

CHAPTER
27

abstract
archaic
engender
erudite
fervor

iconoclast
laudable
painstaking
pompous
renown

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 **abstract**
(ăb'străkt')
-adjective
_ Abstract means
- For a person who has been blind since birth, color is just an **abstract** idea.
 - A couple may believe in the **abstract** idea of "commitment," but they find out what true commitment is only when they face difficult experiences together.
- a. vague. b. absurd. c. temporary.
- 2 **archaic**
(ăr-kă'ik)
-adjective
Archaic means
- Computers are changing so rapidly that a system bought just two years ago is already **archaic**.
 - Marriage vows used to include the bride's promise to obey her husband. Today many couples consider this **archaic** and leave it out of the ceremony.
- a. old-fashioned. b. necessary. c. permanent.
- 3 **engender**
(ĕn-jĕn'dər)
-verb
Engender means
- An introductory music course in college can **engender** a lifelong love of music.
 - Ken's rivalry with his cousin was **engendered** long ago, when they were in the same kindergarten class and competed to see who would learn the alphabet first.
- a. to endanger. b. to complete. c. to begin.
- 4 **erudite**
(ĕr'yə-dīt')
-adjective
Erudite means
- Abby has earned several graduate degrees, although no one else in her family went to college. Her parents are proud of their **erudite** daughter.
 - You don't have to be **erudite** to enjoy action movies—they are designed to entertain you, not make you think.
- a. unskilled. b. learned. c. kindhearted.
- 5 **fervor**
(fūr'vər)
-noun
_ Fervor means
- Before the game, the coach talked to her players with great **fervor**, making them feel excited and determined to win.
 - You can tell that Christy really loves the piano by the **fervor** with which she practices.
- a. fear. b. humor. c. passion.
- 6 **iconoclast**
(i-kŏn'ə-klăst')
-noun
Iconoclast means
- Most politicians glorify the flag, apple pie, and motherhood; but our mayor is an **iconoclast** who says the flag is just a piece of cloth, apple pie is full of saturated fat, and mothers should be replaced by cloning.
 - It's always risky to get Grandma and Jerry in the same room. Grandma is a very traditional Italian Catholic, while Jerry is an **iconoclast** who makes jokes about the pope and questions the teachings of Catholicism.
- a. a conservative. b. a rebel. c. a criminal.

7 **laudable**
(lô'də-bəl)
-adjective

Laudable means

- The work of the Prom Committee was really **laudable**. As people entered the ballroom and saw the magnificent decorations, many burst into applause.
- The congresswoman has demonstrated a **laudable** concern for the voters, who have shown their appreciation by reelecting her twice.
 - a. admirable.
 - b. insufficient.
 - c. undesirable.

8 **painstaking**
(pānz'tā'kīng)
-adjective

Painstaking means

- The **painstaking** effort that went into the century-old patchwork quilt is hard to imagine. There are thousands of tiny patches, each stitched patiently by hand.
- Providing footnotes and a bibliography for a paper is **painstaking** work. Don't leave this to the last minute, but give it careful thought from the beginning.
 - a. painful.
 - b. careful.
 - c. enjoyable.

9 **pompous**
(pŏm'pəs)
-adjective

Pompous means

- The ship's captain was so **pompous** that he would not eat at the same table with his officers. Instead, he sat in solitary splendor at a special table set with the ship's best china.
- "Do you expect me to stand in line with all these people to buy a concert ticket?" the man asked in a **pompous** voice. "Don't you realize who I am and how valuable my time is?"
 - a. self-important.
 - b. modest.
 - c. cruel.

10 **renown**
(rĭ-noun')
-noun

Renown means

- The artist Vincent van Gogh was unknown in his lifetime, but after his death his **renown** grew enormously.
- Throughout our neighborhood, Mrs. Lewis has won **renown** for her fabulous chocolate-chip cookies.
 - a. criticism.
 - b. reality.
 - c. reputation.

