



appall
cognizant
commiserate
expedient
hindrance

kindle
lavish
ludicrous
negligent
scrutinize

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 **appall**
(ə-pôl')
-verb

— *Appall* means

- At the end of World War II, the facts that emerged about the concentration camps and death camps **appalled** the whole world.
- “When the facts about this awful crime are disclosed,” said the lawyer, will **appall** you and show clearly that the defendant is a monster.”

a. to appeal to. b. to shock. c. to bore.

2 **cognizant**
(kög'nī-zənt)
-adjective

Cognizant means

- After a picnic in the woods, Shawn found a tick on his ankle and then developed a rash. **Cognizant** of the risk of Lyme disease, he saw his doctor right away.
- Many Americans have diabetes without being **cognizant** of their condition.

a. confused by. b. conscious of. c. careless about.

3 **commiserate**
(kə-mīz'ə-rāt')
-verb

Commiserate means

- Mom was disappointed with the widows' support group. The members wanted to **commiserate** with each other, but she wanted to learn about possible steps to take, not just get sympathy.
- When my dog died, my roommate tried to **commiserate** with me, but he didn't really understand how I was feeling.

a. to express sorrow. b. to draw a comparison. c. to complain.

4 **expedient**
(ik-spē'dē-ənt)
-adjective

— *Expedient* means

- Marty's interest in Elaine seems entirely **expedient**; he knows she has money and he wants someone wealthy who will support him.
- In order to sell his old car for the highest possible price, Jim did the **expedient** thing: he slapped a new coat of paint on it and didn't mention that it had new brakes and an exhaust system.

a. unbelievable. b. admirable. c. self-interested.

5 **hindrance**
(hīn'drəns)
-noun

Hindrance means

- The biggest **hindrance** to peace in the Middle East may be the act of terrorism committed by both sides.
- Some people seem perfectly willing to lie if the truth would be a **hindrance** to getting what they want.

a. a cause. b. an effect. c. a barrier.

6 **kindle**
(kīn'dl)
-verb

Kindle means

- Before Tyrone joined the navy, Kate had thought of him as “just a friend.” After his warm, affectionate letters began to **kindle** her love for him.
- The senator's lifelong devotion to politics was **kindled** early, when she was elected president of her high-school senior class.

a. to stop. b. to inspire. c. to change.

- 7 **lavish**
(lāv'ish)
-adjective
- Lavish* means
- The **lavish** new offices looked very impressive, but behind all that splendor, the company was going broke.
 - Avery celebrated his promotion by taking his friends out for a **lavish** dinner. "The best of everything!" he told the waiter, "and it's all on me."
- a. overly luxurious. b. subtle. c. amusing.
- 8 **ludicrous**
(lōō'dī-krəs)
-adjective
- Ludicrous* means
- Struggling in the wind and rain with my umbrella, which had turned inside out, while my dog tugged wildly at his leash and my bag of groceries burst and spilled, I must have been a **ludicrous** sight.
 - "Diet Tips from Space Aliens"; "Five-Year-Old Gives Birth to Basketball Team"; "Florida Floating Out to Sea"—no idea seems too **ludicrous** to be reported in the supermarket tabloids.
- a. horrifying. b. ridiculous. c. inspiring.
- 9 **negligent**
(nĕg'li-jənt)
-adjective
- Negligent* means
- While Hester may be a **negligent** housekeeper—her apartment is dusty and untidy—she makes up for it by being a loving, conscientious mother.
 - It's not surprising that Rich flunked out of college. His attitude toward studying has always been **negligent**.
- a. anxious. b. amusing. c. careless.
- 10 **scrutinize**
(skrōōt'n-īz')
-verb
- Scrutinize* means
- The detectives **scrutinized** the crime scene for fingerprints and other clues.
 - Before handing in his report, Dan was told to **scrutinize** it for misspellings and other errors.
- a. to inspect. b. to describe. c. to add to.

