



CHAPTER  
30

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| arduous   | eulogy        |
| ascetic   | gratuitous    |
| blithe    | raze          |
| deprecate | tawdry        |
| didactic  | unimpeachable |

### 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 **arduous**  
(är'jōō-əs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ Arduous means

- According to an ancient story, the hero Hercules had to perform twelve **arduous** tasks, including killing a serpent with nine heads.
- By the time she finished the fifth bridesmaid's gown, Martha wished she had not taken on the **arduous** task of making all the dresses for her daughter's wedding.
  - effortless.
  - demanding great effort.
  - useless.

2 **ascetic**  
(ə-sět'ik)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ Ascetic means

- Monks live a very **ascetic** life. Their rooms, for example, have nothing more than plain white walls, a single bed, and one hard-backed chair.
- Many religious people believe in being **ascetic**. They feel that too many luxuries and possessions get in the way of their relationship with God.
  - self-denying.
  - selfish.
  - lazy.

3 **blithe**  
(blīth)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ Blithe means

- In the play *Blithe Spirit*, a lighthearted ghost haunts her former husband.
- The students were in a **blithe** mood after their teacher canceled the midterm exam.
  - bitter.
  - tragic.
  - joyful.

4 **deprecate**  
(dēp'rī-kăt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ Deprecate means

- Many writers **deprecate** television as a harmful influence, describing it as a "vast wasteland" and a "plug-in drug." But people keep watching!
- The Italian chef on television **deprecated** store-bought pasta. "Make your own fresh pasta!" she urged. I started to feel guilty about buying packaged spaghetti but then reminded myself that it always tastes great.
  - to look down on.
  - to appreciate.
  - to describe.

5 **didactic**  
(dī-dāk'tik)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ Didactic means

- Students are sometimes in college for reasons that have little to do with its **didactic** function: they care less about learning than about pleasing their parents, finding a husband or wife, "making contacts," and so on.
- Tests and examinations are not given just to annoy students. They have a **didactic** purpose as part of the learning process.
  - twofold.
  - educational.
  - secret.

6 **eulogy**  
(yōō'lə-jē)  
-noun

\_\_\_ Eulogy means

- In Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, the famous **eulogy** for Caesar begins like this: "Friends, Romans, countrymen: lend me your ears . . ."
- In a touching children's book called *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*, a little boy creates a **eulogy** for his dead cat, listing ten things he loved about the cat.
  - a statement of praise.
  - an attack.
  - a plan.

- 7 **gratuitous**  
(grā-tōō'ī-tās)  
-adjective
- *Gratuitous* means
- In some very good movies, violence is an important part of the story, but many other movies include **gratuitous** violence just to sell tickets.
  - Mark makes a lot of **gratuitous** comments about how much money he has. He wants to be sure that the other students realize he is richer than they are.
- a. showing gratitude.      b. unnecessary.      c. unclear.
- 8 **raze**  
(rāz)  
-verb
- *Raze* means
- More than a dozen homes were **razed** to make way for the new shopping mall.
  - The children spent hours building houses out of popsicle sticks, **razing** them with a toy bulldozer, then building them again.
- a. to build.      b. to repair.      c. to wreck.
- 9 **tawdry**  
(tō'drē)  
-adjective
- *Tawdry* means
- Katia has no taste in clothes and always chooses something **tawdry**. Her gold prom dress was trimmed with red and purple feathers and covered with silver spangles.
  - The restaurant looked **tawdry**: the pink velvet curtains were grimy; the deep-shag white rug was stained; the crystal chandelier—actually plastic—was covered with dust.
- a. old-fashioned.      b. sleazy.      c. elegant.
- 10 **unimpeachable**  
(ūn'īm-pē'chə-bəl)  
-adjective
- *Unimpeachable* means
- Janos said, "My mother's parenting has been **unimpeachable**. You can tell she was an excellent parent simply by the fact that I have turned out perfect."
  - "I expect your conduct on the playing field to be **unimpeachable**," the coach told the team. "Your every action should bring credit and honor to the school."
- a. without fault.      b. difficult to judge.      c. inadequate.

