

collaborate
despondent
instigate
resilient
retrospect

rudimentary
scoff
squelch
venerate
zealot

Ten 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 **collaborate**
(kə-läb'ə-rät')
-verb

— Collaborate means

- When Sarah and I were asked to **collaborate** on an article for the school newspaper, we found it difficult to work together.
 - Several writers and editors have **collaborated** in preparing this vocabulary text, sharing their knowledge and skills.
- A. to compete. B. to stop work. C. to act as a team.

2 **despondent**
(dī-spōn'dənt)
-adjective

— Despondent means

- Devon becomes **despondent** too easily. If he gets even one bad grade, he loses all hope of succeeding in school.
 - For months after his wife died, Mr. Craig was **despondent**. No matter how hard they tried, his family and friends could not cheer him up.
- A. ill. B. depressed. C. angry.

3 **instigate**
(in'stə-gāt')
-verb

— Instigate means

- The rock group's violent performance **instigated** a riot in the audience.
 - An English captain named Robert Jenkins **instigated** a war in 1738 by displaying his pickled ear, which he said had been cut off by a Spanish patrol. The horrified British declared war on Spain—the "War of Jenkins' Ear."
- A. to prevent. B. to predict. C. to cause.

4 **resilient**
(rī-zīl'yənt)
-adjective

— Resilient means

- Children can be amazingly **resilient**. Even after a sad or frightening experience, they often bounce back to their normal cheerful selves.
 - Plant life is **resilient**. For example, a few weeks after the Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in Washington in 1980, flowers were growing in the ashes.
- A. widespread. B. slow to recover. C. quick to recover.

5 **retrospect**
(rēt'rə-spēkt')
-noun

— In retrospect means

- After hobbling around on her broken foot for a week before seeing a doctor, Mae then needed surgery. In **retrospect**, it's clear she should have gotten help sooner.
 - When I took Ms. Klein's writing course, I thought she was too demanding. In **retrospect**, though, I realize that she taught me more than anyone else.
- A. looking back. B. looking for excuses. C. looking ahead.

6 **rudimentary**
(rū'də-mēn'tər-ē)
-adjective

— Rudimentary means

- A grammar book usually starts with **rudimentary** skills, such as identifying nouns and verbs.
 - I'm so used to adding and subtracting on a calculator that I've probably forgotten how to do those **rudimentary** mathematical calculations on my own.
- A. basic. B. intermediate. C. advanced.

7 scoff

(skɒf)

*-verb*___ *Scoff at* means

- Bystanders **scoffed** at the street musician playing a tune on a row of tin cans, but he seemed unaware that people were making fun of him.
 - Tony **scoffed** at reports that a hurricane was coming until he saw the winds knocking down trees and overturning cars.
- A. to laugh at. B. to watch. C. to take seriously.

8 squelch

(skwɛlch)

*-verb*___ *Squelch* means

- My history teacher shot me a dirty look during class when I couldn't quite manage to **squelch** a burp.
 - Decades of communism in Eastern Europe didn't **squelch** the desire for freedom. As soon as they could, the people in these countries began to form democracies.
- A. to encourage. B. to hold back. C. to release.

9 venerate

(vɛn'ər-āt')

*-verb*___ *Venerate* means

- The Tlingit Indians **venerate** the wolf and the raven, and their totem poles illustrate stories in praise of these animals.
 - The guests at our dean's retirement banquet made it clear that they **venerated** her; when she entered the room, everyone rose.
- A. to pity. B. to honor. C. to remember.

10 zealot

(zɛl'ət)

*-noun*___ *Zealot* means


- Annie, a **zealot** about health, runs a hundred miles a week and never lets a grain of sugar touch her lips.
 - The Crusaders were Christian **zealots** during the Middle Ages who left their homes and families and went off to try to capture the Holy Land.
- A. an extremist. B. an observer. C. a doubter.

