



accolade assuage cacophony censure diatribe	edifice gravity infraction profane somber
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### 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 **accolade**  
(ăk'ə-lād')  
-noun

\_\_\_\_\_ *accolade* means

  - Many people rushed out to try the new Thai restaurant on Wayne Avenue after it received an **accolade** in a newspaper review.
  - Although it is more than fifty years old, *Citizen Kane* continues to earn **accolades** as one of the best movies ever made.
    - a. an expression of approval.
    - b. an apology.
    - c. a greeting.
  
- 2 **assuage**  
(ə-swāj')  
-verb

\_\_\_\_\_ *assuage* means

  - My brother's apology helped to **assuage** my anger at him.
  - The grief one feels over the loss of a loved one never fully goes away, but time does **assuage** the pain.
    - a. to increase.
    - b. to explain.
    - c. to make less severe.
  
- 3 **cacophony**  
(kə-kōf'ə-nē)  
-noun

\_\_\_\_\_ *cacophony* means

  - I bought my daughter headphones so I would not have to listen to the **cacophony** that she calls music.
  - When we listen to the **cacophony** of orchestra members tuning their instruments, it is hard to believe that they will soon produce a beautiful melody.
    - a. harmony.
    - b. unpleasant noise.
    - c. silence.
  
- 4 **censure**  
(sēn'shər)  
-noun

\_\_\_\_\_ *censure* means

  - When Aaron got his ear pierced, he had to deal not only with his father's **censure**, but also with his grandfather's sarcastic remarks and icy stares.
  - Jodi's parents were strongly opposed to her engagement. Unable to stand up to their **censure**, she broke off with her boyfriend.
    - a. disapproval.
    - b. tolerance.
    - c. neglect.
  
- 5 **diatribe**  
(dī'ə-trīb')  
-noun

\_\_\_\_\_ *diatribe* means

  - A reporter covering a preacher's sermon sat through an hour-long **diatribe** about wickedness. He later wrote, "Mr. Blank spoke on sin. He was against it."
  - The art professor, normally soft-spoken, subjected the class to a loud **diatribe** when he found that someone had spilled Coca-Cola on the slide projector.
    - a. a calm discussion.
    - b. a physical attack.
    - c. a verbal attack.
  
- 6 **edifice**  
(ēd'ə-fīs)  
-noun

\_\_\_\_\_ *edifice* means

  - On the college's hundredth anniversary, a plaque was put up in honor of the architect who had designed its first **edifice**, now the administration building.
  - The company president decided to keep our present offices. "It would be nice to build a fine new **edifice**," she said, "but I'd rather spend the money on higher salaries and a better product."
    - a. a structure.
    - b. an expense.
    - c. a design.

- 7 **gravity**  
(grāv'ī-tē)  
-noun
- "I'm not sure you understand the **gravity** of the crimes you are accused of," the lawyer told his client. "Do you realize you could go to prison for a very long time?"
  - The anxious parents waited in the emergency room to learn the **gravity** of their son's condition.
- Gravity* means      a. grief.                      b. seriousness.                      c. usefulness.
- 8 **infraction**  
(īn-frāk'shən)  
-noun
- The civil-rights leader Jesse Jackson was arrested as a college student for reading a book in a library. This was an **infraction** of the rules—the library was only for whites.
  - Minor traffic **infractions**, such as parking in a no-parking zone, are punished by a fine, but a major violation such as drunk driving can put you in jail.
- Infraction* means      a. an exception.                      b. an explanation.                      c. a violation.
- 9 **profane**  
(prō-fān')  
-adjective
- Karen refuses to use **profane** language. She says "Oh my gosh" instead of "Oh my God."
  - Movies may get an "R" rating because of violence, sexual scenes, or **profane** language.
- Profane* means      a. lacking reverence.                      b. ungrammatical.                      c. hard to understand.
- 10 **somber**  
(sōm'bər)  
-adjective
- When I saw the doctor's **somber** expression, I was afraid she had bad news for me.
  - The dark colors and heavy furniture in the house give it a **somber** look—I think it would hard to laugh or even smile there.
- Somber* means      a. very serious.                      b. cheerful.                      c. restful.

