

bolster
depreciate
indiscriminate
inquisitive
nebulous

relegate
replete
sedentary
tenet
terse

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 **bolster**

(bōl'stər)

-verb

— *Bolster* means

- The front porch was sagging, so we had to **bolster** it with cinder blocks until it could be repaired.
 - When Yoko was in the hospital, visits from friends **bolstered** her spirits.
- A. to reach. B. to replace. C. to support.

2 **depreciate**

(dī-prē'shē-āt')

-verb

— *Depreciate* means

- As soon as you drive a new car off the lot, it **depreciates**; it's immediately worth less than you paid for it.
 - The property **depreciated** when the city built a sewage plant nearby.
- A. to become better. B. to become less valuable. C. to become definite.

3 **indiscriminate**

(in'dī-skrīm'ī-nīt)

-adjective

— *Indiscriminate* means

- Some people end up hopelessly in debt because of **indiscriminate** spending, so be selective about what and how much you buy.
- I confess to an **indiscriminate** love of chocolate. I don't distinguish between plain old Hershey bars and fancy imported chocolates—I adore them all.

A. healthy. B. unenthusiastic. C. not selective.

4 **inquisitive**

(in-kwīz'ə-tīv)

-adjective

— *Inquisitive* means

- **Inquisitive** students usually do better than those who are less curious and less eager to learn.
- Small children are naturally **inquisitive**. They wonder about the world around them, and they are constantly asking "Why?"

A. hard-working. B. particular. C. questioning.

5 **nebulous**

(nēb'yə-ləs)

-adjective

— *Nebulous* means

- When I ask Leonard what he wants for his birthday, he never gives me any specific ideas. He just gives a **nebulous** answer like "Oh, something I can use."
- "A good essay cannot be **nebulous**," the English instructor explained. "It must contain sharp, precise details."

A. indefinite. B. long. C. specific.

6 **relegate**

(rēl'ə-gāt')

-verb

— *Relegate* means

- At family gatherings, we kids were always **relegated** to the kitchen table, while the adults ate in the dining room.
- When we have overnight guests, my parents give them my room and **relegate** me to a cot in the attic.

A. to send. B. to punish. C. to reward.

7 replete
(rĭ-plĕt')
-adjective

— *Replete* means

- The show was **replete** with dazzling effects, including gorgeous scenery, glittering costumes, dramatic lighting, and thrilling music.
- The book of household hints got an excellent review. "It's **replete** with good advice," the critic wrote. "Every homeowner should purchase a copy."
 - A. replaced.
 - B. filled.
 - C. followed.

8 sedentary
(sĕd'n-tĕr'ĕ)
-adjective

— *Sedentary* means

- People in **sedentary** occupations, such as bus drivers and writers, need to make a special effort to exercise.
- My older sister's lifestyle is so **sedentary** that the longest walk she ever takes is from her living-room couch to the front seat of her car.
 - A. involving much walking.
 - B. involving stress.
 - C. involving much sitting.

9 tenet
(tĕn'it)
-noun

— *Tenet* means

- One of the basic **tenets** of democracy is freedom of speech.
- This world might be a paradise if everyone lived by such **tenets** as "Never cause suffering."
 - A. a principle.
 - B. a ritual.
 - C. a prediction.

10 terse
(tĕrs)
-adjective

— *Terse* means

- I was hurt by Roberto's **terse** response to my invitation. All he said was "No thanks."
- A British humor magazine once gave this **terse** advice to people about to marry: "Don't."
 - A. dishonest.
 - B. unclear.
 - C. short.

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 fall or decrease in value or price; to lower the value of
2. _____ Not chosen carefully; not based on careful selection
3. _____ Marked by much sitting; requiring or taking little exercise
4. _____ A belief or principle held to be true by an individual or group
5. _____ Brief and clear; effectively concise
6. _____ To hold up, strengthen, or reinforce; support with a rigid object
7. _____ Curious; eager to learn
8. _____ Plentifully supplied; well-filled
9. _____ Vague; unclear
10. _____ To assign to a less important or less satisfying position, place, or condition

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. bolster
F. relegate

B. depreciate
G. replete

C. indiscriminate
H. sedentary

D. inquisitive
I. tenet

E. nebulous
J. terse

1. John considers Arlene rude because her comments are usually ____, but I prefer her brief, clear answers to his long-winded ones.
2. Phan's TV viewing is ____. He just watches whatever happens to be on.
3. When a sofa leg broke, we ____ (e)d that end of the sofa with a pile of books.
4. Houses and antiques often increase in value as they get older, but most other things, like cars, computers, and appliances, tend to ____.
5. A large sign in the boys' treehouse stated their club's main ____: "No Girls or Snakes Allowed!!!"
6. The refrigerator was ____ with all kinds of marvelous foods for the party.
7. The catcher worried that unless he started playing better, he'd be ____ (e)d to the minor leagues.
8. Before this semester, my thoughts about a career were ____, but now I have a much clearer idea of what work I want to do.
9. When we were children, my active sister was always playing tag or jumping rope. I was more ____, preferring to spend hour after hour just sitting and reading.
10. The book *Answers to 1,001 Interesting Questions* sounds like the perfect gift for a(n) ____ person.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 178. 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 my parents bought their new house, they asked the real estate agent whether it was likely to increase in value or _____. The agent gave this _____ answer: "It's always hard to tell about these things."
- 3-4. Dad was a construction worker, but as soon as he reached 60—though he was as robust^o as ever—his company _____ (e)d him to a(n) _____ desk job.
- 5-6. The guides at the Leaning Tower of Pisa are inundated^o with questions from _____ travelers: "Why is it leaning?" "How far is it leaning?" "Is it being _____ (e)d to keep it from falling any further?"

- _____ 7–8. Folk wisdom is ___ with contradictory sayings and ___s. It’s fun to juxtapose° pairs such as “He who hesitates is lost” and “Look before you leap.”
- _____ 9–10. Stan is not exactly a(n) ___ speaker, which is why he’s earned the nickname “Motor Mouth.” What’s more, his conversation is totally ___; he uses no discretion° but just says anything that comes to mind.

Final Check: Our Annual Garage Sale

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 almost September—time for our annual garage sale. Since we hate to relinquish° anything we’ve spent money on, we have a large supply of unwanted items. They keep piling up in the basement, which is now so full that we’ve had to (1) _____ some of the collection to the garage. Though the sale is a lot of work, the sight of all those piles and boxes (2) _____s our determination to go through with it.

This proliferation° of stuff has left us with a huge number of possessions for sale, from tools and spools to baskets and gaskets. This year, for example, we have an old bike that some zealot° for exercise might buy and a soft chair and footstool for a more (3) _____ customer. Our ad states our main (4) _____: “Something for everyone!” Maybe that’s a bit (5) _____, but we don’t want to be specific. We just want to disseminate° the general idea that our sale will be (6) _____ with treasures.

Last year, one customer took a quick look and departed with the (7) _____ comment “Nothing but junk.” However, most people seem to take a completely (8) _____ approach to shopping. They’re predisposed° to spend their money on anything that’s a bargain, even if it isn’t in optimum° condition—such as rusty baking pans and broken lamps. Then there are the (9) _____ shoppers who want us to tell them every detail about every item: How old is it? What did we pay for it? Will it increase in value, or will it (10) _____?

Friends have foolishly asked us where in the world we get all this junk to sell year after year—an inane° question, because the answer is simple. We shop at garage sales.

