

clandestine  
contingency  
egocentric  
exonerate  
incongruous

indigenous  
liability  
prolific  
reinstate  
superfluous

### 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 **clandestine**  
(klän-dēs'tīn)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Clandestine* means

- In a **clandestine** meeting in an alley, Steve sold his employer's valuable anti-aging formula to a competitor.
- The famous "Underground Railroad" was not an actual railroad; it was a **clandestine** network that took escaped slaves to safety in the years before the Civil War.

A. popular.                      B. unnecessary.                      C. secret.

2 **contingency**  
(kən-tīn'jən-sē)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Contingency* means

- Faye thought her company might transfer her to another city. With that **contingency** in mind, she decided to rent a house rather than buy one.
- We believe in providing for every **contingency**. We have a list of emergency phone numbers, a first-aid kit, and a box of candles in case of a power failure.

A. a possibility.                      B. an advantage.                      C. a desire.

3 **egocentric**  
(ē'gō-sēn'trīk)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Egocentric* means

- Denise is completely **egocentric**. Whatever event takes place, she thinks only of how it will affect her personally.
- "We've talked enough about me," said the **egocentric** author to a friend. "Now let's talk about you. What do you think of my new book?"

A. selfish.                      B. considerate.                      C. self-educated.

4 **exonerate**  
(ēg-zōn'ər-āt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ *Exonerate* means

- Saul was suspected of shoplifting, but he was **exonerated** when the hidden camera's photos clearly showed another man taking handfuls of DVDs from a rack and stuffing them into his backpack.
- Politicians accused of illegal activities always seem to say the same thing: that they'll be **exonerated** when all the facts are known.

A. to be harmed.                      B. to be found guilty.                      C. to be found not guilty.

5 **incongruous**  
(īn-kōng'grō-əs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Incongruous* means

- The cuckoo lays eggs in other birds' nests. This practice can result in the **incongruous** sight of one large cuckoo chick among several tiny baby robins.
- It wasn't really **incongruous** for a former general to join the peace movement. He had seen the horrors of war.

A. contradictory.                      B. unnecessary.                      C. not noticeable.

6 **indigenous**  
(īn-dīj'ə-nəs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Indigenous* means

- Kangaroos are **indigenous** only to Australia. They have never been found living anywhere else in the world.
- Corn was not **indigenous** to Europe, so Europeans had never seen or heard of it until their explorers first reached the New World and found it growing there.

A. important.                      B. native.                      C. welcomed.

**7 liability**

(lī'ə-bīl'ə-tē)

*-noun*— *Liability* means

- My shyness with strangers would be a **liability** in any job that involved meeting the public, such as sales.
- When Juanita returned to school at age 40, she was afraid her age would be a **liability**. Instead, she found that it gave her an advantage over younger students.
  - A. an asset.
  - B. a handicap.
  - C. a necessity.

**8 prolific**

(prō-līf'īk)

*-adjective*— *Prolific* means

- Rabbits deserve their reputation for being **prolific**. A female rabbit can produce three families each summer.
- Haydn was a **prolific** composer. He wrote, among many other musical works, 104 symphonies.
  - A. creating abundantly.
  - B. working secretly.
  - C. important.

**9 reinstate**

(rē'in-stāt')

*-verb*— *Reinstate* means

- Michiko left work for a year to stay home with her new baby. When she returned, she was relieved and happy to be **reinstated** in her former job.
- The college had canceled the course in folklore, but the demand was so great that the class had to be **reinstated**.
  - A. to recognize.
  - B. to appreciate.
  - C. to put back.

**10 superfluous**

(sōō-pūr'flōō-əs)

*-adjective*— *Superfluous* means

- In the phrase "rich millionaire," the word *rich* is **superfluous**. All millionaires are rich.
- Lately, business at the store has been so slow that the three clerks have almost nothing to do. Two of them seem **superfluous**.
  - A. unnecessary.
  - B. ordinary.
  - C. required.

