

connoisseur  
conspiracy  
contrite  
distraught  
germane

lucid  
plight  
superficially  
symmetrical  
verbose

## 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 connoisseur**  
(kɒn'ə-sûr')  
-noun

— *Connoisseur* means

- My sister is a **connoisseur** of Southern novels. She's read dozens of them, and she knows all about the authors and their different styles.
- Curtis has broad knowledge of French wines—where they are made, when they are at their best, and exactly how each one tastes. He's a true **connoisseur**.

A. a doubter.                      B. an authority.                      C. a leader.

**2 conspiracy**  
(kən-spīr'ə-sē)  
-noun

— *Conspiracy* means

- The **conspiracy** to overthrow the government was started by two of the premier's own advisors.
- Although only Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the assassination of President Kennedy, many believe there was a **conspiracy** to kill the President.

A. a plot.                      B. an idea.                      C. an announcement.

**3 contrite**  
(kən-trīt')  
-adjective

— *Contrite* means

- Dolores was especially **contrite** about tearing her sister's dress because she'd borrowed it without permission.
- Judges are often more lenient with offenders who truly regret their crimes. A criminal who seems genuinely **contrite** may get a shorter sentence.

A. angry.                      B. confused.                      C. sorry.

**4 distraught**  
(dī-strôt')  
-adjective

— *Distraught* means

- The parents of the little girl who wandered off in the crowded mall were **distraught** until she was found.
- As the snowstorm got worse and worse and his wife still hadn't arrived home from work, Jeff became increasingly **distraught**.

A. upset.                      B. busy.                      C. forgetful.

**5 germane**  
(jər-mān')  
-adjective

— *Germane* means

- Stacy went to the law library to look up information that might be **germane** to her client's case.
- It bothered Christine when her new boss asked if she had a boyfriend. That information certainly wasn't **germane** to her work.

A. damaging.                      B. related.                      C. foreign.

**6 lucid**  
(loo'sīd)  
-adjective

— *Lucid* means

- I usually find computer manuals horribly unclear, but this one is **lucid**.
- The scientist's explanation of global warming was so **lucid** that the entire audience was able to grasp it.

A. easy to understand.                      B. repetitious.                      C. fair to both sides.

**7 plight**

(plīt)

*-noun**Plight means*

- The **plight** of the homeless can be somewhat relieved by decent shelters.
- There were reports of a cave-in at the mine, but it was too soon to know much about the **plight** of the trapped miners.
  - A. a delayed situation.    B. an unlikely situation.    C. an unfortunate situation.

**8 superficially**

(sōō'pər-fīsh'əl-lē)

*-adverb**Superficially means*

- Nina spent a full week studying for the exam. Joyce, however, reviewed **superficially**, flipping through the pages of her textbook an hour before the test.
- This morning, the mechanic was short of time and inspected my car only **superficially**. He said he'd check it thoroughly later and then give me an estimate.
  - A. thoroughly.                      B. slightly.                      C. daily.

**9 symmetrical**

(sī-mēt'rī-kəl)

*-adjective**Symmetrical means*

- The children's sandcastle was **symmetrical**, with a wall on each side and a tower and flag at each end.
- No one's face is perfectly **symmetrical**. For example, one eye is usually slightly higher than the other, and the left and right sides of the mouth differ.
  - A. unique.                              B. beautiful.                      C. balanced.

**10 verbose**

(vər-bōs')

*-adjective**Verbose means*

- The **verbose** senator said, "At this point in time, we have an urgent and important need for more monetary funds to declare unconditional war on drugs and combat this evil and harmful situation." The reporter wrote, "The senator said we urgently need more money to fight drugs."
- Gabe is the most **verbose** person I know. He always uses ten words when one would do.
  - A. loud.                                      B. wordy.                                      C. self-important.

