



CHAPTER 22

assimilate
belligerent
demeanor
denunciation
dissipate

indolent
inherent
nonchalant
unassuming
unilateral

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 assimilate
(ə-sim'ə-lāt')
-verb

___ *Assimilate* means

- To **assimilate** into the culture of a new country, it's essential to learn the language.
 - The United States has often been called a "melting pot"—meaning that people of many cultures have **assimilated**, or blended together, within it.
- A. to be absorbed. B. to spread thin. C. to remain.

2 belligerent
(bə-līj'ə-rənt)
-adjective

___ *Belligerent* means

- When anyone contradicts Bruce, he becomes **belligerent**. He has often started fights with people who disagreed with him.
 - Angie was suspended for her **belligerent** behavior during an argument with one of her teachers. She actually shook her fist at him and threatened to hit him.
- A. overly casual. B. quarrelsome. C. confused.

3 demeanor
(dī-mēn'ər)
-noun

___ *Demeanor* means

- Troy's **demeanor** was quiet and controlled, but inside he was boiling with anger.
 - Proper **demeanor** during a funeral or lecture is obviously quite different from acceptable conduct at a ball game or rock concert.
- A. behavior. B. feelings. C. expectation.

4 denunciation
(dī-nūn'sē-ā'shən)
-noun

___ *Denunciation* means

- In an unusual **denunciation** of parents, the community leader said, "Parents have not been taking enough responsibility for their children."
 - The mayor's public **denunciation** of the police chief angered many officers; local citizens, however, applauded the mayor's public statement of disapproval.
- A. appreciation. B. ignoring. C. criticism.

5 dissipate
(dis'ə-pāt')
-verb

___ *Dissipate* means

- After twenty minutes of meditation, I find that the stresses of my day have **dissipated**, and I'm relaxed enough to enjoy the evening.
 - Teddy hates catching a cold. When anyone is sneezing and coughing in his presence, he opens a window and fans the air to **dissipate** the cold germs.
- A. to blend. B. to scatter. C. to assemble.

6 indolent
(in'də-lənt)
-adjective

___ *Indolent* means

- My **indolent** sister says that the most work she ever wants to do is clicking the remote control to switch TV channels.
 - My uncle has been fired from three jobs for being **indolent**. He shows up on time, but he does very little work and leaves early.
- A. destructive. B. shy. C. unwilling to work.

7 **inherent**
(ĩn-hĩr'ənt)
-adjective

Inherent means

8 **nonchalant**
(nɔ̃n'shə-lɔ̃nt')
-adjective

Nonchalant means

9 **unassuming**
(ʊn'ə-sū'mĩng)
-adjective

Unassuming means

10 **unilateral**
(yūn'ə-lăt'ər-əl)
-adjective

Unilateral means

- An **inherent** danger of life in San Francisco is the possibility of earthquakes.
- Marco believes that kindness is **inherent** in human nature, but I think people are born selfish. Maybe we're both right.
 - A. shrinking.
 - B. humble.
 - C. natural.
- Because the automobile is so commonplace today, many people have become **nonchalant** about traveling by car. In the early twentieth century, however, people saw driving as an exciting and risky adventure.
- My friend was very **nonchalant** about giving her oral report in class, but I was a nervous wreck about giving mine.
 - A. relaxed.
 - B. anxious.
 - C. angry.
- In the business world, you shouldn't be too **unassuming**. If you're overly modest about your skills and achievements, for example, you might not get a promotion you deserve.
- As **unassuming** as ever, Alice accepted the award in a quiet, modest way.
 - A. argumentative.
 - B. lazy.
 - C. humble.
- Many people believe in **unilateral** disarmament; that is, they think their own nation should give up all weapons of war even if no other country will do so.
- Tanya's **unilateral** decisions are hurting her marriage. For instance, she recently bought nonrefundable tickets to Florida without consulting her husband.
 - A. gradual.
 - B. one-sided.
 - C. group.

