the meeting.
 1. trecherous
 2. scintillating
 3. tactful
 4. tacit
 5. taboo
10. She reached the _____ of her career with her fourth novel, which won the Pulitzer Prize.
 1. harbinger
 2. apogee
 3. metamorphosis
 4. dictum
 5. synthesis
11. The _____ townspeople celebrated the soldier's return to his home by adorning trees with yellow ribbons and balloons.
 1. somber
 2. jubilant
 3. pitiless
 4. cunning
 5. unsullied
12. The governor-elect was hounded by a group of _____ lobbyists and others hoping to gain favor with her administration.
 1. facetious
 2. abstruse
 3. magnanimous
 4. fawning
 5. saccharine
13. The mock graduation ceremony—with a trained skunk posing as the college president—was a complete _____ that offended many college officials.
 1. tempest
 2. epitome
 3. quintessence
 4. travesty
 5. recitative
14. The busy, _____ fabric of the clown's tie matched his oversized jacket, which was equally atrocious.
 1. mottled
 2. bleak

3. credible
4. malleable
5. communicable

15. Kendrick's talent _____ under the tutelage of Anya Kowalonek, who as a young woman had been the most accomplished pianist in her native Lithuania.

1. bantered
2. touted
3. flourished
4. embellished
5. colluded

Answers

1. 2. To *probe* (v.) is to examine thoroughly; tentatively survey.
2. 1. *Jovial* (adj.) means showing hearty good cheer; marked with the spirit of jolly merriment.
3. 3. *Invulnerable* (adj.) means incapable of being damaged or wounded; unassailable or invincible.
4. 5. *Judicious* (adj.) means being wise or prudent; showing good judgment; sensible.
5. 2. *Flagrant* (adj.) means conspicuously and outrageously bad, offensive, or reprehensible.
6. 3. *Malignant* (adj.) means disposed to cause distress or inflict suffering intentionally; inclining to produce death; an injurious infiltration.
7. 3. *Apocryphal* (adj.) means of questionable authenticity or doubtful authority; fictitious, false.
8. 5. To *procrastinate* (v.) is to put off from day to day.
9. 3. *Tacit* (adj.) means unspoken yet understood.
10. 2. *Apogee* (n.) means the highest or farthest point, culmination; the point in its orbit where a satellite is at the greatest distance from the body it is orbiting.
11. 2. *Jubilant* (adj.) means rejoicing; expressing joyfulness; exulting.
12. 4. *Fawning* (adj.) means attempting to win favor or attention by excessive flattery, ingratiating displays of affection, or servile compliance; obsequious.
13. 4. *Travesty* (n.) means a parody; a grotesque imitation with the intent to ridicule.
14. 1. *Mottled* (adj.) means blotched or spotted with different colors or shades.

15. 3. To *flourish* (v.) is (of artists) to be in a state of high productivity, excellence, or influence; to grow luxuriously, thrive; to fare well, prosper, increase in wealth, honor, comfort or whatever is desirable; to make bold, sweeping movements