

decorum
 espouse
 exhilaration
 exorbitant
 extricate

facilitate
 orthodox
 rejuvenate
 synchronize
 tenuous

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 **decorum**
 (dī-kô'rəm)
 -noun

— *Decorum* means

- **Decorum** demands that you send a thank-you note for all birthday gifts, even those you don't like or will never use.
 - In her newspaper columns, Miss Manners gives advice on **decorum** in all kinds of situations. For example, she says that at a dinner party, you must be polite even if you find a bug crawling in your salad.
- A. a difficult situation. B. beauty. C. proper conduct.

2 **espouse**
 (ĕ-spouz')
 -verb

— *Espouse* means

- Some politicians **espouse** whatever ideas they think will win them votes.
 - People who **espouse** animals' rights often find themselves in conflict with scientists who argue for the use of animals in medical experiments.
- A. to speak for. B. to argue against. C. to study.

3 **exhilaration**
 (ĕg-zīl'ə-rā'shən)
 -noun

— *Exhilaration* means

- After the last exam of the year, Olivia and I were so filled with **exhilaration** that we skipped all the way to the car.
 - A marching band gives most people a feeling of **exhilaration**. The lively music makes them feel excited.
- A. appropriateness. B. happiness. C. commitment.

4 **exorbitant**
 (ĕg-zôr'bī-tənt)
 -adjective

— *Exorbitant* means

- Even if I were rich, I wouldn't pay three hundred dollars for those shoes. That's an **exorbitant** price.
 - The armed forces often spend **exorbitant** amounts on minor items, including an eight-hundred-dollar ashtray and a toilet seat that cost thousands of dollars.
- A. estimated. B. inconvenient. C. extremely high.

5 **extricate**
 (ĕks'trī-kāt')
 -verb

— *Extricate* means

- The fly struggled and struggled but was unable to **extricate** itself from the spider's web.
 - The young couple ran up so many debts that they finally needed a counselor to help them **extricate** themselves from their financial mess.
- A. to untangle. B. to distinguish. C. to excuse.

6 **facilitate**
 (fə-sīl'ə-tāt')
 -verb

— *Facilitate* means

- Automatic doors in supermarkets **facilitate** the entry and exit of customers with bags or shopping carts.
 - For those with poor eyesight, large print **facilitates** reading.
- A. to decrease. B. to cause. C. to make possible.

7 **orthodox**
(ôr'thə-döks')
-adjective

Orthodox means

8 **rejuvenate**
(ri-jōō'və-nāt')
-verb

Rejuvenate means

9 **synchronize**
(sīng'krə-nīz')
-verb

Synchronize means

10 **tenuous**
(tēn'yōō-əs)
-adjective

Tenuous means

- When Father McKenzie brought drums and electric guitars into church, he shocked the more **orthodox** members of his congregation.
- The **orthodox** footwear for a sprint or distance race is some kind of running shoes, but a champion Ethiopian runner competed in the Olympics barefoot.
 - A. revolutionary.
 - B. traditional.
 - C. important.

- The Fountain of Youth was a legendary spring whose water could **rejuvenate** people.
- The grass had become brown and matted, but a warm spring rain **rejuvenated** it, perking it up and turning it green again.
 - A. to set free.
 - B. to excite.
 - C. to give new life to.

- The secret agents **synchronized** their watches so that they could cross the border at exactly the same minute.
- We need to **synchronize** the clocks in our house: the kitchen clock is ten minutes slower than the alarm clock in the bedroom.
 - A. to coordinate.
 - B. to repair.
 - C. to find.

- It doesn't take much to destroy an already **tenuous** relationship. Something as slight as forgetting to telephone can cause an unstable relationship to collapse.
- Del was opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment, but his position seemed **tenuous**. He couldn't support it with any facts, and his logic was weak.
 - A. shaky.
 - B. easy.
 - C. established.