### 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Praise
- \_\_\_\_\_ A building, especially of large, imposing size
- \_\_\_\_\_ A breaking of a law or rule
- \_\_\_\_\_ A bitter, abusively critical speech or piece of writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ To relieve; lessen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Solemn; sad and depressing; melancholy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blame; a rebuke
- \_\_\_\_\_ Severity; weighty importance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Showing disrespect or contempt for sacred things
- \_\_\_\_\_ Harsh, discordant sounds

**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. accolade	b. assuage	c. cacophony	d. censure	e. diatribe
f. edifice	g. gravity	h. infraction	i. profane	j. somber

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. If you use \_\_\_ language around your children, don't be surprised if they repeat it—not only at home but also in public, and at the most embarrassing moment possible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The machinery at the factory is so noisy that all employees must wear earplugs to protect themselves from the \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Judging from the \_\_\_s the new movie has been receiving, it's sure to be nominated for several Academy Awards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Little League team lost the championship game, but the coach \_\_\_(e)d the kids' disappointment by taking them out for banana splits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "Because of the \_\_\_ of the international situation," announced the newscaster, "we will stay on the air with constant news updates throughout the evening."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The doctor received a letter of \_\_\_ from the local medical association for his careless treatment of a sick homeless man.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Jessie's apartment house is an ornate \_\_\_ dating from the nineteenth century.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Students are sent to detention for a variety of \_\_\_s, such as fighting, talking in class, or being disrespectful to a teacher.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. On the day of the queen's funeral, the national radio station played nothing but the most \_\_\_ music.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The nutritionist lectured passionately on the folly of eating red meat. Tired and hungry after her \_\_\_, she went out to dinner at Steak 'n' Rib's.

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 176. 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. The old mansion is a(n) \_\_\_-looking \_\_\_, dark and dismal. It would be a perfect setting for a horror movie.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. Not so long ago, using \_\_\_ language "in the presence of ladies" was an offense of considerable \_\_\_. In some places, swearing in public was even punishable by arrest.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. True, chewing gum is an \_\_\_ of school rules, but hardly anybody thinks such a minor offense is worthy of \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. The rock concert was so heavily miked that the \_\_\_ gave Jade a pounding headache. When she got home, she put on an ice pack to \_\_\_ the throbbing pain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. The senator's hackneyed° speech was one he had given a hundred times. After a(n) \_\_\_ against graft and corruption, he ended with a(n) \_\_\_ to motherhood, the flag, and apple pie.

### ➤ Final Check: The One-Room Schoolhouse

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.

For many years, the one-room rural schoolhouse was part of the American scene. This tiny (1) \_\_\_\_\_ did have only one room, where all the pupils, ranging in age from five or six to their teens, sat together with one teacher—a(n) (2) \_\_\_\_\_ young man or woman newly graduated from a “normal school” (a teacher-training institute) but trying to seem as serious and dignified as possible. School was held mostly in winter, because the pupils were farm children who had to work from spring planting until the harvest was in.

If you could go back in time and enter such a schoolhouse, you would hear a clamor°—a(n) (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of voices as many of the pupils, grouped by grades, “said” their lessons at once. The smallest children would be memorizing the alphabet; the oldest might be reciting some famous speech from the past, perhaps an eloquent° (4) \_\_\_\_\_ delivered in the Roman senate, where speakers used powerful, passionate language to vilify° their opponents. All of the students would be wearing long woolen underwear and writhing° and scratching to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the itching. A wood-burning stove heated the room, more or less. The “big boys” would keep the woodbox filled, or a pupil might have to fetch wood as a punishment for some (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of a rule, such as (7) \_\_\_\_\_ language, although misbehavior of such (8) \_\_\_\_\_ was rare.

These one-room schools held a special place in the hearts of Americans. In fact, at one time in American history, any political speech was sure to draw (9) \_\_\_\_\_ if it did not include a(n) (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in praise of the “little red schoolhouse.”

<i>Scores</i>	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.