

equivocate  
 fortuitous  
 impeccable  
 liaison  
 predisposed

propensity  
 reprehensible  
 sham  
 solace  
 solicitous

## 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 **equivocate**  
 (ē-kwīv'ə-kāt')  
 -verb

— *Equivocate* means

- Bob can't get his boss to say whether or not he intends to give him a raise. When Bob asks him, he **equivocates**, saying, "You've been doing good work, Bob."
  - Lonnell doesn't want to come right out and tell Tiffany he doesn't love her. If she asks, he **equivocates** by telling her something like "You know how I feel."
- A. to be blunt.                      B. to be unclear.                      C. to deny.

2 **fortuitous**  
 (fôr-tōō'ə-təs)  
 -adjective

— *Fortuitous* means

- The birth of triplets wasn't entirely **fortuitous**. The mother had taken a fertility drug, which often causes multiple births.
  - It was strictly **fortuitous** that Vince found his missing class notes. They happened to drop out of his dictionary when it fell to the floor.
- A. accidental.                      B. predictable.                      C. overdue.

3 **impeccable**  
 (īm-pĕk'ə-bəl)  
 -adjective

— *Impeccable* means

- My aunt always looks stylish but never overdressed. Her taste in clothes is **impeccable**.
  - When she auditioned for the play, Julie gave an **impeccable** performance. She read the lines perfectly and got the part.
- A. flawless.                      B. deceptive.                      C. faulty.

4 **liaison**  
 (lē-ā'zōn')  
 -noun

— *Liaison* means

- The president of the Student Council acts as a **liaison** between the students and the administration.
  - Because she is bilingual, Elena often serves as a **liaison** between the Spanish- and English-speaking personnel in her office.
- A. a follower.                      B. a caregiver.                      C. a link.

5 **predisposed**  
 (prē'dīs-pōzd')  
 -adjective

— *Predisposed* means

- Terry didn't want to move in the first place, so she was **predisposed** to hate the new apartment.
  - As a Brad Pitt fan, I'm **predisposed** to enjoy any movie he stars in.
- A. unlikely.                      B. likely.                      C. pretending.

6 **propensity**  
 (prə-pĕn'sī-tē)  
 -noun

— *Propensity* means

- Because Ivan has a **propensity** to gain weight, he watches what he eats.
  - Cheryl is aware of her **propensity** to blab, so she warns her friends not to tell her anything they wouldn't want repeated.
- A. a coincidence.                      B. an inclination.                      C. a concern.

**7 reprehensible**

(rĕp'ĭ-hĕn'sə-bəl)

*-adjective*— *Reprehensible* means

- The Riordans never discipline their son. No matter how **reprehensible** his behavior is, they just say, "Kids will be kids."
- The company's failure to clean up the oil spill was **reprehensible** and drew harsh criticism.

A. shameful.

B. misleading.

C. uncertain.

**8 sham**

(shām)

*-noun*— *Sham* means

- Karen's apparent affection for Raul is a **sham**. He's rich, and she cares only about his money.
- When the city inspectors came, the restaurant kitchen was sparkling. However, such cleanliness was a **sham**—the place is usually filthy.

A. something false.

B. something confusing.

C. something accidental.

**9 solace**

(səl'is)

*-noun*— *Solace* means

- After a family quarrel, Tamara finds **solace** in the privacy and quiet of her own room.
- Whenever I'm upset and need **solace**, I call my friend Lisa. Talking to her always makes me feel better.

A. excitement.

B. perfection.

C. relief.

**10 solicitous**

(sə-lis'ĭ-təs)

*-adjective*— *Solicitous* means

- The waiter was overly **solicitous**. He kept interrupting our conversation to ask, "Is everything all right here?"
- **Solicitous** toward her elderly neighbor, Marie calls every day to see how he is feeling and if he needs anything.

A. distant.

B. attentive.

C. patient.

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ A natural preference or tendency
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Deserving of blame, criticism, or disapproval
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Happening by chance, by accident, or at random; lucky
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Comfort in sorrow or misfortune; consolation
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A person who serves as a connection between individuals or groups; a go-between
6. \_\_\_\_\_ To be deliberately vague in order to mislead
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Faultless; perfect
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Showing or expressing concern, care, or attention
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tending toward or open to something beforehand
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A pretense or counterfeit; something meant to deceive

