

CHAPTER
16

buoyant	marred
enervate	parochial
incorrigible	partisan
inexorable	pique
irrefutable	satirical

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 **buoyant**
(boi'ənt)
-adjective

___ *Buoyant* means

- Helium balloons are **buoyant** because the helium gas in them is lighter than air.
 - To help her daughter float in the pool, Barbara bought her a swimsuit that has a **buoyant** tube attached around the waist.
- a. capable of floating. b. tending to sink. c. invisible.

2 **enervate**
(ən'ər-vāt')
-verb

___ *Enervate* means

- The doctor warned me that my husband's medication might **enervate** him. "While he's taking it," she recommended, "just let him rest as much as he needs to."
 - The heat wave completely **enervated** Janine. By the sixth day, she could barely drag herself out of bed.
- a. to frighten. b. to exhaust. c. to awaken.

3 **incorrigible**
(in-kôr'ī-jə-bəl)
-adjective

___ *Incorrigible* means

- The dog trainer shook her head in frustration. "I'll give you your money back," she told Prince's owners. "This dog is **incorrigible**. I can't teach him a thing."
 - Jake has lost many friends because he is such an **incorrigible** practical joker. He hides frogs in people's beds, puts tacks on their chairs, and sprinkles "sneezing powder" on their food.
- a. incurable. b. intelligent. c. influential.

4 **inexorable**
(in-ĕk'sər-ə-bəl)
-adjective

___ *Inexorable* means

- Although my grandmother is still in pretty good health, old age is taking its slow, **inexorable** toll on her.
 - The Martins have an **inexorable** rule against smoking in their home—no one is allowed to do it, ever.
- a. lenient. b. unyielding. c. not exact.

5 **irrefutable**
(ī-rĕf'yə-tə-bəl or
īr'-ī-fyōō'tə-bəl)
-adjective

___ *Irrefutable* means

- "It's **irrefutable**!" Mike said. "I saw it with my own eyes in the magazine at the supermarket! Elvis has definitely been seen on the moon."
 - Although many people claim to have seen the Loch Ness monster, no one has ever come up with **irrefutable** proof that any such creature exists.
- a. easy to understand. b. unprejudiced. c. indisputable.

6 **marred**
(mărd)
-verb

___ *Marred* means

- The shore, once so peaceful and lovely, is now **marred** by a row of fast-food stands.
 - Our school's reputation was **marred** when, in a single week, a dozen students were expelled for cheating and several more were arrested after a drunken brawl.
- a. improved. b. disguised. c. damaged.

- 7 **parochial**
(pə-rō'kē-əl)
-adjective
- Parochial* means
- Many young people arrive at college with little knowledge of the world, but meeting students and instructors from other places and other cultures helps them go beyond their **parochial** outlook.
 - Many New Yorkers have very **parochial** ideas: they take little interest in anything happening outside their own city.
- a. timid. b. limited. c. lacking enthusiasm.
- 8 **partisan**
(pär'tī-zən)
-adjective
- Partisan* means
- The League of Women Voters is not **partisan**. Rather, it remains neutral and provides information about all the candidates.
 - Rachel's highly **partisan** comments sometimes annoy her friends, but her strong views might make her a real asset to a debating team.
- a. uncaring. b. objective. c. one-sided.
- 9 **pique**
(pēk)
-noun
- Pique* means
- When her husband told her that she talked too much, a Frenchwoman retorted, "Very well; I'll never talk again." Her **pique** lasted the rest of her life; despite the pleas of her family, she went to her grave still silent.
 - Connie's boyfriend annoyed her by flirting with other women at a party. Out of **pique**, she refused to see him for a month.
- a. a sense of injury. b. a sense of duty. c. a sense of humor.
- 10 **satirical**
(sə-tīr'ī-kēl)
-adjective
- Satirical* means
- *This Is Spinal Tap* is a very funny movie that takes a **satirical** look at the career of an untalented bunch of rock musicians.
 - The governor was angry about a **satirical** article in the newspaper that amused readers by making fun of his many broken promises.
- a. admiring. b. criticizing through ridicule. c. boring.

