

CHAPTER
19

accommodate
clairvoyant
contiguous
debilitate
obliterate

officious
preclude
spurn
stealthy
taciturn

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 **accommodate**
(ə-kōm'ə-dāt')
-verb
Accommodate means
- Most mini-vans can **accommodate** seven passengers.
 - The hotel **accommodated** the extra children by putting cots in their parents' room.
- a. to accompany. b. to eliminate. c. to hold.
- 2 **clairvoyant**
(klâr-voi'ənt)
-adjective
Clairvoyant means
- The back pages of many magazines are filled with ads for fortunetellers, palm-readers, psychics, and other supposedly **clairvoyant** people.
 - "If you are really **clairvoyant**," Ben told Madam Olga, "how about coming to the track with me and telling me which horse is going to win each race?"
- a. seeing beyond the senses. b. well educated. c. well traveled.
- 3 **contiguous**
(kən-tīg'yōō-əs)
-adjective
Contiguous means
- Portugal is unusual in that it is **contiguous** to just one other country. It shares a border only with Spain.
 - The shopping center in Dom's town has two **contiguous** supermarkets. No one can figure out why they were built side by side.
- a. contrasting. b. alternating. c. adjoining.
- 4 **debilitate**
(dī-bīl'ī-tāt')
-verb
Debilitate means
- Influenza can seriously **debilitate** elderly patients, so older people should be sure to get a flu shot each year.
 - Six of our star basketball players are graduating this year. That is likely to **debilitate** the team next season.
- a. to improve slightly. b. to weaken. c. to encourage.
- 5 **obliterate**
(ə-blī't'ə-rāt')
-verb
Obliterate means
- At the ancient battlefield, the years had **obliterated** all traces of the bloody conflict. Nothing could be seen but the grass and the wildflowers.
 - The commencement speaker said, "This is a proud day in your lives. I hope that time will never **obliterate** your memories of it."
- a. to preserve. b. to add to. c. to wipe out.
- 6 **officious**
(ə-fīsh'əs)
-adjective
Officious means
- Every dorm seems to have one **officious** person who takes it upon himself or herself to monitor the phones, reorganize the laundry room, and generally make everyone toe the line.
 - Jayson's marriage is under a severe strain because his in-laws are too **officious**. They constantly intrude on him and his wife with suggestions, plans, and unasked-for help.
- a. interfering. b. easily offended. c. boring.

- 7 **preclude**
(prī-klōōd')
-verb
- Preclude means*
- The sudden thunderstorm **precluded** the family picnic.
 - The president of Acme Company told the employees, "Declining sales and a costly lawsuit **preclude** any pay raises this year."
- a. to rule out. b. to include. c. to predict.
- 8 **spurn**
(spûrn)
-verb
- Spurn means*
- After he was **spurned** by the first girl he invited to the prom, Taylor felt too scared to ask anyone else.
 - The employees **spurned** the contract their company offered them and went on strike instead.
- a. to accept. b. to reject. c. to meet.
- 9 **stealthy**
(stēl'thē)
-adjective
- Stealthy means*
- The cat crept up on the bird in a slow, **stealthy** manner, keeping low to the ground and making no sound.
 - All the preparations for my husband's surprise party had to be **stealthy**. I didn't want him to know what was going on, so I kept my activities hidden.
- a. secretive. b. stupid. c. unsteady.
- 10 **taciturn**
(tās'ī-tûrn')
-adjective
- Taciturn means*
- Uncle Maury is a **taciturn** man. At dinner this Thanksgiving, he made only one remark: "Please pass the butter."
 - Joelle listens very sympathetically to other people's troubles, but she's **taciturn** about her own. If she has a problem, you're unlikely to hear about it from her.
- a. opinionated. b. uninformed. c. reluctant to talk.

