

CHAPTER  
28

convivial  
equanimity  
lassitude  
listless  
mollify

paradigm  
profusion  
recalcitrant  
resigned  
surmise

### 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 **convivial**  
(kən-vīv'ē-əl)  
-adjective

— *Convivial* means

- Dawn and Freddy's date at the candlelit restaurant was not as romantic as they hoped. They had to shout at each other to be heard over the loud laughter and singing of the **convivial** group at the next table.
- The emcee at my cousin's wedding was too **convivial**. He kissed all the women and dragged couples onto the dance floor instead of letting them sit and talk.
  - a. dull.
  - b. argumentative.
  - c. sociable.

2 **equanimity**  
(ĕ'kwə-nīm'ī-tē)  
-noun

— *Equanimity* means

- We can usually react to misfortune with **equanimity** when it happens to someone else. When it happens to us, we tend to be much more distressed.
- My sister-in-law gave a birthday party for her four-year-old son and ten of his little friends without losing her **equanimity**. However, she spent the next day in bed, weakly sipping tea.
  - a. equality.
  - b. calmness.
  - c. grief.

3 **lassitude**  
(lās'ī-tōōd')  
-noun

— *Lassitude* means

- **Lassitude**, a strange drowsiness or lack of vigor, is one symptom of spring fever.
- It used to be thought that people in southern climates were naturally lazy. In fact, their apparent **lassitude** was caused by a widespread disease, malaria.
  - a. illness.
  - b. tiredness.
  - c. resistance.

4 **listless**  
(līst'līs)  
-adjective

— *Listless* means

- Children who seem **listless** on school mornings, complaining of pains or nausea, may actually have "school phobia." They're not really sick; they're afraid.
- Depression often goes undiagnosed in the elderly because people assume—mistakenly—that being **listless** and weary is just part of being old.
  - a. without energy.
  - b. lonely.
  - c. refusing to obey.

5 **mollify**  
(mōl'ə-fī')  
-verb

— *Mollify* means

- My roommate is furious when anyone disagrees with him. We've learned to **mollify** him by saying, "You're right. We were just tossing ideas around."
- When Ruben forgot to show up for their date, Jillian was enraged. But she was **mollified** when he sent her candy and flowers and begged her to forgive him.
  - a. to mislead.
  - b. to calm down.
  - c. to reject.

6 **paradigm**  
(pār'ə-dīm')  
-noun

— *Paradigm* means

- The Constitution of the United States became a **paradigm** for several emerging democracies, which based their own governments on it.
- The "disease model" of mental disturbance—seeing it as comparable to physical illness—has been a **paradigm** for other conditions, such as addiction.
  - a. a form to follow.
  - b. a puzzle to solve.
  - c. a descendant.

7 **profusion**  
(prə-fyooo'zhən)  
-noun

*Profusion means*

- If you're hungry, get off the highway at the next exit. You'll find a **profusion** of fast-food restaurants there.
- When Tim returned from his summer vacation, he found his yard overgrown with a **profusion** of weeds.
  - a. a great quantity.
  - b. a shortage.
  - c. a probability.

8 **recalcitrant**  
(rī-kāl'sī-trənt)  
-adjective

*Recalcitrant means*

- As other shoppers watched with amusement, a father tried to persuade his child to climb out of the dress rack she was hiding in, while the **recalcitrant** child cried, "No—you climb in."
- A truly **recalcitrant** person would not do well in the army—soldiers must be willing to follow orders.
  - a. disobedient.
  - b. disappointed.
  - c. dishonest.

9 **resigned**  
(rī-zīnd')  
-adjective

*Resigned to means*

- Scott had become **resigned** to being the shortest boy in his class, but over the summer he grew four inches!
- Although Rita has never learned to like spinach, she has become **resigned** to eating it once in a while.
  - a. refusing to believe in.
  - b. consenting to without protest.
  - c. eager about.

10 **surmise**  
(sər-mīz')  
-verb

*Surmise means*

- Archaeologists in the year 2998, digging up the ruins of a twentieth-century baseball stadium, find a hand-lettered banner: KILL THE UMPIRE! They write: "We **surmise** that this place was used for human sacrifices."
- Arriving for dinner on December 25, Uncle Jake looked at the tree with its ornaments, the holly, and the brightly wrapped gifts. "I **surmise**," he said thoughtfully, "that it is Christmas."
  - a. to express surprise.
  - b. to deny.
  - c. to suppose.

