

CHAPTER
7

clamor
contract
duplicity
equivocal
irresolute

rescind
stagnant
uniform
untenable
vilify

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 **clamor**
(klām'ər)
-noun

Clamor means

- By the time I left the nightclub, I had an awful headache from the **clamor** of the crowd and the music.
- The hungry parakeets set up an excited **clamor** when they saw their owner enter the room.

a. loud noise. b. tense silence. c. whispers.

2 **contract**
(kūn-trākt')

Contract means

- Our company can't seem to decide whether to grow or to **contract**. First it hired a hundred extra workers; then it laid off two hundred.
- The universe is expanding, but scientists do not know whether this will continue forever, or whether eventually it will start to **contract**, becoming more and more dense until it collapses on itself.

a. to become visible. b. to become smaller. c. to become weaker.

3 **duplicity**
(dōō-plīs'ī-tē)
-noun

Duplicity means

- "I can't tolerate **duplicity**," said the professor. "If you didn't get around to writing your paper on time, say so. Don't make up some story about death or illness in your family."
- Dogs seem incapable of **duplicity**. If a dog soils the rug, he will slink around guiltily. He won't try to pretend that the cat did it.

a. repetition. b. exaggeration. c. deceit.

4 **equivocal**
(ī-kwīv'ə-kəl)
-adjective

Equivocal means

- Keith seemed **equivocal** about whether he'd gotten the job or not. First he said it was "a sure thing," but then he added that he had to go back for another interview.
- After her first date with Chris, Karen was **equivocal** about how she felt toward him. She said he was "interesting," which could mean almost anything.

a. vague. b. the same. c. discouraged.

5 **irresolute**
(ī-rēz'ə-lōōt')

Irresolute means

- In *Hamlet*, why doesn't Hamlet kill Claudius sooner? Is it because he is too **irresolute** to act, or because he is prevented from carrying out his purpose?
- Carleton is **irresolute** about marrying Tania. He's sure they are in love, but they seem to have far too many fights.

a. unable to decide. b. lacking self-control. c. unknowing.

6 **rescind**
(rī-sīnd')

Rescind means

- The state can **rescind** the licenses of people arrested for driving while drunk.
- It's very rude to **rescind** your invitation to one date just because you've met someone you'd prefer to invite.

a. to renew. b. to cancel. c. to abuse.

- 7 **stagnant**
(stäg'nənt)
-adjective
- Stagnant* means
- At age forty, Ira is considering a midlife career change. He feels that his present career is **stagnant**: he's going nowhere in his job.
 - The pond was **stagnant**, and algae and weeds were growing so thickly that they covered the still water underneath.
- a. out of control. b. motionless. c. spread thin.
- 8 **uniform**
(yōō'nə-fōrm')
-adjective
- Uniform* means
- To give hand-sewing a professional appearance, it's important to make the stitches **uniform**. Take the trouble to make them all the same size—the result will be worth it.
 - People whose teeth are unevenly spaced and discolored may benefit from a dental technique called bonding, which makes teeth look more **uniform**.
- a. unvarying. b. different. c. insupportable.
- 9 **untenable**
(ŭn-tĕn'ə-bəl)
-adjective
- Untenable* means
- In the exam room, the instructor looked grimly at the math formulas penciled on my shirt cuffs. "Your story that you don't know how they got there is **untenable**," she said. "You can't expect me to believe you!"
 - Jocelyn's theory that the explorers missing at the South Pole had been eaten by polar bears was interesting but **untenable**. Polar bears live at the North Pole.
- a. uninteresting. b. unable to be defended. c. unclear.
- 10 **vilify**
(vĭl'ə-fī)
-verb
- Vilify* means
- Most of Professor Jones's students praise him, but a few **vilify** him. It's strange that he should be so respected by some and so harshly criticized by others.
 - "I don't think it's fair to **vilify** the entire college just because one fraternity has behaved badly," said Liam. "People should aim their dislike at the right target."
- a. to argue with. b. to assault physically. c. to speak evil of.

