

charlatan
corroborate
disseminate
diverge
dormant

hoist
illicit
irrevocable
precipitate
proliferation

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 **charlatan**
(shâr'lə-tən)
-noun

— *Charlatan* means

- My grandmother once bought a "magnetic box" from a **charlatan** who assured her that it would cure her arthritis. Of course, the box was worthless.
- In the days of the Wild West, **charlatans** sold "snake oil" as a remedy for everything from baldness to insanity.

A. an investor. B. an expert. C. a con artist.

2 **corroborate**
(kə-rōb'ə-rāt')
-verb

— *Corroborate* means

- You claim you were at a soccer game when the crime was committed. Can anyone **corroborate** your story?
- Sid says he saw a flying saucer in the park, but no one else in the area has come forward to **corroborate** his account.

A. to question. B. to support. C. to understand.

3 **disseminate**
(dīs-sēm'ə-nāt')
-verb

— *Disseminate* means

- Campaign workers went all over the city to **disseminate** pamphlets and flyers about their candidate.
- What would be the best way to **disseminate** information about the next school board meeting? It's important for all parents to attend.

A. to spread. B. to conceal. C. to improve.

4 **diverge**
(dī-vûrj')
-verb

— *Diverge* means

- The brothers' paths **diverged** greatly. One became a famous lawyer, and the other ended up in jail for armed robbery.
- In a well-known poem, Robert Frost uses a branching path as a symbol of life's decisions: "Two roads **diverged** in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by."

A. to separate. B. to unite. C. to disappear.

5 **dormant**
(dôr'mənt)
-adjective

— *Dormant* means

- Many insects lay eggs that remain **dormant** all winter and do not hatch until spring, in the warmer weather.
- A visit to Puerto Rico reawakened Anita's **dormant** interest in Spanish, the language of her childhood.

A. not active. B. irreversible. C. growing.

6 **hoist**
(hoist)
-verb

— *Hoist* means

- Let's go over to the construction site and watch the crane **hoist** the beams into place for the new skyscraper.
- So far, attempts to **hoist** the wreckage of the jetliner from the ocean floor have been unsuccessful.

A. to follow. B. to display. C. to raise.

7 illicit
(il-lis'it)
-adjective

— *Illicit* means

- Years of **illicit** activities resulted in Gene's being sentenced to serve a life term in prison.
 - Ted's business is **illicit**: he drives an unlicensed passenger van along a route that's supposed to be used only by city buses.
- A. fake. B. unlawful. C. unprofitable.

8 irrevocable
(ir-rev'ə-kə-bəl)
-adjective

— *Irrevocable* means

- Layla would like to break off her engagement to Ahmed, but she feels that her promise to marry him is **irrevocable**.
 - Giving a child up for adoption has become a subject of debate. Should the mother be allowed to change her mind, or should her decision be **irrevocable**?
- A. not reversible. B. mistaken. C. not certain.

9 precipitate
(prē-sip'ə-tāt')
-verb

— *Precipitate* means

- Mark's search for a larger house was **precipitated** by his marriage to a woman with four children.
 - The discovery that Elliot had been setting fires **precipitated** his parents' decision to send him to a child psychologist.
- A. to bring on. B. to prevent. C. to permit.

10 proliferation
(prō-lif'ər-ā'shən)
-noun

— *Proliferation* means

- Hana's doctors hope that chemotherapy will halt the **proliferation** of cancer cells in her body.
 - The **proliferation** of dandelions in my yard is too much for me to handle. They're growing faster than I can destroy them.
- A. damage. B. a shortage. C. a rapid increase.

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. _____ Inactive; alive but not actively growing, as if asleep
2. _____ To spread or scatter widely; distribute
3. _____ Not able to be canceled or undone; irreversible
4. _____ A rapid spread or increase
5. _____ To confirm; strengthen with further evidence; provide proof of
6. _____ To cause to happen quickly, suddenly, or sooner than expected
7. _____ To lift, especially with some mechanical means, like a cable
8. _____ A fake; a person who falsely claims to have some special skill or knowledge
9. _____ To branch off in different directions from the same starting point; to become different
10. _____ Illegal

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. charlatan | B. corroborate | C. disseminate | D. diverge | E. dormant |
| F. hoist | G. illicit | H. irrevocable | I. precipitate | J. proliferation |

