

attrition
circumvent
cohesive
grievous
inundate

oblivious
reticent
robust
sanction
vociferous

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 attrition
(ə-trīsh'ən)
-noun

— *Attrition* means

- Sports teams are constantly looking for new talent to replace players lost through **attrition**—those who retire, quit because of injuries, and so on.
 - Colleges try not to have a high rate of **attrition**. They want students to stay until graduation, rather than drop out early.
- A. an increase in numbers. B. a natural loss of individuals. C. ill health.

2 circumvent
(sūr'kəm-vēnt')
-verb

— *Circumvent* means

- If we take this roundabout route, we can **circumvent** the rush-hour traffic and get home early.
 - I had to swerve to the right to **circumvent** a huge pothole.
- A. to avoid. B. to meet head-on. C. to make smaller.

3 cohesive
(kō-hē'sīv)
-adjective

— *Cohesive* means

- For a **cohesive** pie dough, one that doesn't fall apart, be sure to add enough liquid.
 - A family needs to be **cohesive**—to stay together even when stresses and strains threaten to tear it apart.
- A. connected. B. popular. C. large.

4 grievous
(grēv'əs)
-adjective

— *Grievous* means

- The death of a beloved pet is a **grievous** loss for a child.
 - The assassination of a great leader, such as Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr., often does **grievous** harm to a society.
- A. preventable. B. unavoidable. C. terrible.

5 inundate
(īn'ūn-dāt')
-verb

— *Inundate* means

- During the heavy rains, the river overflowed and **inundated** the fields, destroying all the crops.
 - After his brief announcement at the beginning of the press conference, the President was **inundated** with questions from reporters.
- A. to flood. B. to strengthen. C. to go around.

6 oblivious
(ə-blīv'ē-əs)
-adjective

— *Oblivious to* means

- The driver continued into the intersection, apparently **oblivious** to the fact that the light had turned red.
 - It's easy to spot two people in love. They are the ones who, **oblivious** to everyone else present, see only each other.
- A. angry about. B. not noticing. C. overwhelmed by.

7 reticent
(rĕt'ĭ-sənt)
-adjective

— *Reticent* means

- Lamar is very **reticent** about his first marriage; he never talks about his former wife or what led to their divorce.
 - It's odd that many people who love to gossip about someone else are so **reticent** about their own lives.
- A. dishonest. B. quiet. C. unaware.

8 robust
(rō-bŭst')
-adjective

— *Robust* means

- Once an energetic, **robust** man, Mr. Rand has been considerably weakened by illness.
 - A number of weightlifters who were previously **robust** have ruined their health and vigor by taking steroids.
- A. very noisy. B. sickly. C. strong and well.

9 sanction
(sǎngk'shən)
-verb

— *Sanction* means

- By greeting the dictator with extreme courtesy and fanfare, the ambassador seemed to **sanction** his policies.
 - Many people whose children attend religious schools would like the government to **sanction** the use of public funds to help pay for their education.
- A. to grant approval of. B. to criticize severely. C. to remember.

10 vociferous
(vō-sĭf'ər-əs)
-adjective

— *Vociferous* means

- When male loons sense that their territory is being invaded, they give **vociferous** cries of challenge.
 - The principal became angry and **vociferous**, shouting at students who tried to sneak out of the fire drill.
- A. distant. B. mild. C. loud.

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 authorize, allow, or approve
2. _____ To cover, as by flooding; overwhelm with a large number or amount
3. _____ To avoid by going around or as if by going around; to escape from, prevent, or stop through cleverness
4. _____ Quiet or uncommunicative; reluctant to speak out
5. _____ Healthy and strong; vigorous
6. _____ Sticking or holding together; unified
7. _____ Noisy; expressing feelings loudly and intensely
8. _____ A gradual natural decrease in number; becoming fewer in number
9. _____ Causing grief or pain; very serious or severe
10. _____ Unaware; failing to notice

