



cajole  
capitulate  
egregious  
premonition  
prestigious

reverent  
stupor  
sycophant  
urbane  
zany

## 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 **cajole**  
(kə-ˈjōl')  
-verb

— *Cajole* means

- No matter how I **cajole**ed him, the police officer continued to write me a ticket for speeding.
  - Once my mother told us children “Absolutely not,” we knew better than to **cajole** her; she would never change her mind, and begging only made her angry.
- a. to plead with.                      b. to laugh at.                      c. to hate.

2 **capitulate**  
(kə-ˈpɪtʃ'ə-lāt')  
-verb

— *Capitulate* means

- Although Stacy has said she will never speak to Karen again, I expect her to **capitulate** shortly—I think she will soon miss her old friend.
  - Mr. Henderson resisted the idea of his daughter going on dates, but he **capitulated** when she became a high-school senior.
- a. to be capable.                      b. to repeat.                      c. to yield.

3 **egregious**  
(i-ˈgrē'jəs)  
-adjective

*Egregious* means

- “You certainly made an **egregious** fool of yourself,” George’s wife said after the party. “Did you have to sing and dance with a lampshade on your head?”
  - “It was an **egregious** mistake to paint our office hot pink,” admitted the president of the accounting firm. “No one seems to take us seriously anymore.”
- a. obviously bad.                      b. minor.                      c. easily overlooked.

4 **premonition**  
(prē'mə-nīsh'ən)  
-noun

*Premonition* means

- Although I’d had a **premonition** that I shouldn’t get on the airplane, nothing bad happened. It was a perfectly ordinary flight.
  - “Wait!” called out the fortuneteller as Terry walked past. “I have a **premonition** about you! For only five dollars, I’ll tell you your future.”
- a. a memory.                      b. a forewarning.                      c. a plan.

5 **prestigious**  
(prē-stē'jəs)  
-adjective

*Prestigious* means

- Are those name-brand jeans really better than less expensive ones, or are you just paying more for the **prestigious** label?
  - A Rolls-Royce car, Dom Perignon champagne, a Harvard education, a Tiffany diamond—all these are regarded as the most **prestigious** items of their kinds.
- a. common.                      b. highly valued.                      c. beautiful.

6 **reverent**  
(rēv'ər-ənt)  
-adjective

— *Reverent* means

- A huge, awesome natural wonder, such as the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls, makes most visitors feel **reverent**.
  - As we walked through the art museum, our teacher spoke in hushed, **reverent** tones about the masterpieces we were seeing.
- a. scornful.                      b. amused.                      c. worshipful.

- 7 **stupor**  
(stōō'pər)  
-noun
- 'stupor means*
- At one time, patients who had surgery requiring general anesthesia would remain in a **stupor** for many hours afterward. But with today's improved anesthetics, they often regain full consciousness within minutes.
  - A recent study reported that many truck drivers get too little sleep on long trips and often drive in a **stupor**, not aware that their senses are dulled.
    - a state of anxiety.
    - a state of grief.
    - a drowsy state.
- 8 **sycophant**  
(sīk'ə-fənt)  
-noun
- ycophant means*
- "I don't expect a class full of **sycophants**," the professor told her argumentative students, "but couldn't you agree with me about something just once?"
  - The manager of the restaurant where Ted works had a truly crazy idea about how to reorganize the kitchen. Ted, always the **sycophant**, told him the plan was brilliant.
    - a chatterbox.
    - a flatterer.
    - a traitor.
- 9 **urbane**  
(ūr-bān')  
-adjective
- Urbane means*
- Wanting to seem **urbane** and sophisticated on her first date with Steve, Claire ordered a martini. It was so strong that she choked on it, spoiling the effect she had hoped to achieve.
  - The critics loved the new movie by a director whose trademark was worldly-wise, **urbane** comedy. "As witty, clever, and artful as ever!" they wrote.
    - impulsive.
    - refined.
    - careful.
- 10 **zany**  
(zā'nē)  
-adjective
- Zany means*
- The audience at the circus roared with delight at the clowns' **zany** antics.
  - As kids, my brother and I couldn't get enough of *Mad Magazine*, a **zany** publication with the motto "Humor in a jugular vein."
    - absurdly funny.
    - understated.
    - scary.

