

detriment
dexterous
discretion
facetious
gregarious

optimum
ostentatious
scrupulous
sensory
vicarious

en Words in Context

In the space provided, write the letter of the meaning closest to that of each **boldfaced** word. Use the context of the sentences to help you figure out each word's meaning.

1 **detriment**

(dĕ'trə-mənt)
-noun

___ *Detriment* means

- Loni's purple hair may be a **detriment** when she goes for a job interview.
- Smoking is a **detriment** to your health. It's estimated that each cigarette you smoke will shorten your life by one and a half minutes.

A. an aid. B. a discovery. C. a disadvantage.

2 **dexterous**

(dĕks'tər-əs)
-adjective

___ *Dexterous* means

- The juggler was so **dexterous** that he managed to keep five balls in motion at once.
- Although he has arthritis in his hands, Phil is very **dexterous**. For example, he builds detailed model airplanes.

A. skilled. B. educated. C. awkward.

3 **discretion**

(dĭ-skrĕsh'ən)
-noun

___ *Discretion* means

- Ali wasn't using much **discretion** when he passed a police car at eighty miles an hour.
- Small children haven't yet developed **discretion**. They ask embarrassing questions like "When will you be dead, Grandpa?"

A. skill. B. good sense. C. courage.

4 **facetious**

(fə-sē'shəs)
-adjective

___ *Facetious* means

- Dr. Segura has a **facetious** sign on his office door: "I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?"
- My boss always says, "You don't have to be crazy to work here, but it helps." I hope she's just being **facetious**.

A. serious. B. dishonest. C. funny.

5 **gregarious**

(grĭ-gâr'ē-əs)
-adjective

___ *Gregarious* means

- Melissa is so **gregarious** that she wants to be with other people even when she's studying.
- My **gregarious** brother loves parties, but my shy sister prefers to be alone.

A. attractive. B. outgoing. C. humorous.

6 **optimum**

(ŏp'tə-məm)
-adjective

___ *Optimum* means

- The road was so icy that the **optimum** driving speed was only about ten miles an hour.
- For the weary traveler, **optimum** hotel accommodations include a quiet room, a comfortable bed, and efficient room service.

A. ideal. B. hopeful. C. questionable.

7 ostentatious

(ŏs'tən-tā'shəs)

*-adjective*___ *Ostentatious* means

- My show-off aunt has some **ostentatious** jewelry, such as a gold bracelet that's so heavy she can hardly lift her arm.
 - The lobby of that hotel is **ostentatious**, with fancy furniture, thick rugs, and tall flower arrangements. The guest rooms upstairs, however, are extremely plain.
- A. humble. B. showy. C. clean.

8 scrupulous

(skrŭō'pyə-ləs)

*-adjective*___ *Scrupulous* means

- The judge was **scrupulous** about never accepting a bribe or allowing a personal threat to influence his decisions.
 - The senator promised to run a **scrupulous** campaign, but her ads were filled with lies about her opponent's personal life.
- A. ethical. B. economical. C. unjust.

9 sensory

(sĕn'sə-rĕ)

*-adjective*___ *Sensory* means

- Because our **sensory** experiences are interrelated, what we taste is greatly influenced by what we smell.
 - A person in a flotation tank has almost no **sensory** stimulation. The tank is dark and soundproof, and the person floats in water at body temperature, unable to see or hear and scarcely able to feel anything.
- A. of the senses. B. social. C. intellectual.

10 vicarious

(vī-kâr'ĕ-əs)

*-adjective*___ *Vicarious* means

- I don't like to take risks myself, but I love the **vicarious** thrill of watching death-defying adventures in a movie.
 - If you can't afford to travel, watching videos and visiting tourist websites can give you the **vicarious** experience of traveling in foreign countries.
- A. thorough. B. indirect. C. skillful.

Matching Words with Definitions

Following are definitions of the ten words. Clearly write or print each word next to its definition. The sentences above and on the previous page will help you decide on the meaning of each word.