- _____ 1. Children's lives often ___ from the paths their parents planned for them.
- _____ 2. The "natural healer" was a ____. He knew nothing about healing—natural or otherwise.
- _____ 3. I thought your vow to quit smoking was ____, but you've broken it already.
- _____ 4. When I visited the art museum, my ___ creative instinct awakened. Now I've signed up for a course in sculpture.
- _____ 5. Rafael's growth of four inches over the summer ___(e)d a shopping trip for new clothes.
- _____ 6. In our city, the police department has special units to investigate ___ activities such as gambling and drug use.
- _____ 7. The stone slabs are too heavy for us to move, so we're bringing in a forklift to ___ them onto the walkway.
- _____ 8. The environmental group ___(e)d leaflets about the oil spill, describing the damage and urging people to boycott the oil company.
- _____ 9. I'm afraid I can't ___ Todd's claim that he's never had problems with schoolwork. The fact is that he's failed several courses.
- _____ 10. Sadly, the ___ of homeless dogs and cats has become so great that about seventeen million of them are killed in U.S. animal shelters each year.

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. The map ___s my belief that just before the lake, the highway ___s into two roads, which go off in opposite directions.
- _____ 3-4. Rocky was briefly involved in a gang. Then his ___ conscience woke up, and he realized he really didn't want to engage in ___ activities.
- _____ 5-6. When the movers tried to ___ our piano to a second-floor window, a cable broke, and the piano crashed onto the sidewalk. We know the damage was inadvertent°, but our decision to sue the moving company for negligence is ___.

7–8. Employees were ordered not to ___ any information about the fire at the factory; the news might scare off stockholders and ___ bankruptcy.

9–10. After a retirement community was built in Morristown, there was a ___ of ___s in the area, peddling “miracle” cures for all kinds of ills—some of which were not only useless but actually a detriment° to health.

Final Check: A Get-Rich-Quick Scam

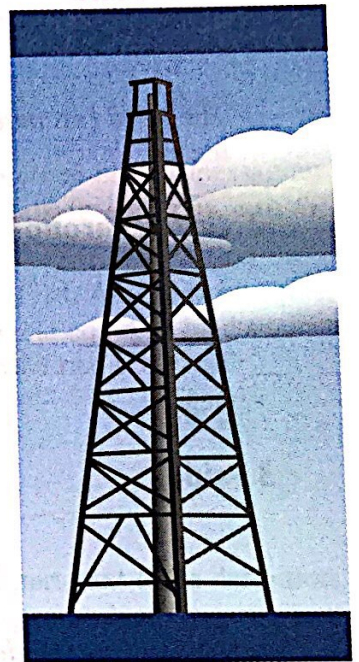
Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

It’s said that “there’s a sucker born every minute.” In retrospect°, after the events of last summer, I think most of them must live in my hometown, Glenville. I, along with nearly everyone else in town, was taken in by a (1) _____—a swindler who made us believe he could help us get rich overnight.

This con artist, whose name was Chester Turner, supposedly came into town to open a real estate office. After buying up lots of cheap land, he hinted to some of the town’s leading citizens that there would soon be an incredible (2) _____ of people wanting to buy land in Glenville. Naturally, those who received this interesting information promptly (3) _____(e)d it throughout town, and soon we were all talking about it. When people questioned Turner about the value of town land, he would hint that there was oil in Glenville by asking, “What if there were energy lying (4) _____ under the ground in the area, just waiting to spurt out?”

An oil find, we all agreed, would (5) _____ a huge increase in land prices. Our suspicions about oil seemed to be (6) _____(e)d by some “oil company executives” overheard talking in the local diner. According to their waitress, they would soon have cranes (7) _____ the oil derricks so they could begin pumping out millions of gallons of the precious liquid. Soon people were pounding on Turner’s door, begging him to sell them land in Glenville.

After Turner left town with our money, we realized that he and his “oil men” had collaborated° to swindle us. We began to hear rumors that all of them had been arrested for carrying out (8) _____ activities in another state. Although we had all been of one mind when Turner was around, our views now (9) _____(e)d. Most of us just kissed our money goodbye, though we berated° ourselves for trusting Turner. Some people, however, clung to the belief that they could somehow get Turner to give their money back. They couldn’t accept the fact that the loss of their money was (10) _____.



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

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