### 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of energy; weariness; fatigue
2. \_\_\_\_\_ To soothe the temper of
3. \_\_\_\_\_ An abundance; a rich supply
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Stubbornly refusing to obey
5. \_\_\_\_\_ To infer something; guess
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Unresisting; passively accepting; accepting as inevitable
7. \_\_\_\_\_ An example that serves as a model for others
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The quality of staying calm and even-tempered
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Fond of social pleasures; merry
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Lacking enthusiasm; sluggish

**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. convivial	b. equanimity	c. lassitude	d. listless	e. mollify
f. paradigm	g. profusion	h. recalcitrant	i. resigned	j. surmise

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The professor's \_\_\_ was tested when, during a single class, the slide projector broke, his chair collapsed, and a pregnant student went into labor. But he proceeded calmly and even finished his lecture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. For months after his father's death, Kareem felt \_\_\_: he was uninterested in his usual activities and seemed incapable of exerting any effort.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Each spring the meadow is filled with a(n) \_\_\_ of wildflowers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Johanna's \_\_\_ neighbor gives a party every weekend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Ray has trouble keeping a job because he tends to be \_\_\_. He doesn't understand that a worker has to do what the boss orders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The rebel leader never grew \_\_\_ to being in jail. Every day, all day, he thought about how to escape.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. "I'm handing out a sample research paper," said the instructor. "You can use its footnotes and references as a(n) \_\_\_ for your own."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. There is actually a good reason why we feel so sleepy after Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey contains a chemical that produces \_\_\_ in many people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Hoof 'n' Claw Restaurant advertised a special lobster dinner and then ran out of lobster. The manager tried to \_\_\_ the angry customers by offering them free steaks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. As no one answers the phone at my neighbor's house and the newspapers are piling up on his porch, I \_\_\_ that he is on vacation.

*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. Most people experience \_\_\_ during a heat wave—they have little energy. But for me, cold weather, rather than hot weather, has that effect: I feel \_\_\_ and enervated° when it's freezing out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. To avoid a(n) \_\_\_ of different methods for teaching gifted children, the board of education developed one model program that would serve as a(n) \_\_\_ for all schools statewide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. When his girlfriend broke off their engagement, Jonas reacted with stoic° \_\_\_. "I've seen this coming for months," he said calmly, "and I'm \_\_\_ to it."

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. The \_\_\_\_\_ people in the upstairs apartment do a lot of entertaining, but to \_\_\_\_\_ their neighbors, they try to keep the noise to a minimum.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. Bill keeps getting into trouble in the navy by refusing to obey orders. I \_\_\_\_\_ that he must also have been \_\_\_\_\_ as a child.

### -Final Check: A Case of Depression

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.

Gina is known to her friends as an outgoing, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ person who responds with exuberance<sup>o</sup> to any invitation: "Sounds like fun! Let's go!" So when Gina stopped accompanying the gang to parties, movies, and nights out last year, it seemed strange. "You go," she would tell her friends. "I'm tired. I just don't feel like it."

"She's just a little blue," her friends told one another. "She'll snap out of it." But she didn't. Weeks turned into months, and Gina's (2) \_\_\_\_\_ attitude persisted. She had no appetite, and she told her friends that she couldn't sleep. They were concerned, but Gina didn't appear to have enough energy to worry. She seemed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the idea that she would go through life as a morose<sup>o</sup>, tired loner. Luckily, her friends kept insisting that she see a doctor. To (4) \_\_\_\_\_ them, she agreed. Despite her (5) \_\_\_\_\_ she made an appointment and dragged herself to it. Her doctor quickly confirmed what her friends had (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d: Gina was suffering from serious depression. He suggested that she try an antidepressant medication. At first Gina was (7) \_\_\_\_\_—she stubbornly insisted that she should be able to "tough it out" on her own. Her doctor listened, then said something that made sense to her. "Nobody goes through life in a state of total (8) \_\_\_\_\_," he said. "Ups and downs are perfectly normal. But the kind of depression that you're experiencing is not normal. It's an aberration<sup>o</sup>, and it's not something you can control. It's a sign that something's gone wrong with the chemistry of your brain. The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ I like to use is diabetes: If you were diabetic, it would be erroneous<sup>o</sup> to think you should 'tough it out' without insulin."

There is a(n) (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of antidepressant medications available these days, and it took a few tries to find the one that worked well for Gina. But a few weeks into her treatment, she realized that the dark cloud of depression had lifted. She was once again eagerly looking forward to all life had to offer. Today she continues to take her medication, knowing that it is something her body needs. "I had a disease called depression," she tells anyone who asks. "But it didn't have me."

Scores Sentence Check 2 \_\_\_\_\_ % Final Check \_\_\_\_\_ %

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