1. _____ Humorous; playfully joking
2. _____ Meant to impress others; flashy
3. _____ Best possible; most favorable; most desirable
4. _____ Something that causes damage, harm, or loss
5. _____ Experienced through the imagination; not experienced directly
6. _____ Skillful in using the hands or body
7. _____ Careful about moral standards; conscientious
8. _____ Sociable; enjoying and seeking the company of others
9. _____ Good judgment or tact in actions or speaking
10. _____ Having to do with seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, or smelling

CAUTION: Do not go any further until you are sure the above answers are correct. Then you can use the definitions to help you in the following practices. Your goal is eventually to know the words well enough so that you don't need to check the definitions at all.



Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

A. detriment
F. optimum

B. dexterous
G. ostentatious

C. discretion
H. scrupulous

D. facetious
I. sensory

E. gregarious
J. vicarious

- _____ 1. Any employee who wants to use _____ would simply ignore a piece of spinach on the boss's front tooth.
- _____ 2. A weak voice is a serious _____ to a stage actor's or actress's career.
- _____ 3. Playing with blocks and puzzles makes children more _____ with their hands.
- _____ 4. My roommate used to be _____, but since he was mugged, he's begun to avoid people.
- _____ 5. Lonnie is so _____ about filling out his tax return that he even reported the \$12.50 he was paid for jury duty.
- _____ 6. Jasmine wants to practice her vocabulary skills, so she's not just being _____ when she uses long words.
- _____ 7. Do you think a spectator sport gives the fans _____ triumphs and defeats, or real ones?
- _____ 8. The _____ order in which to answer test questions is from easiest to most difficult, so that you can write the answers you know before time runs out.
- _____ 9. Wandering through the bee-filled fields of red and yellow flowers was an amazing _____ experience, one that appealed to the eyes, ears, and nose.
- _____ 10. The performer Oscar Levant had a tendency to cause disasters. He once made the _____ comment, "In my hands, Jell-O is a deadly weapon."

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 177. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the next two practices, for which answers are not given.



Sentence Check 2

Using the answer lines provided, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- _____ 1-2. "You have to use _____ in choosing your friends," my father said. "If your associates are dishonest, people will think that you also may not be _____."
- _____ 3-4. Tyra is being _____ when she says she's as _____ a dancer as a ballerina. That's her way of making fun of her own clumsiness.
- _____ 5-6. When you take vitamins, be sure to take only the recommended dose. Anything more than this _____ amount can be a dangerous _____ to your health.

- _____ 7–8. My neighbors give a lot of parties, but not because they're _____. They just want to impress the guests with their _____ home and furnishings.
- _____ 9–10. Our cousin in Nigeria writes great letters, filled with _____ details that give us a(n) _____ acquaintance with the sights and sounds of an African village.

Final Check: Apartment Problems

Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

Although I'm ordinarily a(n) (1) _____ person, I'm tempted to move into a cave, far from other people—and landlords. Okay, I admit that I didn't use enough (2) _____ in choosing apartments to rent. But does every one of them have to be a (3) _____ to my health, mental stability, and checkbook?

When I moved into my first apartment, I discovered that the previous tenant had already subleased the place to a very large family—of cockroaches. Although I kept trying, I was never (4) _____ enough to swat any of them; they were able to dodge all my blows. In time, they became so bold that they paraded across the kitchen floor in the daytime in a(n) (5) _____ manner meant to impress upon me how useless it was to try to stop them. As soon as I could, I moved out.



My second apartment was a(n) (6) _____ nightmare—the filth was hard on the eyes and the nose. The place even assaulted the ears, as the walls were as thin as cardboard. My neighbors played music until all hours. Since I was too poor to buy a stereo, I became a dedicated listener. I even attended some of the neighbors' parties, in a(n) (7) _____ way—with my ear to the wall. When my landlord found out, he tried to charge me seven dollars a day for entertainment, and he wasn't being (8) _____—he meant it. I moved again, hoping to find a decent, (9) _____ landlord.

I rented my last apartment because it was supposedly located in an area of (10) _____ safety, considering the rent I can afford. A week after I moved in, I came home to find the locks broken and my belongings all over the floor. On the dresser was an angry note: "What gives you the right to live in such a nice neighborhood and not have anything worth stealing?"

Maybe I should have stayed with the cockroaches. At least they were honest.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%