

berate  
 estrange  
 euphoric  
 impetuous  
 infallible

maudlin  
 regress  
 relinquish  
 ubiquitous  
 zenith

## 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 **berate**  
 (bĭ-rāt')  
 -verb

— *Berate* means

- Nick's mother often **berates** him. And when she isn't yelling at him, she ignores him.
  - Vanessa can accept reasonable criticism, but she was upset when her boss **berated** her loudly in front of everyone else in the office.
- A. to disappoint.                      B. to neglect.                      C. to scold angrily.

2 **estrange**  
 (ĕ-strānj')  
 -verb

— *Estrange* means

- My cousin's recent moodiness has **estranged** some of his old friends.
  - After his divorce, Gavin didn't want to **estrange** his children, so he called and visited them often.
- A. to frighten.                      B. to drive away.                      C. to dislike.

3 **euphoric**  
 (yōō-fôr'ik)  
 -adjective

— *Euphoric* means

- I was **euphoric** when I received my grades. To my amazement and joy, they were all A's and B's.
  - Nikki is **euphoric** today, and it's easy to see why she's in such high spirits. She's just gotten the lead role in our school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*.
- A. very happy.                      B. boastful.                      C. sentimental.

4 **impetuous**  
 (ĭm-pĕch'ōō-əs)  
 -adjective

— *Impetuous* means

- Whenever I make an **impetuous** purchase, I end up being dissatisfied: the shoes aren't comfortable, the shirt is the wrong color, the jacket costs too much. From now on, I intend to think more carefully before I buy.
  - Children tend to be **impetuous** and often don't think about the consequences of their actions. For instance, they'll throw snowballs at passing cars without worrying about possibly causing an accident.
- A. impulsive.                      B. considerate.                      C. imaginative.

5 **infallible**  
 (ĭn-fāl'ə-bəl)  
 -adjective

— *Infallible* means

- Computers aren't **infallible**. If you put the wrong data into a computer, you'll get wrong answers.
  - A sign over my sister's desk reads, "I'm **infallible**. I never make mistakes."
- A. perfect.                      B. imperfect.                      C. everywhere.

6 **maudlin**  
 (môd'lĭn)  
 -adjective

— *Maudlin* means

- The verses in greeting cards are often far too sentimental. I prefer humor to such **maudlin** messages.
  - The authors of **maudlin** soap operas must feel that they haven't done their job unless viewers are crying by the end of each show.
- A. short.                      B. comical.                      C. overly emotional.

**7 regress**

(rĭ-grĕs')

*-verb*— *Regress* means

- When his baby sister was born, seven-year-old Jeremy **regressed** for a while and began sucking his thumb again.
  - Adolescents under stress sometimes **regress** to childish ways: dependency, temper tantrums, and silliness.
- A. to go backward.      B. to reach a high point.      C. to act hastily.

**8 relinquish**

(rĭ-lĭng'kwĭsh)

*-verb*— *Relinquish* means

- No beer is allowed in the “family area” of the stadium, so fans must **relinquish** their six-packs at the gate before they take their seats.
  - Donna had to **relinquish** her share in the beach house because she couldn't afford it anymore.
- A. to buy.      B. to give up.      C. to enjoy.

**9 ubiquitous**

(yŭ-bĭk'wə-təs)

*-adjective*— *Ubiquitous* means

- Mites are **ubiquitous**. They live on top of Mt. Everest, in the depths of the ocean, at the South Pole, and even around the roots of your hairs.
  - We postponed our plan to drive home on Sunday because a dense fog was **ubiquitous**. It covered the entire town.
- A. scarce.      B. newly discovered.      C. found everywhere.

**10 zenith**

(zĕ'nĭth)

*-noun*— *Zenith* means

- Florence reached the **zenith** of her career when she became president of Ace Products.
  - At age 50, my uncle is afraid that he has already passed the **zenith** of his life; but at age 52, my father thinks the best is yet to come.
- A. an end.      B. an earlier condition.      C. the highest point.