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ Something that acts as a disadvantage; a drawback
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Done in secret; kept hidden
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Out of place; having parts that are not in harmony or that are inconsistent
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A possible future event that must be prepared for or guarded against; possibility
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Living, growing, or produced naturally in a particular place; native
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Beyond what is needed, wanted, or useful; extra
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Producing many works, results, or offspring; fertile
8. \_\_\_\_\_ To clear of an accusation or charge; prove innocent
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Self-centered; seeing everything in terms of oneself
10. \_\_\_\_\_ To restore to a previous position or condition; bring back into being or use

**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. clandestine	B. contingency	C. egocentric	D. exonerate	E. incongruous
F. indigenous	G. liability	H. prolific	I. reinstate	J. superfluous

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Agnes is only five feet tall, but her boyfriend is six-foot-four. They make a(n) \_\_\_\_\_-looking couple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sharon and Eli have \_\_\_\_\_(e)d a Jewish family tradition they hadn't observed for years: lighting candles on the Sabbath.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Bad handwriting isn't a serious \_\_\_\_\_ in an age of computers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Gardens in the desert usually feature \_\_\_\_\_ plants, such as cactus. Native plants thrive in dry heat and need little watering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Although our city has never been struck by an earthquake, it has emergency plans for just such a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Two students were blamed for starting the fire in the physics lab, but they were \_\_\_\_\_(e)d when it was found that the cause was faulty electrical equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Flies are amazingly \_\_\_\_\_. Within a five-month breeding period, one female can produce thousands of offspring.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Because a submarine is able to hide under water, it can be very useful in \_\_\_\_\_ operations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. "Your writing is too wordy," the teacher had written on my paper. "Eliminate all those \_\_\_\_\_ words and phrases."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Nancy is so \_\_\_\_\_ that when I told her my car had been stolen, her only reaction was, "Does this mean you can't drive me to work tomorrow?"

**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. People who spend Christmas in Florida often find the decorations \_\_\_\_\_. Santa Clauses, sleighs, reindeer, and fir trees somehow seem \_\_\_\_\_ to the North and look odd juxtaposed<sup>o</sup> with palm trees and tropical flowers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. When a million dollars mysteriously vanished, the company decided to fire its accountant. But he was \_\_\_\_\_(e)d and \_\_\_\_\_(e)d in his position when the cause was discovered to be a computer malfunction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. The \_\_\_\_\_ author has just had her fiftieth novel published. Although she has written numerous books, her writing style remains tight, with no \_\_\_\_\_ words.

7–8. The foreman is so \_\_\_\_\_ that he has become a \_\_\_\_\_ to the company. Concerned only with his own needs, he's oblivious<sup>o</sup> to the needs of the workers.

9–10. The ship's captain seemed to be losing his mental balance. Fearing that he might become completely insane, the crew held a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting to discuss what to do in that \_\_\_\_\_.

## Final Check: My Large Family

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.

For many years I didn't realize that my family was larger than normal. That's because enormous families somehow seemed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to our neighborhood. I don't know what made people on our block so (2) \_\_\_\_\_, but the Harrisons, who lived on one side of us, had nine kids; and the Montoyas, on the other side, had twelve. When Mom said she was going to have her eleventh child, the ten of us wondered if another baby wasn't (3) \_\_\_\_\_: one more than necessary. Still, I think we enjoyed one another as much as any family I know. Naturally, we had our battles, but though they were sometimes intense, they never lasted long, and it didn't take much to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in a brother's or a sister's good graces. If nothing else worked, you could always (5) \_\_\_\_\_ yourself by blaming whatever had happened on another sibling who wasn't home at the moment. Also, we learned to cooperate. When you have to get along with so many different people, you learn not to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_. A self-centered person wouldn't have lasted ten minutes in my home.



Of course, there were times when the size of our family was a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. With all those people around, any kind of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ activity was just about impossible—there was simply no place to hide and no way to keep a secret. Our numbers could be a detriment<sup>o</sup>, as well. Once, a new neighbor, not realizing how many of us there were, offered to take us all for ice cream. With amusement, he watched the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ sight of nine children and one toddler trying to squeeze into an ordinary passenger car. Although he obviously hadn't been prepared for such a (10) \_\_\_\_\_, it didn't squelch<sup>o</sup> his plans. He just grinned and said, "Okay, we'll go in shifts."

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

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