**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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Very troubled; distressed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Using or containing too many words
- \_\_\_\_\_ In an on-the-surface manner; not thoroughly
- \_\_\_\_\_ Having to do with the issue at hand; relevant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly expressed; easily understood
- \_\_\_\_\_ Truly sorry for having done wrong; repentant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Well proportioned; balanced; the same on both sides
- \_\_\_\_\_ An expert in fine art or in matters of taste
- \_\_\_\_\_ A situation marked by difficulty, hardship, or misfortune
- \_\_\_\_\_ A secret plot by two or more people, especially for a harmful or illegal purpose

**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. connoisseur | B. conspiracy | C. contrite      | D. distraught  | E. germane |
| F. lucid       | G. plight     | H. superficially | I. symmetrical | J. verbose |

1. Claire was truly sorry for having started the argument with Sal. To show how \_\_\_\_\_ she felt, she e-mailed him an apology.
2. Everyone is greatly concerned about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hostages. We're not even certain they're still alive.
3. The garden is \_\_\_\_\_, with the same flowers and shrubs, arranged in the same pattern, on each side of a central path.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ of Asian art told me that my Chinese vase is very old, quite rare, and valuable.
5. In writing, it is actually easier to be \_\_\_\_\_ than to make the effort to cut out the unnecessary words.
6. During the Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold, an American officer, was involved in a \_\_\_\_\_ to help the British win.
7. The teacher and the other students became irritated when Susan kept asking questions that weren't \_\_\_\_\_ to the class discussion.
8. My parents had expected my sister home by ten o'clock. By the time she finally walked in at two in the morning, they were very \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Ved's teacher was so pleased with his clear explanation of a difficult theory that she wrote on his paper, "Wonderfully \_\_\_\_\_!"
10. Whenever Miki tries to buy a new dress, her husband is only \_\_\_\_\_ interested. If she shows him one and asks his opinion, all he says is, "It's fine. Let's buy it and get out of here."

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. In the horror movie, the heroine becomes more and more \_\_\_\_\_ as she realizes that her husband and friends are involved in a \_\_\_\_\_ against her.
- 3-4. Ms. Lewis is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Native American crafts. She can identify the tribe of the artist after examining a necklace or piece of pottery only \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5-6. The drunk driver is \_\_\_\_\_ about causing the accident, but his regret won't give Marsha solace<sup>o</sup> or ease her \_\_\_\_\_. She is permanently disabled.

7-8. The professor said, "It seems \_\_\_ to our discussion of the Age of Reason to mention that \_\_\_ architecture was typical. Balance was valued—both in art and in the individual."

9-10. Using too many superfluous° words can make something more difficult to understand. Thus if the essay had not been so \_\_\_, it would have been more \_\_\_.

## Final Check: The Missing Painting

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 wasn't until noon that Daniel Cobb noticed that the painting was missing. He immediately became (1) \_\_\_\_\_. As a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of art, he was well aware of the enormous value of the painting—and this was a grievous° loss. He was so upset that when he phoned the police, he could not think or talk clearly enough to give a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ description of his unfortunate (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, he found himself rambling so much that he was afraid the police would think he was just a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ old fool.

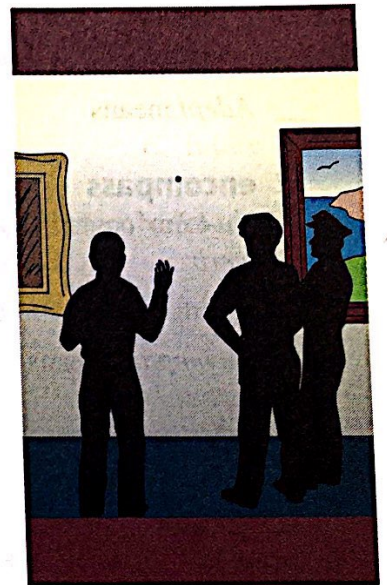
Nevertheless, the police soon arrived at Cobb's home, which was magnificent—a fine old mansion in a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ style, with a row of columns on each side of the front door. Leading the police to the room from which the painting had been taken, Cobb began to explain. "Last night," he said, "my wife and I gave a dinner party for art experts. We showed them our entire collection. I remember that they gave the missing painting special attention. At least, a few of them seemed to look at it more than just (7) \_\_\_\_\_. I can only assume that we are the victims of a (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Our guests must have plotted a clandestine° action: to sneak into the house during the night and take the painting."

As Cobb finished speaking, his wife entered the room, having just returned from town. She was clearly alarmed by the presence of the police. After Cobb quickly reiterated° his story, however, she started to laugh. "Today's Monday," she finally said.

"I hardly see how that's (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to our problem!" her husband responded.

"Remember, we told the Leeworth Art Association it could exhibit the painting today, for its annual show. That's where I've been. I took the painting there early this morning."

Cobb looked embarrassed but relieved that his guests had been exonerated° by his wife's story. "Accept my sincere apology for having bothered you. I am most (10) \_\_\_\_\_," he said to the police officers. "Please stay and have some lunch."



Scores

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

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