

atrophy
deplore
deprivation
exacerbate
imperative

mitigate
objective
panacea
unprecedented
utilitarian

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 atrophy
(ă'trə-fē)
-verb

— *Atrophy* means

- Since unused muscles **atrophy**, an arm or a leg that remains in a cast for some time becomes thinner.
 - "If you watch any more of those mindless television programs," my father said, "your brain will **atrophy**."
- A. to grow. B. to waste away. C. to cause pain.

2 deplore
(dī-plôr')
-verb

— *Deplore* means

- Bernie **deplored** his coworkers' habit of taking home paper clips, Scotch tape, pens, and stationery from the office, a practice he felt was dishonest.
 - Many people **deplore** some of the content on the Internet but feel they must tolerate it, because they disapprove just as strongly of censorship.
- A. to condemn. B. to ignore. C. to make worse.

3 deprivation
(dēp'rə-vā'shən)
-noun

— *Deprivation* means

- Children who spend their early years in institutions where they receive no love may suffer throughout life from the effects of this **deprivation**.
 - Weight-loss programs typically claim that their members experience no sense of **deprivation**. "You'll never be hungry!" they promise.
- A. a deficiency. B. a feeling of disapproval. C. a strong desire.

4 exacerbate
(ĕg-zās'ər-bāt')
-verb

— *Exacerbate* means

- Scratching a mosquito bite only makes it worse: the scraping **exacerbates** the itching and may even cause an infection.
 - Instead of soothing the baby, the sound of the music box seemed only to **exacerbate** his crying.
- A. to find the cause of. B. to relieve. C. to make worse.

5 imperative
(ĩm-pĕr'ə-tív)
-adjective

— *Imperative* means

- It is **imperative** that I renew my driver's license today—it expires at midnight.
 - "It is **imperative** for this letter to reach Mr. Rivera tomorrow," the boss said, "so please send it by Express Mail."
- A. impossible. B. difficult. C. essential.

6 mitigate
(mīt'ə-gāt')
-verb

— *Mitigate* means

- The disabilities resulting from Mr. Dobbs's stroke were **mitigated** by physical therapy, but he still has difficulty using his right arm.
 - Time usually **mitigates** the pain of a lost love. When Richard's girlfriend broke their engagement, he was miserable, but now the hurt is much less.
- A. to relieve. B. to worsen. C. to reveal.

7 objective
(əb-jĕk'tiv)
-adjective

Objective means

- Scientists must strive to be totally **objective** in their observations and experiments, putting aside their personal wishes and expectations.
- All too often, we let our own prejudices prevent us from being **objective** in judging others.

A. personal. B. fair. C. persuasive.

8 panacea
(pān'ə-sē'ə)
-noun

Panacea means

- My aunt considers vitamins a **panacea**. She believes that they can cure everything from chapped lips to heart disease.
- Ravi thinks his troubles would be over if he just had plenty of money. But money isn't a **panacea**; it wouldn't solve all his problems.

A. a belief. B. a basic necessity. C. a complete solution.

9 unprecedented
(ūn-prĕs'ĭ-dĕn'tĭd)
-adjective

Unprecedented means

- When Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama ran against each other for the 2008 Democratic nomination for president of the United States, the situation was **unprecedented**. All the previous major-party nominees for president had been white men.
- The spring concert was "standing room only." This was **unprecedented**, the first time in our school's history that the concert had been sold out.

A. unheard-of. B. unprejudiced. C. controversial.

10 utilitarian
(yū-tĭl'ĭ-tār'ē-ən)
-adjective

Utilitarian means

- One difference between "arts" and "crafts" is that crafts tend to be more **utilitarian**. They are generally created to serve a specific purpose.
- I prefer **utilitarian** gifts, such as pots and pans, to gifts that are meant to be just ornamental or beautiful.

A. unique. B. practical. C. inexpensive.

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.