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. _____ To bring about by moving others to action; stir up
2. _____ Fundamental; necessary to learn first
3. _____ Able to recover quickly from harm, illness, or misfortune
4. _____ To work together on a project; cooperate in an effort
5. _____ A person totally devoted to a purpose or cause
6. _____ To silence or suppress; crush
7. _____ To respect deeply; revere
8. _____ Downhearted; hopeless; overwhelmed with sadness
9. _____ Reviewing the past; considering past events
10. _____ To make fun of; mock; refuse to take seriously

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. collaborate
F. rudimentary

B. despondent
G. scoff

C. instigate
H. squelch

D. resilient
I. venerate

E. retrospect
J. zealot

- _____ 1. My ability to speak Spanish is ____, but I can at least manage to ask directions or order a meal.
- _____ 2. Jaime was ____ over the death of his dog, his companion for fourteen years.
- _____ 3. The novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which exposed the horrors of slavery, helped to ____ the American Civil War.
- _____ 4. Dawn is a ____ about banning nuclear weapons. She has walked for miles in protest marches and stood in the rain for hours during demonstrations.
- _____ 5. Mother Teresa, who devoted her life to helping the poor, is ____ (e)d by some people as a twentieth-century saint.
- _____ 6. The Cord, in the 1920s, was the first car with front-wheel drive, but in those days most people considered the idea ridiculous and ____ (e)d at it.
- _____ 7. Marie and Pierre Curie ____ (e)d on important scientific experiments involving radioactivity.
- _____ 8. Kim's parents nagged her so hard about practicing the piano that they finally ____ (e)d any interest she might have had in music.
- _____ 9. Since I'd like to be a photographer, I can see, in ____, that I would have gained valuable experience if I'd taken pictures for the school newspaper.
- _____ 10. Athletes need to be ____. After a defeat, an individual or a team must be able to come back and fight for victory the next time.

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. Even though their knowledge of carpentry was only ____, the boys ____ (e)d on building a treasure chest.
- _____ 3-4. "Everyone gets ____ (e)d at now and then," Lynn said. "You just have to be ____ enough to bounce back after a facetious^o remark."
- _____ 5-6. Many people who ____ (e)d Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were ____ when he was killed, but then courageously vowed to carry on his work.

7–8. At the time of the American Revolution, many people viewed those who _____(e)d the rebellion as troublemakers. In _____, however, we view them as heroes.

9–10. Being illiterate until the age of 20 didn't _____ George Washington Carver's spirit. He went on to become a great botanist—and a _____ about using peanuts, from which he made such products as ink, shampoo, and linoleum.

Final Check: *Hardly a Loser*

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.

Tom seemed to be a loser born into a long line of losers. His great-grandfather, condemned to death during the Revolutionary War for siding with the British, had fled to Canada. Tom's father, wanted for arrest after he helped (1) _____ a plot to overthrow the Canadian government, had fled back to the United States.

Tom never received even the most (2) _____ formal education. During his mere three months of schooling, he stayed at the bottom of his class. The teacher (3) _____(e)d at him, telling him that he was hopelessly stupid.

Tom's first job, selling papers and candy on a train, ended when he accidentally set the baggage car on fire. His second, as a telegraph operator, ended when he was caught sleeping on the job. At 22, he was jobless, penniless, and living in a cellar. Obviously, Tom's youth had not provided the optimum^o foundation for success.

Tom, however, didn't allow his situation to be a detriment^o or to (4) _____ his hopes. Instead of becoming (5) _____, he was (6) _____ enough to recover from his misfortunes and find another job. He managed, in fact, to save enough money to open a workshop, where he (7) _____(e)d with an electrical engineer in designing and then selling machines. A (8) _____ when it came to solving mechanical puzzles, Tom worked nearly nonstop, sleeping only about four hours each night.

By the time he was in his 80s, Tom was credited with over a thousand inventions, including the phonograph, light bulb, and motion picture camera. He was also very famous—so much so that he was (9) _____(e)d nationwide as the greatest living American.

In (10) _____, Thomas Alva Edison wasn't such a loser after all.



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

Enter your scores above and in the **Vocabulary Performance Chart** on the inside back cover of the book.