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. attrition
F. oblivious

B. circumvent
G. reticent

C. cohesive
H. robust

D. grievous
I. sanction

E. inundate
J. vociferous

- _____ 1. The chatty, slow-moving clerk at the checkout counter seemed _____ to the fact that the line of impatient customers was growing longer and longer.
- _____ 2. A quiet, polite discussion may be better than a(n) _____ argument, but some people get more satisfaction out of yelling and shouting.
- _____ 3. In many places, the law doesn't _____ gambling—but the officials don't do much to stop it, either.
- _____ 4. A half-hour of aerobic exercise every other day will help you stay _____.
- _____ 5. People sometimes do odd things to _____ regulations. In New York, when saloons were illegal, one owner called his place "O'Neal's Baloon."
- _____ 6. If you want your essay to be _____, stick to your point.
- _____ 7. Alzheimer's disease is a disaster for the patient and a(n) _____ burden for the family.
- _____ 8. Some days we're _____(e)d with junk e-mail—it can take an hour to delete all the unwanted messages.
- _____ 9. The cutting down of the rain forests has caused a dangerous rate of _____ among species that live in those forests.
- _____ 10. Some people who could benefit from counseling avoid seeing a therapist because they prefer to be _____ about private matters.

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. Craig is _____(e)d with bills, but he continues to fritter° away his money. He's _____ to his financial problems.
- _____ 3-4. The company doesn't _____ the policy of laying off workers. It believes that the optimum° way to reduce the staff is by _____: employees who quit or retire simply aren't replaced.
- _____ 5-6. Child abuse is a(n) _____ crime, but children are often _____ about it. Their silence may prevent them from collaborating° with the police or the courts to bring the abusers to justice.

7-8. Although my brother was _____ enough to meet the army's standards for enlisting, his eyesight was too poor. He tried to _____ this problem by memorizing the eye chart.

9-10. The teacher of the "Cooking for Health" class was _____ about avoiding egg yolks. "You don't need yolks for a(n) _____ batter!" he shouted. "The whites will hold it together."

Final Check: *Coco the Gorilla*

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.

Illegal killings of gorillas are reducing their numbers far faster than would be expected from normal (1)_____. Here is the story of one gorilla family.

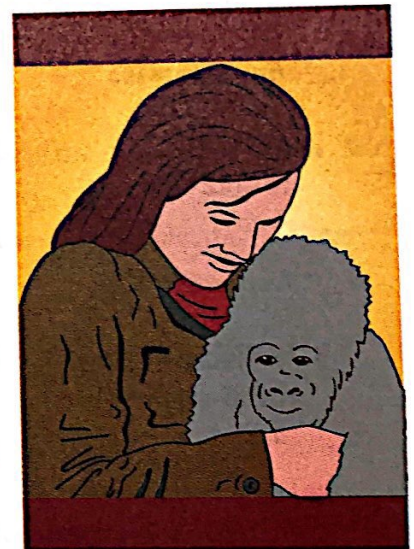
Carrying spears and knives, hunters entered an African game preserve, where it was unlawful to kill or capture wildlife. When they spotted a young male gorilla, they closed in. Ten adult gorillas, members of a(n) (2)_____ family group, attempted to shield the infant. The men quickly killed all the adult gorillas. As if (3)_____ to the infant's screams, the men strapped his hands and feet to bamboo poles with wire, then carried him down the mountain on which he'd been born.

After several weeks, Dian Fossey, an American studying gorillas in the wild, learned that the young gorilla had been taken to park officials. She found him in a cage so small that he had no room to stand or turn.

He was clearly frightened and nearly dead—thirsty, starving, and with infected wounds at his ankles and wrists. Fossey could hardly believe that the officials could (4)_____ such reprehensible° cruelty.

When Fossey demanded an explanation from the park's chief official, he seemed (5)_____ about the animal. Finally, however, he admitted that he had made an illicit° deal with a German zoo. In return for a new car, he had arranged for the gorilla's capture. Fossey was (6)_____ in insisting that the infant be released into her care. The official agreed on the condition that the infant be shipped to the zoo as soon as his health returned.

For several months, Fossey cared for the infant, now named Coco, who would cling to her for solace°. When he became more (7)_____, he began to romp and explore. In an effort to (8)_____ the agreement to send Coco to the zoo, Fossey (9)_____ (e)d government officials with letters, begging them to step in and arrange for him to be returned to the wild. In the end, though, the little gorilla was taken away from her—a(n) (10)_____ hardship for both of them. Gorillas can live into their 50s, but Coco died in the zoo at the age of 12.



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

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