### 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ To give in
- \_\_\_\_\_ Feeling or expressing respect or awe
- \_\_\_\_\_ Having an honored name or reputation; having prestige
- \_\_\_\_\_ A state of mental numbness; a daze
- \_\_\_\_\_ A person who tries to win favor through flattery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wildly silly or comical
- \_\_\_\_\_ Smooth in manner; elegant; polished; suave
- \_\_\_\_\_ A feeling that something bad is going to happen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Highly noticeable in a negative way; conspicuously bad
- \_\_\_\_\_ To persuade with flattery; to sweet-talk

**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. cajole	b. capitulate	c. egregious	d. premonition	e. prestigious
f. reverent	g. stupor	h. sycophant	i. urbane	j. zany

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Stacy resisted getting an answering machine for a long time, but she finally \_\_\_\_\_(e)d when her friends complained that they could never reach her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mack comes up with one \_\_\_\_\_ get-rich-quick scheme after another. He says we may find them silly now, but he'll have the last laugh: one of them will win him fame and fortune.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. "When my uncle is being annoying at family dinners, I wish you wouldn't be so nice to him," Amy told her husband. "He doesn't need a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to make him think he's clever and amusing."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I had a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ that Lisa and Todd would not hit it off, and I was right. They were in a heated argument within five minutes of being introduced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. To give himself a better chance of getting the job, the applicant faked letters of recommendation from people with \_\_\_\_\_ positions in the community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The owner of the restaurant is a gracious, \_\_\_\_\_ woman, always poised and at ease greeting celebrities. And she is just as courteous and charming to all her customers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ is one symptom of hypothermia—very low body temperature—in the elderly. Their memory loss and dazed condition may be curable simply by turning up the heat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The children managed to \_\_\_\_\_ their parents into letting them stay up long past their usual bedtime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. "Don't wear those torn jeans to the funeral," Maude told her son. "Put on a suit and tie so you'll seem properly \_\_\_\_\_."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Renata's first public performance as a pianist was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ disaster. The piano bench collapsed under her, much to the amusement of the audience.

*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. "What \_\_\_\_\_ idiot erased all these computer files?" the boss yelled. \_\_\_\_\_  
Monica had a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of disaster: she had just used the computer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. Some people prefer \_\_\_\_\_, sophisticated comedy, such as the movies of  
Woody Allen. Others prefer goofy, \_\_\_\_\_ slapstick comedians like the  
Three Stooges.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. When he was told he had won a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ scholarship, David was so overwhelmed with the honor that he walked around in a dreamy \_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of the day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. When children want an expensive toy, they will usually \_\_\_\_\_ whichever parent they think is more likely to \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is respectful, even \_\_\_\_\_, because it is expedient°. He or she is usually buttering up the instructor or boss for some personal advantage.

### ➤ Final Check: Fashion Show

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.

Never again will I let anyone talk me into attending a fashion show. My sister, who lives in New York, loves to go to these shows. The last time I visited her, she (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d me into going with her. "Julie, I have *no* interest in doing this," I protested. But she kept pleading, promising me, "You'll love it. You're lucky I could even get tickets for it—Dominic is one of the most (2) \_\_\_\_\_ designers in the world." I hated to rebuff° her, so finally I (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d, and off we went.

When we arrived at Dominic's showroom, I saw dozens of weirdly-dressed men and women flowing in. "I have a(n) (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that this is going to be even more awful than I feared," I said to Julie. "Suppose I go to a movie and meet you later?" But she dragged me in.

When Dominic, handsome in a dark suit, came onstage to introduce the show, I thought maybe it would be OK after all. I liked his elegant European accent and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ manner as he told us that we were about to see the most creative, exciting clothes he had ever designed.

Colored lights flashed and loud music boomed as the models began walking down the runway. I stared in amazement. What they were wearing was as (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as any Halloween costume. One dress was made of tinfoil. Another was made of soup cans that had been flattened and fastened together with tiny chains. A third dress was printed with targets that had holes in the center. I stared at Dominic, who was standing next to the stage. He was surrounded by (7) \_\_\_\_\_s praising the "beauty" and "originality" of the absurd clothes. I whispered to my sister, "This is a joke, right?" She dug her elbow into my side, saying "Hush!" I looked around at the other people in the audience. They maintained a(n) (8) \_\_\_\_\_ silence, as if they were in church.

It didn't get better. I sat in a(n) (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of disbelief, my mouth hanging open. As the lights came up, Julie sighed happily. "Wasn't it *wonderful*?" she said to me. "Julie," I replied, "I have never in my life seen such a(n) (10) \_\_\_\_\_ display of wasted talent and bad taste." "You just don't have enough aesthetic° sense to appreciate Dominic's work," Julie said. Her final reproach° was, "You're just too provincial°."

Maybe she's right. Maybe I'm not sophisticated. I don't think I'm going to lose any sleep over it, though.

<b>Scores</b>	Sentence Check 2 _____%	Final Check _____%
---------------	-------------------------	--------------------

Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.