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. _____ Having or showing wide knowledge
2. _____ Great warmth or intensity of emotion
3. _____ To cause or produce; bring into existence
4. _____ Worthy of praise
5. _____ Showing much care, effort, and hard work; diligent
6. _____ Having an inflated idea of one's own importance; arrogant
7. _____ Fame
8. _____ Someone who attacks traditional ideas; someone who considers nothing sacred
9. _____ No longer current; out-of-date
10. _____ Theoretical; not applied; not practical

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. abstract	b. archaic	c. engender	d. erudite	e. fervor
f. iconoclast	g. laudable	h. painstaking	i. pompous	j. renown

- _____ 1. My children have been brought up with modern cordless phones. To them, their grandmother's old-fashioned rotary dial telephone looks positively _____.
- _____ 2. We are lucky to have such a(n) _____ speaker with us today. Dr. Volkmer holds three doctoral degrees and has taught at some of the world's greatest universities.
- _____ 3. Year after year, the town pageant was very traditional until its new director—a real _____—decided to wrap the actors in aluminum foil and have them speak their lines in rap style.
- _____ 4. I knew that Ron would feel strongly about our change of plans, but I didn't expect him to respond with such _____—he ranted and raved for half an hour.
- _____ 5. Dan and his brother Barry are very different. Dan is down-to-earth and practical, while Barry loves to discuss _____ concepts like infinity and time.
- _____ 6. Little things can often _____ long-standing hostility. My aunts were on bad terms for years because one of them turned down a dinner invitation from the other.
- _____ 7. The new biography of Emily Dickinson won high praise. "The author's _____ research has revealed many details about the poet that were not previously known," one reviewer wrote.
- _____ 8. After winning a small part in a Broadway show, the actor became so _____ that he wouldn't speak to his old friends. "I don't have time for little people," he said.
- _____ 9. That restaurant enjoys such _____ that it's almost impossible to get a reservation there—the tables are booked months in advance.
- _____ 10. "It's _____ to go out and help clean up the neighborhood streets," Mother told us, "but it would also be praiseworthy for you to clean up your rooms."

NOTE: Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 177. 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. Do you think it is _____ for a parent to give children everything they want? I don't think it's praiseworthy at all; it will just _____ in the children a sense that the world owes them a living.

- _____ 3-4. The lecturer was certainly _____, but despite her vast knowledge, she was hard to follow because her talk was too _____. She just talked about theories and principles without ever giving concrete, specific examples.
- _____ 5-6. Marya gained _____ as a(n) _____ in third grade, when she drew a moustache and an eye patch on Washington's picture in the auditorium. Today she's still known as a rebel and a heretic°.
- _____ 7-8. In the movie, the stiff, formal, _____ young businessman suddenly falls in love, and he sweeps the heroine off her feet with his passionate, eloquent° _____.
- _____ 9-10. Completing the crossword puzzle took hours of _____ work because many of the answers were _____ words—terms so old they weren't in my dictionary.

► Final Check: The Scholar

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.

New students at a university are usually cognizant° of an important fact about the faculty—that these people are scholars. But some students have formed a mistaken notion of scholarship: they think of a scholar as stuffy and (1) _____, as having only impractical, (2) _____ ideas and being out of touch with reality. They dismiss scholarship as (3) _____, something left over from the distant past. The truth is quite different, though.

Scholarship has three aspects, each (4) _____ and admirable. First, there is learning. Scholars are (5) _____: they know all about their own field, and often a great deal else. Second is teaching. Scholars are expected to pass their knowledge along to the next generation. They also hope to convey their own (6) _____ for the subject—to (7) _____ in some of their students a similar passion and commitment. Third, scholars are expected to make a contribution to their subject, to add to the body of knowledge. This involves rigorous°, (8) _____, often lengthy research and writing.

Scholars may win (9) _____ for their knowledge, for inspired teaching, for exemplary° writing, or for all three. Occasionally, such fame is a source of controversy: a scholar whose approach is highly original may become known as a(n) (10) _____ and may set off an intellectual revolution. Look around you—is there such a rebel on your campus?

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.