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. _____ Deliberate deceptiveness; deceit
2. _____ Open to more than one interpretation and often intended to mislead
3. _____ All or always the same; without variety
4. _____ To reduce in size; become compressed
5. _____ A loud outcry; hubbub
6. _____ Unable to be held or defended; insupportable
7. _____ Not moving; not flowing; motionless
8. _____ To make abusive statements about
9. _____ To repeal; take back
10. _____ Uncertain how to think or act; undecided

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. clamor	b. contract	c. duplicity	d. equivocal	e. irresolute
f. rescind	g. stagnant	h. uniform	i. untenable	j. vilify

- _____ 1. ___ about whether to take the subway or catch a bus, I hesitated too long and managed to miss both.
- _____ 2. Lenore insisted that she had paid all the rent she owed, but her claim was _____. She was unable to produce any canceled checks or receipts.
- _____ 3. Bodily movement results when our muscles first ___ and then relax.
- _____ 4. The candidate's voice shook as he showed reporters an ugly cartoon attacking his wife. "___ me if you like—I can take abuse," he said. "But leave my family alone."
- _____ 5. It seems that every courtroom drama includes a scene in which a(n) ___ erupts, with the judge pounding the gavel and shouting "Order in the court!"
- _____ 6. When Ben asked Jenna if she loved him, her ___ response—"Oh, Ben, I love everybody"—left him more confused than ever.
- _____ 7. Angry over a council member's racist statements, a citizens' group decided to ___ its invitation to have him speak at the annual fundraising dinner.
- _____ 8. City supervisors said the repairs to our street would take a month, but they took almost a year. We don't know if this was ___ on the city's part, or an honest miscalculation.
- _____ 9. Sales had been ___ for months, so the company began an aggressive new ad campaign in the hope that merchandise would begin moving again.
- _____ 10. "No longer will each department handle billing its own way," the boss announced. "From now on we will all use the same set of ___ procedures."

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. Eddie paused, ____, outside the professor's office. He wanted to argue about his poor grade, but he hesitated because he was afraid she would consider his reasons _____.
- _____ 3-4. "Don't expect me to ___ the mayor," said the opposing candidate. "He's a decent, honest man. But our city has grown sluggish and ___ during his administration. It's time to move forward again!"

- _____ 5-6. Asked whether the college should expand or _____, the president gave a(n) _____ answer: "Growth is positive, but we may need to draw inward and sharpen our focus."
- _____ 7-8. The American "melting pot" was seen as taking foreign immigrants and blending them so they would coalesce^o into a(n) _____ mixture. This idea is now so unpopular that it often raises a(n) _____ of protest.
- _____ 9-10. The new office manager promised to _____ some pointless rules about using the copier, but he seems to have been guilty of _____. The silly rules are still in place.

➤ Final Check: Memory Aids

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.

If you've ever said "Thirty days hath September . . .," you know how helpful mnemonic devices—memory aids—can be. You can also use them to remember new words.

How can you remember (1) _____? Think of saying something *vile*, and there you are: "to speak *evil* of." For (2) _____, you could think of *st-* as in *standing still*—not moving. And (3) _____ is easier to remember if you think of a *claim*, which is also a demand, though not necessarily a loud one. If you've ever used a duplicating machine—a copier—to make double copies, you'll have no trouble remembering that (4) _____ means double-dealing, or dishonesty. To remember the adjective (5) _____, just think of what people in the Air Force or the Navy wear so that they all look the same.

A prefix—a word part at the beginning of a longer word—can also be a memory aid. Remember that the prefix *ir-* means "not" and *resolve* means "make up your mind," and you won't forget that (6) _____ means "not having made up your mind." To remember (7) _____, think of holding something with your *ten* fingers. Add the prefix *un*, which also means "not," and you have it: "not holdable." The prefix *con-*, meaning "together," will help you recall what (8) _____ means: think of making something smaller by pulling or pushing its parts closer *together*. And one meaning of the prefix *re-* is "back" or "backward," which can remind you of (which means "take your mind *back* to") the fact that (9) _____ means "take back" or repeal.

Sometimes the best way to learn a word is to cut it in half and see what it says. Think of *equal* and *voice* to remember that (10) _____ describes something which can be understood in more than one way—as if *equal voices* were speaking.

Try making up your own mnemonic devices. Even if they sound frivolous^o or ludicrous^o, you'll find that they're a powerful tool and an exemplary^o learning aid.

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.