

# CHAPTER 25

disparity  
forestall  
insidious  
insinuate  
interrogate

obsequious  
omnipotent  
opportune  
permeate  
retribution

## 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 **disparity**  
(dī-spār'ə-tē)  
*-noun*

\_\_\_ *Disparity* means

● There's an enormous **disparity** between the multi-million-dollar incomes of top executives and the modest paychecks most people earn.

● Shirley and Jason don't let the **disparity** in their ages weaken their marriage, but Jason's mother isn't happy with a daughter-in-law her own age.

- A. a combination.                      B. a contrast.                      C. a closeness.

2 **forestall**  
(fôr-stôl')  
*-verb*

\_\_\_ *Forestall* means

● The owners of the failing store hoped that the huge sale would bring in enough cash to **forestall** bankruptcy.

● When the environmentalists were unable to **forestall** the destruction of the forest by legal means, they lay down in front of the developer's bulldozers.

- A. to keep from happening.                      B. to predict.                      C. to pay for.

3 **insidious**  
(ĩn-sĩd'ē-əs)  
*-adjective*

\_\_\_ *Insidious* means

● Lyme disease is **insidious** because although it is very serious, it starts with a nearly invisible tick bite, and its early symptoms are mild.

● Many people fear that farm chemicals have **insidious** effects. The chemicals don't seem harmful, but cancer rates have started to increase.

- A. badly timed.                      B. subtly harmful.                      C. all-powerful.

4 **insinuate**  
(ĩn-sĩn'yōō-āt')  
*-verb*

\_\_\_ *Insinuate* means

● He didn't come right out and say it, but Mr. Shriber **insinuated** that someone in the class had gotten hold of the test ahead of time.

● "You always find time to help Sandy with her homework," my sister said to me, as if to **insinuate** that I was flirting with Sandy.

- A. to hint.                      B. to wish.                      C. to state directly.

5 **interrogate**  
(ĩn-tēr'ə-gāt')  
*-verb*

\_\_\_ *Interrogate* means

● Before the police **interrogated** the suspect, they informed him of his right not to answer their questions.

● "You never just ask me if I had a nice time with my date," Tyrell complained to his parents. "Instead, you sit me down at the kitchen table and **interrogate** me."

- A. to ask questions.                      B. to delay.                      C. to abuse.

6 **obsequious**  
(öb-sē'kwē-əs)  
*-adjective*

\_\_\_ *Obsequious* means

● Each of the queen's advisers tried to be more **obsequious** than the others, bowing as low as possible and uttering flowery compliments.

● Marge constantly flatters the boss, calls him "sir," and agrees loudly with everything he says. However, her **obsequious** behavior only annoys him.

- A. unequal in rank.                      B. overly eager to please.                      C. methodical.

**7 omnipotent**  
(ɒm-nɪp'ə-tənt)  
-adjective

— *Omnipotent* means

- Small children think of their parents as **omnipotent**—able to do anything, control everything, and grant whatever a child might wish for.
  - The American government is designed so that no one branch can be **omnipotent**. Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court share power and hold each other in check.
- A. totally good.                      B. willing to serve.                      C. all-powerful.

**8 opportune**  
(ɒp'ər-tōn')

— *Opportune* means

- Althea thought that her parents' anniversary would be an **opportune** time to announce her own engagement. They could have a double celebration.
  - The job offer came at an especially **opportune** time. I had just decided that I might like to work for a year or so before returning to school.
- A. appropriate.                      B. difficult.                      C. early.

**9 permeate**  
(pɪr'mē-āt')

— *Permeate* means

- The strong scent of Kate's perfume soon **permeated** the entire room.
  - The weather was so rainy and damp that moisture seemed to **permeate** everything: curtains hung limply, towels wouldn't dry, and windows were fogged over.
- A. to harm.                      B. to penetrate.                      C. to make unclear.

**10 retribution**  
(rɪ'trə-byō'shən)

— *Retribution* means

- Some "sins" in life have their own built-in **retribution**. For example, if you get drunk, you'll have a hangover; if you overeat, you'll gain weight.
  - For much of human history, before science could explain diseases, many people believed that any illness was a **retribution** for immoral behavior.
- A. an inequality.                      B. an obstacle.                      C. a penalty.

