***Spelling/Vocabulary/Sentence Unit #20***

**1. Amateur one with limited skill and experience who does an activity; not a professional**

*If you weren’t such an amateur archer, perhaps you would have hit the target.*

**2. Awkward embarrassing; difficult or uncomfortable; ungraceful**

**“***Trying to write with my toes was awkward,” complained the monkey.*

**3. Characteristic a defining feature of someone or thing; typical of one’s behavior**

*When you look closely, you’ll notice the snake’s characteristic black and white checkered pattern.*

**4. Contradict to say something which disagrees with what another said earlier**

*Bud stated the paint job was done, but his boss contradicted him and called for another coat.*

**5. Delirious out of one’s mind as a result of illness or injury; extremely excited**

*Sweating and delirious, the man with the high fever claimed he saw fairies.*

**6. Distinguish to notice a difference between two or more things**

*Having known the identical twins since birth, they were easy for me to distinguish.*

**7. Exaggerate to state that something is more impressive than it really is**

*I’m not exaggerating when I say it was the worst thing I’ve ever smelled; it was horrid.*

**8. Fluctuate to change often from one way to another; unpredictable**

*Because of my diabetes, my insulin level fluctuates, and I have to watch my sugar intake.*

**9. Forlorn very sad because of feeling abandoned or deserted**

*The teen, orphaned as a child, could never shake his forlorn feelings.*

**10. Heinous shockingly evil or wicked**

*Having finished investigating, Harry left the bloody, heinous crime scene.*

**11. Influential having a direct effect on a result or on one’s behavior or thinking**

*These men were the most influential in writing the Constitution: Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton.*

**12. Juxtapose to place two things side-by-side for sake of comparison**

*After juxtaposing the two signatures, you’ll see they are quite different.*

**13. Memoir a short autobiographical account of an event or series of events**

*Sergeant Steven’s memoir about fighting in Vietnam is very moving, and it’s very informative.*

**14. Nuisance an annoying or irritating person or thing**

*Jimmy continued to be a nuisance in class, but the teacher didn’t send him to the office.*

**15. Prairie a treeless grass-covered plain**

*Frolicking freely, the fox crossed the prairie to the stream for a cool drink.*

**16. Resilient recovering from illness, injury, or defeat; springing back**

*Quickly, the resilient boxer arose from the mat after being knocked down.*

**17. Souvenir something bought or kept as a reminder of a place or occasion**

*Loretta paid for the souvenir, boarded the plane, and began her journey home.*

**18. Synonymous meaning the same, or almost the same, as something else**

*As a result of his astounding ideas, the name “Einstein” is synonymous with genius.*

**19. Ultimatum a demand accompanied by a threat to inflict a penalty if the demand is not met** *The ultimatum I was given, clean my room or be grounded, was expected.*

**20. Warrant something that gives one the authority to do something**

*With a warrant in hand and a bullet-proof vest on, Detective Stabler raided the apartment.*

**Sentence pattern: use a dash (-- or two hyphens) to emphasize the conclusion of a sentence. There are no spaces before or after a dash.**

1. The *contradicting* evidence led the jury to agree on only one thing—they were far from reaching a verdict.

2. I realized something when I *juxtaposed* the before and after photos—I appeared much younger after receiving Botox.

3. The *fluctuating* readings on the seismograph led me to one conclusion—an earthquake would soon occur.

4. The teacher left me with an *ultimatum*—admit to cheating or flunk the class.