



- 7 **ponderous**  
(pɒn' dər-əs)  
-adjective
- Ponderous* means
- Ads for the circus always used to describe the elephants as “ponderous pachyderms.”
  - There used to be a theory that dinosaurs became extinct because they grew too large for their own good. They were so huge and **ponderous** that they could hardly move.
- a. living in ponds.      b. delicate.      c. weighty.
- 8 **predecessor**  
(prɛd' i-sɛs' ər)  
-noun
- Predecessor* means
- It won't be easy to get used to my new boss. She seems quiet, formal, and serious, whereas her **predecessor** was easygoing and loved to laugh.
  - When they moved into their new apartment, the Martins had to get rid of a lot of junk that their **predecessors** had left behind.
- a. someone earlier.      b. someone later.      c. someone who predicts.
- 9 **rebuff**  
(ri-büf')  
-verb
- Rebuff* means
- Elyse's boss often puts his arm around her when he's talking to her. She doesn't like this, but she's afraid to **rebuff** him.
  - The unfriendly cat **rebuffed** my attempts to pet him. He walked away without a backward glance.
- a. to treat coldly.      b. to welcome warmly.      c. to reward.
- 10 **static**  
(stæt' ik)  
-adjective
- Static* means
- “This scene is too **static**,” the director said to the actors. “It's dead. We've got to get some action into it.”
  - A still life, as the name suggests, is a **static** painting: it might show, for example, a bowl of apples. By contrast, an action painting shows a dramatic scene full of movement.
- a. silent.      b. stationary.      c. stressful.

### 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 reject bluntly; snub
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Not straightforward; tricky; shifty
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Never changing or varying
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Heavy, labored; massive; lacking grace
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A person who comes before another in time
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Friendly; showing goodwill
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Not moving or progressing; still
8. \_\_\_\_\_ To wipe out; erase
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A harsh, disagreeable combination of sounds
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Talkative to an annoying degree

**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, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. amicable	b. devious	c. dissonance	d. efface	e. garrulous
f. immutable	g. ponderous	h. predecessor	i. rebuff	j. static

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Zach quickly \_\_\_s anyone who calls to try to sell him something or raise funds. "I'm not interested," he says, and hangs up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Do you think surprise quizzes are a useful teaching tool? Or you you consider them \_\_\_ and unfair?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The hardest of all stains to \_\_\_ is blueberry. If you drop blueberry pie on a white shirt, you'll have to throw the shirt away or dye it blue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Whenever I visit my \_\_\_ Uncle Hal, I tell him I have another appointment in an hour. Otherwise, I would be forced to sit and listen to him all day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Everyone dreads the principal's speeches. Her slow, labored way of talking and long pauses make even a short talk \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. As I walked through the hall of the music school, I could hear three instrumental classes in three rooms playing three different pieces all at once. My ears aching from this \_\_\_, I fled into the street.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Wanting to be on \_\_\_ terms with her new neighbors, Meg brought them a homemade pie to welcome them to the neighborhood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Did you ever wonder why people in old photographs look frozen in stiff, \_\_\_ poses? It's because they could not move while the film was being exposed—a process that took a long time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Although the car Meg just bought is four years old, it looks like new. Whoever was her \_\_\_ in owning it took very good care of it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The stars may look unchanging, but in fact they are not \_\_\_. Stars are born, and eventually die, over billions of years.

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 176. 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, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2. Marcy and Jack worked out a(n) \_\_\_ divorce. But the goodwill they put into the final settlement could not \_\_\_ the memory of the months of anger that came before it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. It's strange but true: one \_\_\_, constant law of nature is that nothing is ever constant or \_\_\_—everything changes all the time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. When she started her new job, Robin tried in \_\_\_ ways to find out why her had left. She didn't want to ask directly if he had quit or been fired.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. Elaine and Jeff couldn't agree on what kind of art to put in their living room. She rejected a large piece of sculpture he had chosen, saying it was too \_\_\_\_\_, and he \_\_\_\_\_(e)d her when she suggested an abstract painting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. The concert was awful. The band was too loud and badly out of tune—creating cacophony°, not music. In addition, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ person beside me kept up an incessant° stream of conversation, adding to the general \_\_\_\_\_.

### ➤ Final Check: Miles Standish

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.

"If you want something done right, do it yourself." Such is the message of "The Courtship of Miles Standish," a poem by one of America's most famous poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Now, the first thing you need to know about "Miles Standish" is that the story is apocryphal°. Miles Standish was a real person, and so were John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, the other two principal characters in the poem. And John and Priscilla got married, as the poem says, and had fifteen children, which it doesn't say. But as far as we know, Miles's "courtship" was the product of Longfellow's imagination. Nevertheless, the poem tells a good story. This is how it goes:

Miles Standish, a scarred veteran of many battles, was the leader of the Puritan colony in Plymouth, Massachusetts. As the poem opens, Miles shares a secret with his young friend John Alden. Miles is in love with Priscilla. Priscilla's (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Miles's heart was his wife, Rose, who died soon after the Pilgrims landed in the New World. Since Rose's death, Miles says, his life has been dull and (2) \_\_\_\_\_. He asks John to do him a favor. "Go to the damsel Priscilla, the loveliest maiden of Plymouth, / Say that a blunt old Captain, a man not of words but of actions, / Offers his hand and his heart, the hand and heart of a soldier."

The problem is that unbeknownst to Miles Standish, John is also in love with Priscilla. Horrified, he tries to get out of the errand, suggesting that Miles speak to Priscilla himself. But Miles's determination is (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Also, he says he is a(n) (4) \_\_\_\_\_ speaker, not graceful and eloquent° like John. He fears he would either say too little or be too (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to win her favor. And while he is a brave man in battle, he says, he fears Priscilla will (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his offer.

Out of a sense of duty and friendship, John goes to Priscilla and blurts out Miles Standish's offer of marriage. Priscilla is first amazed, then indignant. "If the great Captain of Plymouth is so very eager to wed me, / Why does he not come himself, and take the trouble to woo me?" John tries to explain that the Captain is a very busy man, but Priscilla's irritation is not assuaged°. A man who was *really* in love, she tells John, would find time to win her heart. John stumbles on, describing all the Captain's good qualities: his courage, his skill, his honor. As he talks, he seems to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ his own feelings and think only of his friend. To Priscilla, who has been hoping to hear John's own declaration of love, his words are (8) \_\_\_\_\_, not sweet music. Finally she boldly interrupts to say, "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?"

The rest of the poem describes how John returns to Miles and tells him the truth. Initially Standish is furious, believing that John has been (9) \_\_\_\_\_, going behind his back to win the girl. But he maintains his (10) \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with John and Priscilla. He comes to their wedding and gives them his blessing. And perhaps he has learned that when it comes to romancing a woman, it's best to do the job yourself!

Scores	Sentence Check 2 _____%	Final Check _____%
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