

CHAPTER
13

acquiesce
articulate
belittle
bombastic
conciliatory

delineate
diffident
laconic
scanty
subjugate

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 **acquiesce**
(ăk'wē-ēs')
-verb
- Acquiesce means
- When the reporter was ordered to reveal who had given her information about a gambling ring, she had to decide whether to **acquiesce** or go to jail.
 - The students asked if they could use their notes during the test. They were pleased when the teacher **acquiesced**.
- a. to consent. b. to conquer. c. to refuse.
- 2 **articulate**
(ăr-tĭk'yə-lĭt)
-adjective
- Articulate means
- John Kennedy was known as one of our most **articulate** presidents. He expressed himself beautifully, whether he was giving a speech or just joking with reporters.
 - Molly is unusually **articulate** for a three-year-old. She always speaks in complete sentences and uses a quite grown-up vocabulary.
- a. artificial. b. using words effectively. c. quiet.
- 3 **belittle**
(bĭ-lĭt'1)
-verb
- Belittle means
- One unpleasant little girl at the daycare center constantly **belittles** the other children, saying things like, "Can't your parents buy you nicer clothes than that?"
 - It is rude to accept an invitation to dinner and then **belittle** your host's cooking.
- a. to praise. b. to emphasize. c. to put down.
- 4 **bombastic**
(bŏm-băst'ĭk)
-adjective
- Bombastic means
- I don't like to invite Jerry to dinner because he is so **bombastic**. He bores everyone with his endless pretentious talk.
 - "At this point in time there is little reason to think that the suspected perpetrator will soon be apprehended" is a **bombastic** way of saying, "The crook got away."
- a. pompous. b. down-to-earth. c. fascinating.
- 5 **conciliatory**
(kən-sĭl'ē-ə-tŏr'ē)
-adjective
- Conciliatory means
- Our new toaster broke down after one use, but when we returned it, the clerk was not **conciliatory**. He said, "You must have done something wrong to it."
 - When a small child throws a temper tantrum, should a parent be **conciliatory** and try to comfort the child? Or is it better to use firm discipline?
- a. soothing. b. persistent. c. proud.
- 6 **delineate**
(dĭ-lĭn'ē-āt')
-verb
- Delineate means
- The history professor carefully **delineated** the scene of the battle: where the opposing troops were, how the supply lines were set up, and where the nearby towns and roads were located.
 - Prehistoric cave paintings in France and Spain **delineate** not just animals but the act of hunting—to prepare hunters for what they were about to experience.
- a. to change. b. to recall. c. to portray.

- 7 **diffident**
(dif'ī-dənt)
-adjective
- Diffident* means
- Although Jay is outgoing with other men, he is shy and **diffident** with women and therefore finds it hard to get a date.
 - Choosing a puppy out of the litter, Jeanine was drawn to a **diffident** little one who hung back timidly while the others played roughly.
 - a. different.
 - b. angry.
 - c. hesitant.
- 8 **laconic**
(lə-kōn'ik)
-adjective
- Laconic* means
- Frieda is a woman of very few words. When she received an impassioned twenty-page letter from her boyfriend imploring her to marry him, she sent this **laconic** reply: "Sure."
 - During World War II, General McAuliffe of the 101st Airborne gained fame for his **laconic** reply to a German commander who was demanding that he surrender: "Nuts."
 - a. sweet.
 - b. brief.
 - c. secretive.
- 9 **scanty**
(skān'tē)
-adjective
- Scanty* means
- Our office supplies are so **scanty** that most people have to buy their own pens and note pads.
 - The poor little maple tree is not doing well. Its leaves are **scanty**, and it is barely growing.
 - a. insufficient.
 - b. plentiful.
 - c. permanent.
- 10 **subjugate**
(süb'jə-gāt')
-verb
- Subjugate* means
- Judges are expected to **subjugate** their feelings during a trial. But keeping their emotions under tight control is not always easy.
 - Many third world nations were **subjugated** by colonial powers in years past. In many cases, the wounds of their earlier defeat remain painful.
 - a. to explore.
 - b. to dominate.
 - c. to study.

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.