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 deprive of strength or energy
2. _____ Having the supposed power to see things not perceived by the normal senses
3. _____ Offering unwanted advice; meddlesome
4. _____ To make impossible; prevent
5. _____ Sharing an edge or a boundary
6. _____ To destroy or erase completely
7. _____ To reject or refuse with scorn
8. _____ Habitually nontalkative; uncommunicative
9. _____ Moving or acting in a cautious, deceptive way
10. _____ To provide with something needed; make or have room for

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. accommodate	b. clairvoyant	c. contiguous	d. debilitate	e. obliterate
f. officious	g. preclude	h. spurn	i. stealthy	j. taciturn

- _____ 1. The children's elaborate sand drawing was ___(e)d as the tide came in and a wave washed over it.
- _____ 2. If you are naturally ____, don't become a TV sportscaster. Sports announcers are expected to talk nonstop.
- _____ 3. There was nothing ___ about the bank robbery: the robbers marched in boldly in broad daylight, held everyone at gunpoint, and demanded money.
- _____ 4. My brother ran for city council, but his campaign was ___(e)d by lack of money. In the end, he had to give it up.
- _____ 5. The army base where Dad was stationed was ___ to the grounds of a mental hospital. The soldiers made a lot of jokes about who belonged where.
- _____ 6. "Don't ask me to order your meal," Liz pleaded with her mother at the restaurant. "I'm not ___; I don't know what you'll like or not like."
- _____ 7. In the fairy tale "King Thrushbeard," a proud princess ___s a good king's offer of marriage but later learns to love and admire him.
- _____ 8. Ron's house is specially built to ___ his wheelchair. It has ramps instead of stairs, and extra-wide doors.
- _____ 9. Janet decided to get married in the winter, even though the cold weather would ___ an outdoor reception.
- _____ 10. Grandfather's home health aide is too ____. Not content with just doing her job, she bustles in each day full of self-importance and tries to run his life.

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. My roommate, claiming to be ____, offered to reveal my future by reading my palm. I didn't want to rebuff^o or ___ her, so I agreed, but I thought it was all nonsense.
- _____ 3-4. The largest edifice^o in Deepvale, the high school, was too small to ___ all the flood victims, so some of them were taken to a(n) ___ town for shelter.
- _____ 5-6. A migraine headache can completely ___ the victim. It may cause nausea and can be severe enough to ___ all activity: the sufferer cannot even sit up or keep his or her eyes open.

- _____ 7-8. The chairman of the committee planning a surprise baby shower for our professor promised to make all the arrangements in a(n) _____ way. But since he is not at all _____, we were afraid he would blurt out the secret.
- _____ 9-10. Some _____ soul went around the dorm putting signs in the kitchens and bathrooms: "Do not make a mess." We were annoyed, but instead of taking them down, we decided simply to _____ the word "not."

➤ Final Check: The Gypsies

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.

Few groups in the world today are so little understood as the people called Gypsies. It is significant that even the word "Gypsy" is based on a misunderstanding. "Gypsy" comes from "Egyptian," and Gypsies were once thought to have originated in Egypt. In fact, though, this idea was erroneous^o: the Gypsy people originated in northwest India. It is more proper to call them the Roma, and the language they speak is known as Romany.

Centuries ago, the Roma began wandering westward out of India. They became established in Hungary and in (1) _____ countries, such as Romania, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. Traditionally the Roma (2) _____ (e)d the notion of settling permanently in one place. Traveling in groups by horse-drawn wagons, they meandered^o all across Europe. The men were known as skillful horse-trainers, blacksmiths, musicians, and carvers. Many of the women claimed to be (3) _____ and would tell fortunes for a fee. Then as now, the Roma inspired strong feelings in others. Their affinity^o for free-spirited wandering, their colorful dress, their music and dance, and their unusual language all fascinated outsiders. But other characteristics made non-Roma suspicious of them. The Roma kept to themselves; with outsiders, they were generally (4) _____. Moving constantly, they did not consider themselves citizens of any particular country but were loyal only to their own band. Rumors followed the Roma; people claimed that they were (5) _____ bandits who stole livestock and sometimes children. They were even suspected of witchcraft. In 1721, the German emperor wanted the Roma culture (6) _____ (e)d. Many Roma in Germany were tracked down and killed.

In modern times, the Roma have not fared much better. Many countries have been unwilling to (7) _____ them or even tolerate them. It is estimated that half a million Roma were killed during the Nazi Holocaust. In parts of Europe, Roma children are often taken away for adoption or put in institutions by (8) _____ government agents who disapprove of the Roma culture. Skinheads and neo-Nazis have made the Roma a target of hate crimes. All these losses have (9) _____ (e)d the Roma community.

There are probably eight to ten million Roma in the world today, with perhaps one million in the United States. Most Roma no longer travel but live in settled communities. Their strong family ties and their long history of persecution (10) _____ any real trust of outsiders. Thus even today, they tend to be a people apart.

<i>Scores</i>	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.