## 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Overly willing to serve, obey, or flatter in order to gain favor
- \_\_\_\_\_ To suggest slyly
- \_\_\_\_\_ Something given or done as repayment, reward, or (usually) punishment
- \_\_\_\_\_ An inequality or difference, as in ages or amounts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Working or spreading harmfully but in a manner hard to notice; more harmful than is evident at first
- \_\_\_\_\_ To flow or spread throughout (something)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable (said of time); well-timed
- \_\_\_\_\_ To prevent or hinder by taking action beforehand
- \_\_\_\_\_ All-powerful; having unlimited power or authority
- \_\_\_\_\_ To question formally and systematically

**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. disparity  | B. forestall  | C. insidious | D. insinuate | E. interrogate |
| F. obsequious | G. omnipotent | H. opportune | I. permeate  | J. retribution |

1. When our dog was sprayed by a skunk, the smell soon \_\_\_(e)d the house.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To \_\_\_ complaints about unrepaired potholes, the township set up a "pothole hotline" and promised to fill in any reported hole within two days.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Because no one else's hand was raised, I considered it a(n) \_\_\_ moment to ask a question.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In many countries, political prisoners who are being \_\_\_(e)d by the secret police are likely to be tortured in an attempt to force answers from them.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When the Earl of Essex plotted against his queen, Elizabeth I of England, \_\_\_ was swift and harsh: she had him beheaded for treason.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. "There seems to be quite a \_\_\_," Shannon objected to the car dealer, "between your cost and the sticker price."  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The effects of certain prescription drugs, such as Valium, can be \_\_\_. People who take them may slip into addiction without being aware of it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. According to legend, King Canute—an ancient ruler of England, Denmark, and Norway—thought he was \_\_\_. He actually ordered the tide to stop rising.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Instead of directly saying "Buy our product," many ads use slick images to \_\_\_ that the product will give the buyer sex appeal, power, or prestige.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The headwaiter's manner toward customers who looked rich was \_\_\_. Ignoring the rest of us, he gave them the restaurant's best tables and hovered over them, all smiles.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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. The wide \_\_\_ between men's and women's pay in the company led to a protest by the women. The management tried to squelch° the protest and \_\_\_(e)d that the women were subversive° and were trying to ruin company morale.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3-4. The noxious° chemical spray used to eradicate° tentworms had \_\_\_ effects: after killing the worms, it gradually seeped down, \_\_\_(e)d the soil, and poisoned Duck Lake.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5–6. The ex-convict was filled with rancor°. As \_\_\_ for his years in prison, he planned to attack, at the first \_\_\_ moment, the judge who had sentenced him.

7–8. The remote control of my DVD player makes me feel \_\_\_. I can \_\_\_ any imminent° disaster—a fire, a flood, an earthquake, a sordid° crime—by pressing a button and stopping the movie dead.

9–10. In a job interview, use discretion°. Don't react as though you're being \_\_\_(e)d by the police; but don't be \_\_\_ either, as if the interviewer were a king or queen and you were a humble servant.

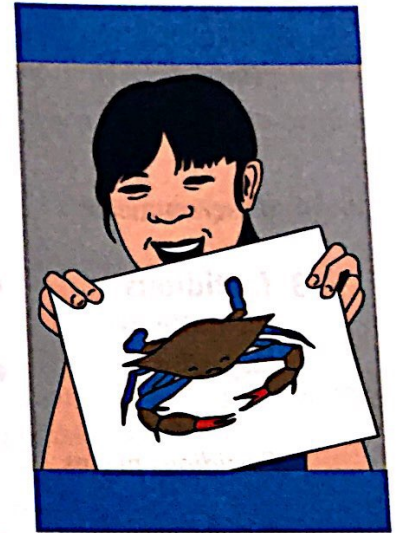
## Final Check: My Devilish Older Sister

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.

Anyone who thinks older sisters protect younger ones has never heard me tell about my sister Pam. There's no great (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in our ages—Pam is only three years older—but throughout our childhood she was always able to beat me at cards, at jacks, at all board games. This seemingly unlimited power to win made me think of her as (2) \_\_\_\_\_. I obeyed all her orders ("Relinquish° that lollipop!") and accepted all her insults ("You're grotesque°!" "You're positively repugnant°!") in the most timid, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ manner. Privately, I longed for revenge.

When Pam made up her mind to tease or trick me, there was nothing I could do to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ her plans. And she never missed a(n) (5) \_\_\_\_\_ moment to terrorize me. When our old dog growled, for no reason, at the empty air, she would (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that evil spirits must have (7) \_\_\_\_\_(e)d the atmosphere, saying, "Dogs, you know, can sense the supernatural." Once I made the mistake of revealing that crabs terrified me. After that, I was inundated° with photos of crabs, drawings of crabs, even labels from cans of crabmeat. In retrospect°, though, her most diabolic° trick was giving me some "chocolate candy" that I impetuously° gobbled up. It turned out to be Ex-Lax. After that, if Pam offered me anything, no matter how innocuous° it looked, I always (8) \_\_\_\_\_(e)d her: "What is it really? Do you still have the wrapping? Will you take a bite first?" But this episode also had a more (9) \_\_\_\_\_ effect: for years, I was afraid of new foods.

Now that we're grown, Pam has greatly improved. She no longer likes to torment me, and she even seems contrite° about the past. However, I still sometimes think up various scenarios° of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in which I am the older sister, and at last I get my revenge.



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

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