### 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Cheerful and lighthearted
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Difficult to do; strenuous
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Designed to teach
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Uncalled for; without any good reason
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Practicing self-denial; austere
6. \_\_\_\_\_ To tear down completely; demolish
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Tastelessly showy; cheap and gaudy; vulgar
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A spoken or written tribute, especially to someone who has died
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Blameless; beyond reproach; beyond criticism
10. \_\_\_\_\_ To express disapproval of

**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. arduous | b. ascetic    | c. blithe | d. deprecate | e. didactic      |
| f. eulogy  | g. gratuitous | h. raze   | i. tawdry    | j. unimpeachable |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Although the older children were upset about moving, their four-year-old sister was her usual \_\_\_\_\_ self. She said, "This will be fun!"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Student teachers take some classes in specific subjects, such as math, and some in \_\_\_\_\_ methods, such as "Teaching the Elementary-School Child."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Readers are beginning to object to the newspaper's \_\_\_\_\_ use of photographs of bloody crime scenes. Several times a week, the paper unnecessarily splashes some gruesome photo across the front page.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Before the invention of the modern printing press, publishing books was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ task—it required copying every word by hand.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The work of the Widget Department has been \_\_\_\_\_. In the latest shipment of 633,521 widgets, there was not a single defect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. At the music teacher's funeral, one student spoke the \_\_\_\_\_, and then several others offered a musical tribute, singing some of her favorite choruses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. For his wedding, Bert wore a powder-blue tuxedo with fake leopard lapels. "It may be \_\_\_\_\_," he said, "but it's more fun than quiet good taste."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A big crowd gathered to watch the demolition crew \_\_\_\_\_ the old department store. It was strange to see the huge building crumble like a house of cards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Martins have adopted a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle in order to remember the many people in the world who are hungry. They often have only a little rice and some beans for dinner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Dr. Krankheit \_\_\_\_\_s prescribing antibiotics for every case of the sniffles. "Let nature take its course," he says.

*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. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ the town council's decision to \_\_\_\_\_ the old theater—sometimes old buildings must come down. But I wish we could preserve more landmarks from our past.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. A lecturer may make "asides"—comments that seem to be off the main point. Don't assume that these are \_\_\_\_\_ and can be ignored: they may have a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ purpose.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. Eleanor's brother delivered an eloquent° \_\_\_\_\_ at her funeral. He said she had been a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, and her joyfulness would always remain with her family and friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. "Your performance on this \_\_\_\_\_ assignment has been \_\_\_\_\_," the instructor told the research group. "You achieved perfection on a formidable° task."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. Cognizant° of her own affinity° for \_\_\_\_\_, cheap-looking furnishings, Lorna hired a decorator for her new apartment. But his taste was so \_\_\_\_\_ that she now thinks the place looks stark and bare.

➤ **Final Check: Saint Francis of Assisi**

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.

Saints are generally thought of as, well, saintly. It's easy to surmise° that anyone who became a saint must have been born that way. But this is not true of the man who became known as Saint Francis of Assisi.

Francis was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy, in the year 1182. A convivial°, fun-loving young man, he was known as the life of the party. He neglected his studies, enjoyed practical jokes, and ran around with a fast crowd. Serving as a soldier at the age of twenty, he was captured and held as a prisoner of war. After he was released, he was seriously ill for many months. When he recovered, Francis had changed. He (1) \_\_\_\_\_ *deprecate* \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d his former frivolous° life and renounced° its meaningless, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ *gratuitous* \_\_\_\_\_ pleasures. He began to be more concerned about doing good, and so he decided to rebuild an old church that had been (3) \_\_\_\_\_ *raze* \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d. When Francis's father learned of this, he objected. In turn, Francis gave up any claim to his father's wealth. He sold his property, even gave away his shoes, and began the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ *ascetic* \_\_\_\_\_ life of a barefoot monk. He wandered through Italy, caring for the poor. He spoke with all he met, telling them that money and possessions were (5) \_\_\_\_\_ *tawdry* \_\_\_\_\_, and extolling° the blessings of the spirit. Throughout his travels, he impressed people with his joyous spirit. His (6) \_\_\_\_\_ *blithe* \_\_\_\_\_ personality attracted many followers, and eventually he founded the Franciscan order of monks and the Poor Clares, an order of nuns. Francis preached to thousands in his lifetime, teaching them to love and care for the poor, but while his talks were (7) \_\_\_\_\_ *didactic* \_\_\_\_\_, they were never dull. He was a natural teacher, preaching even to the birds, whom he called "my little sisters," and reminding them always to praise God. According to legend, Francis was so kind to animals that wild rabbits ran to him for protection.

Francis's faith in God was so strong that he once undertook a(n) (8) \_\_\_\_\_ *arduous* \_\_\_\_\_ forty-day fast on a mountain, where he prayed and meditated. Such acts made him widely known as a man of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ *unimpeachable* \_\_\_\_\_ goodness, simplicity, and love. He died at the age of 45 and was declared a saint by the Catholic Church two years later. After Francis's death the artist Giotto painted a famous picture of the joyful saint preaching to the birds—a tribute more fitting than any spoken (10) \_\_\_\_\_ *eulogy* \_\_\_\_\_ for the modest man who called himself "little brother Francis."

|        |                          |                     |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Scores | Sentence Check 2 _____ % | Final Check _____ % |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------|

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