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. _____ An obstacle; impediment
2. _____ Aware
3. _____ Self-serving; convenient
4. _____ Extravagant
5. _____ Careless
6. _____ To examine
7. _____ To stir up; arouse
8. _____ To horrify; dismay
9. _____ Laughable
10. _____ To sympathize; express compassion

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. appall	b. cognizant	c. commiserate	d. expedient	e. hindrance
f. kindle	g. lavish	h. ludicrous	i. negligent	j. scrutinize

- _____ 1. Jenna's parents were ___ of her problems at school, but they did not know the cause until a psychologist diagnosed a learning disability.
- _____ 2. It's OK not to have a car in the city, where public transportation is available, but the lack of a car is a real ___ to getting around in the country.
- _____ 3. We exclaimed with delight over our ___ hotel room, with its thick red brocade curtains, and gorgeous furniture.
- _____ 4. The amount of food that's wasted in the school cafeteria ___(s) me—surely there must be some way to share all that extra food with people who need it.
- _____ 5. Julie is ___ about nutrition. She eats mostly junk food, when she bothers to eat at all.
- _____ 6. "Laugh and the world laughs with you; cry and you cry alone" is an old saying. It means that others would rather share your happiness than ___ with you over your sorrows.
- _____ 7. Handwriting experts ___ letters, notes, and signatures to identify the writer.
- _____ 8. We hope that letting our children have a puppy will ___ their sense of responsibility and help them develop respect for animals.
- _____ 9. It was ___ for James to tell his new girlfriend, "I attended a very prestigious college," without mentioning that he'd flunked out.
- _____ 10. In the funny movie *All of Me*, Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin are in a(n) ___ situation—they have to share the same body.

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. Milly gave a(n) ___ birthday party for her dog, complete with an expensive cake, candles, and fancy decorations. The poor animal wore a party hat and a huge satin ribbon and looked ___.
- _____ 3-4. The mayor found it politically ___ to close the school, but then he had to ___ with the teachers and students. Everyone felt that the mayor's expressions of sympathy were phony.
- _____ 5-6. Parents who want to ___ a love of reading in their kids often complain that TV is a serious ___. The kids would rather watch the tube than open a book.

_____ 7-8. "The boss hates ___ work," Rasheed was told on his first day at his new job. "You can expect her to ___ all your letters and memos, looking for careless errors."

_____ 9-10. Explaining her decision to give up smoking, Celia said, "I am ___ of the statistics on smoking and cancer. The facts are unassailable°, and they ___ me."

► **Final Check: Bad Translations**

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.

When a company introduces a product into a new country, it should (1) _____ the promotional materials carefully. Sometimes a company is not (2) _____ of how ads will be read in a foreign language. The results can be (3) _____, making would-be customers writhe° with laughter—or with shock—instead of making them want to buy the product. Here are a few examples.

When Coca-Cola was introduced in China, the company mounted a(n) (4) _____ advertising campaign that featured thousands of billboards with the Chinese phrase *Ke-kou-ke-la*. Unfortunately, the company had been (5) _____ about learning just what *Ke-kou-ke-la* meant in Chinese. It translated into something like "Bite the wax tadpole." That phrase did not exactly (6) _____ anyone's desire to buy Coke.

Maybe soft-drink companies tend to have special problems with Chinese. It certainly would have been (7) _____ for the Pepsi company to test-market its slogan before going into China. The translation of the slogan "Come alive with the Pepsi generation" shocked and (8) _____ (e)d Chinese shoppers. What it said was, "Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead."

But problems arise with other languages, too. The Chevy Nova didn't sell very well in South America. Finally company officials realized that the (9) _____ was the car's name. In Spanish, the phrase *No va* means "It won't go."

When the Pope visited Miami, a fledgling° businessman, perhaps counting on beginner's luck, made thousands of T-shirts that were supposed to say in Spanish, "I saw the Pope." You have to (10) _____ with the poor guy—he got stuck with a copious° supply of unsold shirts. What the Spanish phrase really said was, "I saw the potato."

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____ % Final Check _____ %

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