

7 nonchalance
(nŏn'shə-lāns')
-noun

- **Nonchalance** is not appropriate behind the wheel of a car. An automobile is not a toy to be played with casually—it is a dangerous machine to be handled with concentration.

— *Nonchalance* means

- Trying to create an impression of **nonchalance** despite his nervousness, Hari strolled to the speaker's stand smiling and whistling a little tune.
- a. uneasiness. b. lack of concern. c. lack of awareness.

8 progeny
(prŏj'ə-nē)
-noun

- In the wonderful children's book *Charlotte's Web*, Charlotte, the spider, dies, but several of her **progeny** stay to befriend Charlotte's beloved Wilbur, the pig.
- Grandfather worked at two jobs in order to provide food and clothing for his many **progeny**.

— *Progeny* means

- a. enemies. b. leaders. c. offspring.

9 stoic
(stŏ'ik)
-adjective

- My dog's reaction to getting his yearly shots is hardly **stoic**. It takes the vet and two assistants to hold him down, and he howls as if he's being torn to pieces.

— *Stoic* means

- "Some patients' **stoic** response to illness or injury is truly amazing," the doctor said. "Come what may, they remain calm and courageous."
- a. emotional. b. showing no distress. c. planned.

10 voracious
(vŏ-rā'shəs)
-adjective

- Beagles are **voracious** eaters—their owners say they will eat anything that's not nailed down—so they tend to become fat unless they get enough exercise.
- Ginny has a **voracious** appetite for news. She gets a morning and an evening newspaper, listens to an "all news, all the time" radio station, and watches the TV newscast every night.

— *Voracious* means

- a. greedy. b. small. c. unconcerned.

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.

- _____ A person who hates or distrusts humankind
- _____ Children; descendants
- _____ Bubbling with high spirits; exhilarated
- _____ Not influenced by emotion; impartial
- _____ Rudely abrupt; curt
- _____ Casual indifference; lack of concern
- _____ Untiring
- _____ Seemingly unaffected by pain or discomfort
- _____ Ravenous; consuming or eager to consume large amounts; insatiable
- _____ Very gloomy or sullen

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. brusque	b. dispassionate	c. effervescent	d. indefatigable	e. misanthrope
f. morose	g. nonchalance	h. progeny	i. stoic	j. voracious

- _____ 1. It's difficult to ask Professor Henderson a question. His typical response is a(n) ____ "What? What kind of question is that?"
- _____ 2. Dad was a(n) ____ walker. He could hike for mile after mile, never seeming to get weary.
- _____ 3. When they feel nervous and ill at ease, many people try to achieve an air of ____ by putting their hands in their pockets and humming.
- _____ 4. The kids were sulky and ____ on the first day of school. They hated to face the fact that summer had ended.
- _____ 5. "I intend to bear this with ____ courage," Eileen vowed as she set forth for the dentist's office. "And also with plenty of Novocain."
- _____ 6. At the end of the day, the second-graders were as ____ as they had been when it began, telling jokes and giggling. Their teacher envied their high spirits.
- _____ 7. The funny book *Cheaper by the Dozen* tells the story of the Gilbreth clan, which consisted of a mother, a father, and twelve red-haired ____.
- _____ 8. Although they are small, most rodents are ____ eaters. Mice, gerbils, and hamsters nibble almost constantly.
- _____ 9. Will Rogers was the exact opposite of a(n) _____. He once said, "I never met a man I didn't like."
- _____ 10. I find this editorial convincing, partly because it is so _____. I like it when a writer reasons with readers, rather than trying to manipulate their feelings.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 175. 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. The English have the reputation of being ____, with ice water in their veins, and ____— dry-eyed in the face of tragedy. But their emotional reaction to the death of Princess Diana cast doubt on that hackneyed^o stereotype.
- _____ 3-4. Simon, who is enthusiastic and ____, was brimming over with excitement as he presented his idea in class. But the professor, a blunt, curt type, gave it a(n) ____ one-word dismissal: "Wrong."

- _____ 5-6. Our _____, gloomy uncle is utterly friendless, but he insists he is not a(n) _____ "I don't hate people," he claims. "I just haven't met any that I like."
- _____ 7-8. Jill is a sensation-seeker who has a(n) _____ appetite for excitement and is _____ in looking for it. She is tireless in her quest for thrilling, risky experiences.
- _____ 9-10. Marian approached parenthood with a certain _____, taking it all lightly. But her husband, who was awed by the thought of having _____, felt very solemn about it.

► Final Check: Do Opposites Attract?

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.

With regard to romance, it is widely believed that "opposites attract," but psychologists tell us that lovers usually resemble each other in many ways. Let us hope the psychologists are right, because it seems likely that a marriage between opposites would be a bumpy road.

If Joe is (1) _____, ready to jog a few miles after sawing a cord of firewood, while Ann needs to lie down and rest for an hour after dusting the piano, how happy can they be together? If Jordan has a(n) (2) _____ appetite while Amy "eats like a bird," imagine a typical meal: he's on his third helping before she has even taken a bite. If Julio is sad and (3) _____ while Assunta is bubbly, bouncy, and (4) _____, how long can it be before one of them starts to get on the other's nerves? What about Jerrold, who takes to his bed with the sniffles while his (5) _____ wife Abbie bravely hobbles off to work on a broken leg? What about (6) _____ Jan, whose attitude toward life is one of casual (7) _____, and his wife Alice, who is intensely committed to every cause from AIDS to humane zoos?

No, the outlook is not bright for these couples. And what of their (8) _____? Children are supposed to "take after" their parents, but that would be a problem for someone whose father is a(n) (9) _____ and whose mother "loves everyone," or for the offspring of a(n) (10) _____, blunt, no-nonsense mother and an easygoing, soft-spoken father.

Opposites may attract, then, but, despite their affinity^o for each other, it might not be sagacious^o for opposites to marry.

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.