- _____ To aggravate (a situation or condition); make more severe
- _____ To make less severe or less intense; relieve
- _____ Being the first instance of something; never having occurred before
- _____ Something supposed to cure all diseases, evils, or difficulties; cure-all
- _____ To wear down, lose strength, or become weak, as from disuse, disease, or injury (said of a body part); to wither away
- _____ Lack or shortage of one or more basic necessities
- _____ Necessary; urgent
- _____ Not influenced by emotion or personal prejudice; based only on what can be observed
- _____ Made or intended for practical use; stressing usefulness over beauty or other considerations
- _____ To feel or express disapproval of

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. atrophy | B. deplore | C. deprivation | D. exacerbate | E. imperative |
| F. mitigate | G. objective | H. panacea | I. unprecedented | J. utilitarian |

- _____ 1. When families go camping and decide to spend a whole weekend without video games and TV, some kids think they are experiencing a great ____.
- _____ 2. The last time I had a migraine headache, I tried draping a cold, wet cloth over my eyes to ____ the pain and nausea, but my symptoms only got worse.
- _____ 3. First-aid instructions usually advise against moving an accident victim, because movement can ____ an injury.
- _____ 4. The election of Barack Obama to the presidency was ____ in American history—he was the first African American president.
- _____ 5. No one could ____ drinking and driving more than Lin; her son was killed by a drunk driver.
- _____ 6. Although an Academy Award is not meant to be ____, one winner uses his as a paperweight.
- _____ 7. If you find it difficult to be ____ about your own writing, try asking a classmate to read it and give you an unbiased opinion.
- _____ 8. Our city has many different crime-related problems, but the mayor has only one solution to offer: more police officers on the streets. She believes an enlarged police force is a ____.
- _____ 9. When told that Ms. Thomas was in conference and could not be disturbed, the caller said urgently, “It’s ____ that I speak to her. Her house is on fire.”
- _____ 10. In Burma, some women lengthen their necks by stretching them with copper coils. This practice damages the muscles, causing them to ____: they become thin and weak.

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. “Hands Across America” was a fund-raising effort to help ____ hunger in regions where ____ was widespread.
- _____ 3-4. Many people are so opposed to change that they ____ as potentially harmful just about anything that is new and ____.

5-6. It's hard to know what treatment is optimum^o for a sprained ankle. Walking on the ankle can ___ the injury, but if you don't walk on it for a long time, the muscles will start to ___.

7-8. If you want to be ___, it is ___ that you put aside your emotions and prejudices.

9-10. In deciding which over-the-counter medicine to take, it's important to use a(n) ___ approach. Choose a drug for the specific purpose it serves, and don't rely on any one drug as a ___.

Final Check: Thomas Dooley

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.

In the 1950s, a young American doctor named Thomas Dooley arrived in Laos, in southeast Asia. He was shocked by the ubiquitous^o sickness and poverty he found there. The people lived without plumbing or electricity, and they had no knowledge of health care or even of basic hygiene. For example, one boy with an infected leg had been told not to walk at all, which caused both of his legs to (1) _____. The people's lack of knowledge was (2) _____(e)d by superstitions and by a reliance on well-meaning traditional healers, who sometimes inadvertently^o gave useless or harmful advice. They might, for example, advocate^o pig grease for a burn or treat a fracture by chanting. Dooley (3) _____(e)d the terrible (4) _____



he saw. He felt that it was (5) _____ to help these communities learn about modern medicine—to help them apply (6) _____ scientific knowledge—and equally essential for them to relinquish^o their harmful superstitions. Dooley did not believe that modern medicine would be a (7) _____ for every problem in Laos, nor did he expect to eradicate^o all disease there, but he firmly believed that he could at least (8) _____ the people's suffering.

Dooley's (9) _____ approach to health care, based specifically on practical instruction, was (10) _____: no one before him had tried to teach the communities how to care for themselves. Dooley believed that teaching was an integral^o part of medical care, that it was useless to treat symptoms and allow the causes to continue. So, subsidized^o by local governments, he set up hospitals and taught the rudimentary^o principles of hygiene, nursing, and medical treatment.

Tom Dooley died at a tragically young age, but his work and the tenets^o that guided it benefited countless people.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%