- _____ Using high-sounding language without much meaning; overblown
- _____ To consent without protest; comply; assent
- _____ To make something seem less worthy or less important
- _____ Lacking self-confidence; timid
- _____ Using as few words as possible; terse
- _____ Barely sufficient; barely adequate; meager
- _____ Well-spoken
- _____ To bring under control; enslave; conquer
- _____ To represent in words or pictures
- _____ Tending to win over or appease; pacifying

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. acquiesce	b. articulate	c. belittle	d. bombastic	e. conciliatory
f. delineate	g. diffident	h. laconic	i. scanty	j. subjugate

- _____ 1. Knowing a lot does not necessarily make people effective communicators. They need to be _____ in order to reach others with their words.
- _____ 2. Mr. Harrison is an unpopular teacher because of the way he _____ his students, making remarks like, "I've given up expecting good work from you."
- _____ 3. A(n) _____ person is not likely to do well in a sales job, where confidence and ease in talking to strangers are important qualities.
- _____ 4. My husband is so _____ that it's difficult to hold a conversation with him. He usually confines his remarks to "Hmm," "Oh," and "I see."
- _____ 5. When we asked the movie star for her autograph, she _____(e)d pleasantly.
- _____ 6. "One picture is worth a thousand words" suggests that to _____ something, a drawing is often more useful than phrases and sentences.
- _____ 7. It's obvious that the Hallers have not lived in their apartment very long. The furnishings are _____ — just a couch, a bed, and a kitchen table.
- _____ 8. Slavery has existed in many times and places. In fact, if you go back far enough, you will find that almost every ethnic group has been _____(e)d in this way at some point in its history.
- _____ 9. When we had to work over a weekend taking inventory, the boss was _____: she told us we could dress casually, and she kept sending out for food, coffee, and sodas.
- _____ 10. I've read this _____ editorial in the newspaper three times, and I'm still not sure what is being said. It's a lot of words, but what does it mean?

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. "Don't put yourself down," the self-help book urged. "If you constantly _____ yourself, you will become too timid and _____ to tackle anything important."
- _____ 3-4. When people are _____, it is sometimes because they feel they are not _____ enough. Believing that they can't express themselves well, they decide to say very little.

- _____ 5-6. When Jake tried to _____ the plan for his term paper to Tricia, he realized that his ideas were too _____— he needed to do further research.
- _____ 7-8. The invaders did not find it easy to _____ the town. Refusing to _____, the townspeople kept on fighting, building by building, street by street, for many weeks.
- _____ 9-10. At the dinner party, Julie was seated next to a(n) _____ man who kept spouting all his overblown opinions in a loud voice. She is the _____ type, though, so she pretended to be interested in his diatribe°.

► Final Check: Men, Women, and Talk

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.

Feminists, sociologists, and psychologists have been taking a long, hard look at—or listening in on—how men and women talk to each other. Their idea is that just as men (1) _____ women economically and politically—earning far more and enjoying greater power—men also (2) _____ women in conversation. That is an interesting theory, but unfortunately, when these observers (3) _____ their findings, their results are contradictory.

Some researchers say that men, garrulous° and long-winded, dominate conversations. They find that men are (4) _____, announcing their opinions in lofty language, laying down the law, and never allowing women to get a word in edgewise, except to (5) _____ with a brief murmur of agreement or to be (6) _____ if a disagreement seems to be arising. According to this theory, most women are too (7) _____ to speak out; but if a woman does try, the man will ignore or rebuff° her, and if this snub doesn't shut her up, he'll interrupt her.

Other researchers find just the opposite. They say that men are (8) _____, making a(n) (9) _____ contribution, or none, to a conversation. The poor woman tries desperately to keep the talk going, while the man just grunts "Hmm" or "Um." Women are generally said to be more verbal and (10) _____ than men, so when a man clams up, he's exploiting this trait to control the situation.

It's hard to know what to make of this equivocal° research, but the men seem to be in a no-win situation. Whether they talk or don't talk, they're accused of being domineering. It would be fascinating to hear the researchers debate this—especially if some were men and some women!

Scores	Sentence Check 2 _____%	Final Check _____%
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.