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ To surrender (something); give (something) up
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Done or acting in a hurry, with little thought; impulsive
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Tearfully sentimental; overly emotional
4. \_\_\_\_\_ To criticize or scold harshly
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Existing or seeming to exist everywhere at the same time
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The highest point or condition; peak
7. \_\_\_\_\_ To make unsympathetic or unfriendly; alienate
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Not capable of error or failure; unable to make a mistake
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Overjoyed; having an intense feeling of well-being
10. \_\_\_\_\_ To return to an earlier, generally worse, condition or behavior

**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 provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

A. berate  
F. maudlin

B. estrange  
G. regress

C. euphoric  
H. relinquish

D. impetuous  
I. ubiquitous

E. infallible  
J. zenith

1. People in bombed-out, war-torn cities sometimes \_\_\_ to more primitive ways of life.
2. To many people, Mozart's works represent the \_\_\_ of eighteenth-century music.
3. Mei Lin was \_\_\_ when the college that was her first choice accepted her.
4. When Dad lost his job, he had to \_\_\_ his identification card, his employee parking permit, and the key to his desk.
5. Kay used to be friendly, but since her promotion, she has become so cold that she has \_\_\_(e)d former coworkers.
6. "I don't expect you to be \_\_\_," the boss said, "but I don't want you to make the same mistakes over and over."
7. "I know I was late," Liz said, "but you could have pointed it out quietly. You didn't have to \_\_\_ me."
8. In our neighborhood, litter is \_\_\_—the sidewalks are ankle-deep in trash. We need a cleanup campaign.
9. Uncle Antonio becomes \_\_\_ when he talks about his dear old mother in Italy. Tears also come to the eyes of all who listen.
10. Joyce isn't usually \_\_\_, but last week she had a sudden urge to try out her nephew's skateboard. Everyone in the office has already signed the cast on her broken wrist.

**NOTE:** Now check your answers to these items 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 provided, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

1-2. If people were \_\_\_, we could \_\_\_ our erasers, our correction tape or fluid, and the "delete" key.

3-4. I'm trying to be less \_\_\_, but I still sometimes act on impulse. Later, in retrospect, I always \_\_\_ myself for not using better judgment.

5-6. Since my father died, reminders of him seem \_\_\_. I know I'm being \_\_\_, but everywhere I look, I see something that makes me cry.

7–8. Patrick \_\_\_(e)d his wife when he wasted their money on gambling and ostentatious° clothes. Since their separation, their young daughter has \_\_\_(e)d to infantile behavior.

9–10. Our neighborhood basketball team reached its \_\_\_ when it won the citywide championship. The local businesses that had subsidized° the team were delighted, and the players themselves were \_\_\_.

### Final Check: *My Brother's Mental Illness*

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.

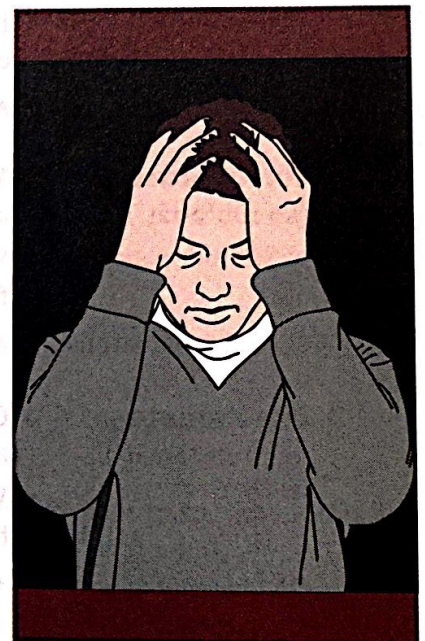
My brother Gary is mentally ill. At first my parents thought it was their fault, but now we know that his illness has much more to do with his body chemistry than with anything they did.

Gary's illness involves extreme mood swings. For weeks, he'll be (1) \_\_\_\_\_, feeling that the world is great and that he's at the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of life. He may even view himself as (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and get angry if anyone even suggests he has made a mistake. Sometimes, too, he becomes a(n) (4) \_\_\_\_\_ shopper, spending thousands of dollars on whatever appeals to him. When we ask him to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the expensive things he's bought so that we can return them, he refuses, saying he wants to "live like a king." At such times, Gary has to go to the hospital.

Gary's "highs," however, are nothing compared with his "lows." At first, he is simply (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He may sit in the living room all evening, talking and crying about his former girlfriends, our dead grandmother, or childhood hurts. Misfortune and horror, he says, are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in his life—there's nowhere he can go to avoid them. Within days, he is very despondent° and so overcome with lethargy° that he can't even get out of bed. Shutting out everyone around him, he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ his family and friends. Then he (9) \_\_\_\_\_(e)s himself for all the faults he feels he has. Finally, he tries to kill himself. Again, he must go to the hospital.

When Gary takes his medicine, he does very well. He is charming, gregarious°, bright, and full of life. But when he feels good, he soon stops taking his medicine and begins to (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Then we know he is headed for another severe mood swing.

I love my brother dearly, but living with him is like being on a roller coaster. For all of our sakes, I wish we could help him more.



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

Enter your scores above and in the **Vocabulary Performance Chart** on the inside back cover of the book.