**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. equivocate  
F. propensity

B. fortuitous  
G. reprehensible

C. impeccable  
H. sham

D. liaison  
I. solace

E. predisposed  
J. solicitous

1. When my grandmother died, I found \_\_\_\_\_ in the thought that she had lived a long, happy life.
2. Jan writes at least three drafts of every paper so that the final result will be \_\_\_\_\_. She wants each assignment she turns in to be perfect.
3. The boss is in a rotten mood today, so he's not \_\_\_\_\_ to tolerate any mistakes.
4. My brother and I are both grown up, but Mom is still \_\_\_\_\_ about our health. She says, "You'll always be my babies."
5. Many people consider child abuse such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ crime that they think the penalties should be as harsh as possible.
6. The "going-out-of-business" sale was a \_\_\_\_\_. A year later, the store was still open.
7. It's hard to believe that Stacy, with her \_\_\_\_\_ for flashy clothes and nightlife, has become a missionary.
8. Unexpectedly, I ran into a former neighbor who had just started her own business. The \_\_\_\_\_ meeting led to a summer job offer for me.
9. For several months, Olive acted as a \_\_\_\_\_ between her divorced parents, but she finally insisted that they deal with each other directly.
10. The job candidate \_\_\_\_\_(e)d when he said he'd been "working out West." Actually, he'd been a ski bum for three years.

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. When Shirley said she was sick of Len's \_\_\_\_\_ to flirt with other women, he \_\_\_\_\_(e)d by making an ambiguous° statement: "I promise you'll never catch me flirting again."
- 3-4. The woman wasn't permitted to visit her husband, a political prisoner, so it gave her some \_\_\_\_\_ to have a minister act as a \_\_\_\_\_ between them.
- 5-6. Even before I met my father's nurse, I was \_\_\_\_\_ to like her, because I had heard how \_\_\_\_\_ she was toward him.

7–8. It was strictly \_\_\_\_ that no one was killed when the chemical plant exploded. The explosion, however, was no matter of chance, but the result of \_\_\_\_ carelessness on the part of an employee.

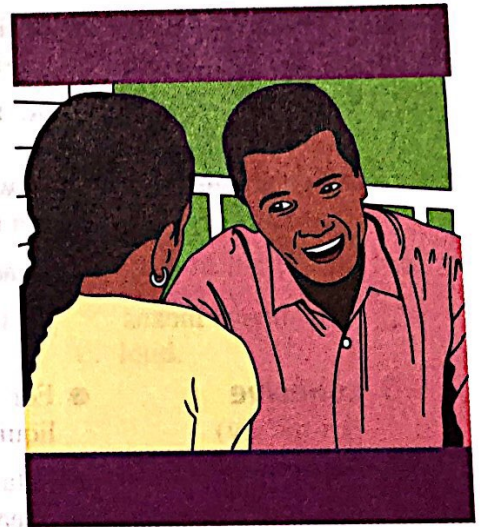
9–10. The artist was in the illicit<sup>o</sup> business of making copies of paintings, then selling them as originals. His work was so \_\_\_\_ that even museum owners didn't realize the paintings were \_\_\_\_s.

## Final Check: A Phony Friend

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 my grandfather, Henry Altman, died, he left me a large sum of money. This was very surprising because he and my father had become estranged<sup>o</sup> years before, after a quarrel, and the old man had never even seen me. I was sad that he had died before we could meet.

Soon after the news of my inheritance, a young man named Seth showed up to offer me his sympathy. Seth said he had been a friend of my grandfather's and that when the old man had become ill, he'd asked Seth to act as a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ between himself and the granddaughter he'd never met. "It's too late for Henry," said Seth, "but I think he'd want me to offer you my friendship. In his later years, he regretted his earlier (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to quarrel with his family."



Believing that Seth had been my grandfather's friend made me (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to like him, and it gave me (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to speak to someone who had known my grandfather. Still, I was puzzled because Seth wasn't able to give me much information. For example, when I asked some questions about Grandfather's second wife, Seth seemed to (5) \_\_\_\_\_, saying, "All I can say is that she was quite a woman." On the other hand, Seth appeared genuinely (6) \_\_\_\_\_ about my welfare, and his manners were (7) \_\_\_\_\_. I had never met anyone so perfectly polite.

I really didn't know what to make of him until, one day, I had a(n) (8) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting with an old school friend I hadn't seen in years. When I described Seth, my friend looked startled and said, "I know that guy. He's a phony, a charlatan<sup>o</sup>—a complete (9) \_\_\_\_\_. He's after the money, and I bet he never even knew your grandfather."

When I checked, my friend's story was corroborated<sup>o</sup> by reports of how Seth had tricked several other women out of their inheritances. The next time he called, I told him I knew about his (10) \_\_\_\_\_ behavior and would notify the police if he ever tried to contact me again.

Scores

Sentence Check 2 \_\_\_\_\_%

Final Check \_\_\_\_\_%

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