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. _____ Not capable of being influenced; relentless
2. _____ Restricted to a narrow scope or outlook; narrow-minded
3. _____ Attacking human vice or foolishness through irony or wit
4. _____ To weaken; rob of strength or energy
5. _____ Impossible to disprove
6. _____ A feeling of resentment or anger because of wounded pride
7. _____ Able to float or rise
8. _____ Strongly supporting a specific party, cause, or person
9. _____ Made less perfect through injury or damage
10. _____ Uncontrollable; unmanageable; not capable of being corrected or reformed

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. buoyant	b. enervate	c. incorrigible	d. inexorable	e. irrefutable
f. marred	g. parochial	h. partisan	i. pique	j. satirical

- _____ 1. Buoys are markers that float in the water to warn of dangerous spots. Their name is related to the word ____, which means "able to float."
- _____ 2. The mayor's spotless record has never been ____ by even a suspicion of wrongdoing.
- _____ 3. Shows like *Saturday Night Live* take a(n) ____ attitude toward the famous and powerful, making fun of celebrities and government officials alike.
- _____ 4. When his opponent won the tennis match with a lucky shot, Nicky refused to shake hands. His ____ seemed childish to the spectators.
- _____ 5. Lem's professor was impressed with his paper, which was a powerful combination of facts and ____ logic.
- _____ 6. The farmland in this area is slowly being swallowed up by the ____ spread of housing developments.
- _____ 7. The automobile accident ____ (e)d Donald for weeks, even though he had not been badly injured. His doctors said this was normal and that his energy would soon return.
- _____ 8. "You'll have to leave now," the shop owner said to the parents and their badly behaved children. "How dare you let your ____ kids run unsupervised through the store, crashing into customers and breaking merchandise?"
- _____ 9. Oliver takes a(n) ____ approach to life. He is intensely committed and sees everything as a struggle between opponents.
- _____ 10. Although Uncle Don has spent his whole life in a small country town, he has never been ____: everything in the wide world interests him.

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. When the ____ march of time brings wrinkles, a woman may feel that her face is hopelessly ____— but a man thinks he now looks "distinguished."
- _____ 3-4. Margo is very ____, and her narrow-mindedness seems to be ____: no one has ever persuaded her to broaden her provincial^o outlook on life.
- _____ 5-6. When summer's heat and humidity threaten to ____ me, I like to float in a pool on a(n) ____ cushion, preferably one that has a holder for a frosty drink.

- _____ 7-8. The students who put on the ___ show decided not to be ___: they made fun of everyone, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.
- _____ 9-10. Instead of being a good sport and admitting that his opponent's articulate°, carefully worked-out argument was ___, Perry quit the debating team in a fit of ___.

➤ Final Check: The Salem Witches

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.

A tragic chapter in American history began with almost unbelievably trivial occurrences. The witch trials held in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692 resulted in the execution of nineteen accused witches and the imprisonment of many others. At the height of the witchcraft frenzy, incidents between neighbors that would ordinarily cause only (1) _____ resulted in accusations of involvement with the devil. A frivolous° or (2) _____ remark might be taken as serious, leading to the unfortunate speaker's trial and even death.

The witchcraft trials, which have (3) _____ the reputation of Salem for more than three centuries, began when several young girls accused a slave woman named Tituba of casting spells on them. They claimed that she could read their minds and that she tormented them, causing them to fall into fits, writhe°, make animal noises, and scream at invisible enemies. Why did the girls make such claims? A possible explanation is that one girl, Abigail Williams, was angry at Tituba. Abigail was a badly behaved child whom Tituba had sometimes punished for her (4) _____ conduct. The girls may also have wanted to get out of work by claiming that the "spells" (5) _____ (e)d them, leaving them too tired to do their chores.

Although the girls' stories seemed untenable°, even ludicrous°, they were believed. Many people in 1692 were uneducated, (6) _____, and thus intensely fearful of the unknown. Tituba was a good target for their fears: she was foreign, black, and known to be highly capable. Why did her garden yield more vegetables than other women's? Why were the animals she raised so fat and healthy? The successes she had garnered° seemed to her neighbors (7) _____ proof that Tituba was in league with the devil.

Once Tituba had been accused of witchcraft, a(n) (8) _____ tide of suspicion seemed to sweep over the village, carrying away the residents' good sense. They turned on one another like savage animals, accusing friends and relatives of being witches. The trials were a mockery of justice. The judges were entirely (9) _____, convinced from the beginning that the "witches" were guilty. The accused were subject to ridiculous tests, such as being told to recite the Lord's Prayer backward. Some were thrown into water, on the theory that an innocent person would sink; while a witch was (10) _____.

After nineteen people had been executed for witchcraft, eighteen by hanging and one by being crushed with stones, the governor of Massachusetts stopped the trials. Over a hundred people were in prison awaiting trial at the time. They were released (Tituba was among them). Later, some of the girls who had brought the original accusations admitted that they had been pretending.

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.