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. _____ Cheerfulness; high spirits
2. _____ To free from a tangled situation or a difficulty
3. _____ Having little substance or basis; weak; poorly supported
4. _____ Correctness in behavior and manners; standards or conventions of socially acceptable behavior
5. _____ To make (someone) feel or seem young again; to make (something) seem fresh or new again
6. _____ To support, argue for, or adopt (an idea or cause)
7. _____ To cause to occur at exactly the same time; to cause (clocks and watches) to agree in time
8. _____ To make easier to do or to get
9. _____ Following established, traditional rules or beliefs, especially in religion; following what is customary or commonly accepted
10. _____ Excessive, especially in amount, cost, or price; beyond what is reasonable or appropriate

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. decorum
F. facilitate

B. espouse
G. orthodox

C. exhilaration
H. rejuvenate

D. exorbitant
I. synchronize

E. extricate
J. tenuous

1. Ignoring all standards of cafeteria ____, students sat on the tables and threw french fries at each other.

2. Some premature babies are so tiny and weak that their hold on life is very ____.

3. The ads for the anti-wrinkle cream claim that it will ____ aging skin.

4. The new restaurant went out of business because of its ____ prices.

5. The children's ____ at the amusement park was contagious—their parents soon felt excited too.

6. If you're giving a dinner party, preparing some food platters ahead of time will ____ your work when the guests arrive.

7. At age two, Carlos got his head stuck between the bars of an iron railing. His parents had to call the fire department to come and ____ him.

8. During the 1960s and 1970s, there were bitter clashes between those who ____ (e)d the United States' involvement in Vietnam and those who were opposed to it.

9. New members of the water ballet club have trouble coordinating their swimming, but with practice, the group is able to ____ its movements.

10. "The ____ treatment in this kind of case," the doctor said, "is surgery followed by chemotherapy. But some specialists are exploring the possibility of using surgery alone."

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 179. 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. It filled the audience with ____ to see the dexterous° dancers in the chorus line ____ their turns and kicks so perfectly.

- 3-4. In any religion, ____ practices are slow to change. New ones are always in a(n) ____ position at first and require time to become widely accepted.

- 5-6. Although the price may seem ____, an expensive vacation may be worth the money, as it can often ____ one's mind and body.

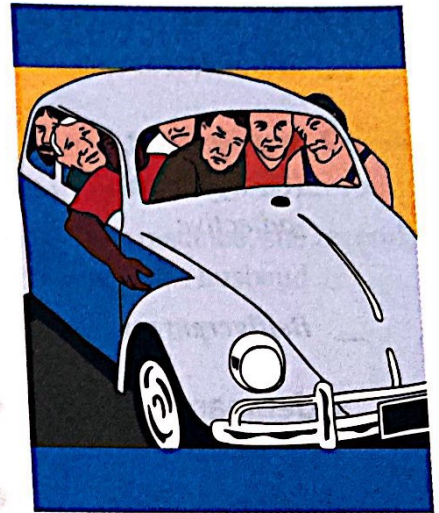
- 7–8. Foreign Service officers must observe strict rules of conduct. If their behavior violates _____, their government may have to _____ itself from a diplomatic mess.
- 9–10. My grandmother _____(e)d garlic as a treatment for chest colds, in the belief that it _____(e)d breathing. Sometimes she made us eat it, and sometimes she rubbed it on our chests. As a result, we were often ostracized^o by our friends, who found the smell of garlic repugnant^o.

Final Check: Twelve Grown Men in a Bug

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.

My college reunions are very traditional occasions, but there is usually very little that's (1) _____ about my husband's.

Take, for example, one of the final events of his reunion last year. It all began when a big, bearded man stood up to address the raucous^o crowd. Over the noise, the man yelled, "You are about to see an amazing sight. The twelve large, robust^o hunks of manhood you see up here, none with a waistline smaller than forty-two inches, are about to squeeze into this Volkswagen Beetle. We're not here to (2) _____ the use of economy cars, and we're not masochists^o trying to torture ourselves. It's just that we all fit into the Beetle twenty years ago, and we aim to do it again today. Unless we occasionally (3) _____ ourselves by letting go of our serious side and doing something inane^o, how can we stay young?"



"Now, I know that some of you have (4) _____ bets in the amount of two whole bucks riding on this," he joked. "We won't fail those who believe in us. And those of you who consider our claim (5) _____, just watch."

Then the big, bearded man turned to the eleven others. "Okay, you heroes," he exhorted^o them, "this is no time for (6) _____. Forget your manners, and do anything you can to (7) _____ this mighty task. Now, let's (8) _____ our start—all together: ready, set, go!"

Shoving, yelling, and cursing, the twelve men tried to squeeze into the car. "If they do get in," I said to my husband, "how will they ever (9) _____ themselves?"

Moments later, however, everyone was cheering vociferously^o. All twelve men were inside the car. After a few seconds, they exploded out of it, wild with (10) _____. Sweaty but triumphant, they jumped up and down and hugged one another.