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. _____ Conduct; outward behavior; manner
2. _____ Lazy; avoiding or disliking work
3. _____ Modest; not boastful or arrogant
4. _____ To thin out or scatter and gradually vanish; drive away
5. _____ Calm, carefree, and casually unconcerned
6. _____ To become more similar to a larger whole; especially, to blend into or adjust to a main culture
7. _____ Involving or done by only one side
8. _____ Existing as a natural or essential quality of a person or thing; built-in
9. _____ Quick or eager to argue or fight; hostile; aggressive
10. _____ A strong expression of disapproval; an act of condemning, especially publicly

Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

A. assimilate
F. indolent

B. belligerent
G. inherent

C. demeanor
H. nonchalant

D. denunciation
I. unassuming

E. dissipate
J. unilateral

- _____ 1. The eye is not necessarily a(n) _____ part of the reading process. Blind people can read Braille—a system of raised dots—with their fingertips.
- _____ 2. Anger builds up if you hold it in. But expressing anger can help it to _____, leaving you much calmer.
- _____ 3. Jerry is a(n) _____ child who frequently pushes and hits other children.
- _____ 4. In a _____ of the union, the company president said that its members were “selfish and narrow-minded.”
- _____ 5. It’s amazing how _____ kids can be about computers; they’ll work at the keyboard as casually as if it were a coloring book.
- _____ 6. Because that boss herself is a workaholic, she thinks that anyone who works less than ten hours a day is _____.
- _____ 7. Airport security guards are trained to observe people’s _____ so that they can notice and respond to any suspicious behavior.
- _____ 8. Even though Marta was the star of the team, she was always _____ and quick to give credit to the whole team for its successes.
- _____ 9. Many Americans who live and work abroad make no attempt to _____ to foreign countries; they continue to eat only American food, speak only English, and see things only from an American perspective.
- _____ 10. Governments are usually reluctant to take _____ action in international disputes. They want other countries to join them in their efforts.

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. Estéban’s _____ is consistently gentle and peaceful. By contrast, his brother Luis usually behaves in a rough and _____ way.
- _____ 3–4. Tension was building between two gangs in the park when suddenly the leader of one gang made a brave _____ gesture: he held out his hand to the other leader. As they shook hands, the strain between the groups began to _____, and a fight was avoided.

5-6. Usha's calm, casual style seems to be a(n) _____ part of her personality. She remains _____ in tense situations that would make most people distraught°.

7-8. My mother, a zealot° for exercise, is loud in her _____ of my _____ ways. "Must you be so sedentary°?" she says. "Don't just sit around all the time like a lump of mashed potatoes!"

9-10. Because Wes is so quiet and _____, he found it difficult to _____ into a company in which people were very aggressive and competitive.

Final Check: Adjusting to a Group Home

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.

As Ken went up the path to the children's home, he dragged his feet, clenched his fists, and made faces. His whole (1) _____ announced, "You can make me come here, but you can't make me like it." Ken was 11, and he had been relegated° to a group home by the court because there seemed to be no other recourse°—his mother was an alcoholic and his father had abandoned him.

Ken reacted with rancor°. His attitude toward the other children was (2) _____; he started fights over the smallest matters. His antipathy° toward the home was equally obvious. When he was asked, "How are you getting on?" he would respond with a terse° (3) _____: "This place stinks." And his attitude toward his schoolwork and his assigned chores was (4) _____; he was so casual about his responsibilities that he was often scolded for being (5) _____.

One day, though, something happened that bolstered° Ken's spirits. A small, quiet boy was being teased by some older kids, while others stood by watching, doing nothing to help. Risking a(n) (6) _____ action, Ken stood up for the child. When the younger boy thanked him, Ken was (7) _____, saying, "It's okay. It was nothing." After that incident, Ken started to (8) _____ more and more into the life of the home. As his anger (9) _____ (e)d, his (10) _____ friendliness began to appear, and he became more gregarious°.

Naturally, Ken did not go through a complete metamorphosis°. He still fought now and then. But he had changed enough to become a happy and popular member of the group home.



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

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