

CHAPTER 28

deride
derogatory
fabricate
impending
macabre

misconstrue
paramount
quandary
turbulent
validate

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 deride
(dĭ-rĭd')
-verb

— *Deride* means

- One nightclub comedian **derides** members of the audience, poking fun at their looks, clothing, and mannerisms. He says they know it's just part of the act.
 - Walter went on a diet after several classmates **derided** him by calling him "Lardo" and "Blimpy."
- A. to misunderstand. B. to mock. C. to argue with.

2 derogatory
(dĭ-rŏg'ə-tŏr'ē)
-adjective

— *Derogatory* means

- Lorenzo's **derogatory** remark about his boss—he called her an airhead—caused him to get fired.
 - Charisse makes **derogatory** comments about Deion behind his back, saying that he's vain, sloppy, and lazy. But she never says such things to his face.
- A. uncomplimentary. B. mistaken. C. provable.

3 fabricate
(făb'rĭ-kăt')
-verb

— *Fabricate* means

- Supermarket tabloids often **fabricate** ridiculous stories, such as "Boy Is Born Wearing Green Sneakers."
 - When she handed in her term paper late, Diane **fabricated** a story that her computer had crashed. The truth is that she doesn't even use a computer.
- A. to avoid. B. to prove. C. to invent.

4 impending
(ĭm-pĕnd'ĭng)
-adjective

— *Impending* means

- Gary never studies until an exam is **impending**. If he'd start sooner, he wouldn't have to cram so hard, and he'd get better grades.
 - "Because of the company's **impending** move," the office manager said, "I'm not ordering any supplies until next month, when we'll be in the new office."
- A. approaching. B. apparent. C. important.

5 macabre
(mə-kŏb'rə)
-adjective

— *Macabre* means

- Edgar Allan Poe's story "The Fall of the House of Usher" is a **macabre** tale in which someone is buried alive.
 - The movie opened with a **macabre** scene: a row of bodies lying in drawers in the city morgue.
- A. confusing. B. mocking. C. gruesome.

6 misconstrue
(mĭs'kən-strŏo')
-verb

— *Misconstrue* means

- Carla would like to date Matt, but when she told him she was busy last weekend, he **misconstrued** her meaning, thinking she wasn't interested in him.
 - Many readers **misconstrue** Robert Frost's well-known line "Good fences make good neighbors." They think it's Frost's own opinion, but the line is spoken by an unneighborly character.
- A. to misunderstand. B. to understand. C. to ignore.

7 paramount
(pär'ə-mount')
-adjective

— *Paramount* means

8 quandary
(kwɔn'də-rē)
-noun

— *Quandary* means

9 turbulent
(tūr'byō-lənt)
-adjective

— *Turbulent* means

10 validate
(vāl'ə-dāt')
-verb

— *Validate* means

- When you are driving on rain-slick, icy, or winding roads, good traction is of **paramount** importance, so always be sure your tires are in top condition.
- **Paramount** Pictures must have chosen its name to suggest that its movies were superior to all others.
 - A. supreme.
 - B. growing.
 - C. successful.

- Bonita was in a **quandary**—she couldn't decide whether to return to school, take a job she had just been offered, or move to Alaska with her family.
- Aaron is in a **quandary** over financial matters: he is baffled by the problems of making a budget, handling credit, and paying taxes.
 - A. a state of confusion.
 - B. a state of anger.
 - C. a state of confidence.

- The **turbulent** air made the plane rock so wildly that passengers felt as if they were on a roller coaster.
- The Warreners' household tends to be **turbulent**. Whenever Mr. Warrenner gets upset, he yells and throws things.
 - A. violent.
 - B. distant.
 - C. unusual.

- Many people believe Columbus sailed west to **validate** the theory that the world is round. But in 1492, the fact that the world is round was already well known.
- There is no real doubt about the dangers of smoking; the claim that smoking is a serious health risk has been **validated** by many studies.
 - A. to misinterpret.
 - B. to prove.
 - C. to invent.

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.

- _____ Full of wild disorder or wildly irregular motion; violently disturbed
- _____ Suggestive of death and decay; frightful; causing horror and disgust
- _____ A state of uncertainty or confusion about what to do; predicament
- _____ Expressing a low opinion; belittling
- _____ To show to be true; prove; confirm
- _____ To misinterpret; misunderstand the meaning or significance of
- _____ To make fun of; ridicule
- _____ To make up (a story, information) in order to deceive; invent (a lie)
- _____ About to happen; imminent
- _____ Of greatest concern or importance; foremost; chief in rank or authority

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 knowing 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. deride
F. misconstrue

B. derogatory
G. paramount

C. fabricate
H. quandary

D. impending
I. turbulent

E. macabre
J. validate

- _____ 1. Mel has a(n) ___ hobby—he visits places where murders were committed.
- _____ 2. We had skipped dinner in order to get to the play on time, so throughout the performance, food—not the drama—was ___ in our thoughts.
- _____ 3. Just before I was fired, I had a sense of ___ disaster; I could tell that something bad was about to happen.
- _____ 4. Delia ___(e)d Miguel’s friendliness as romantic interest. She didn’t realize that he already had a girlfriend.
- _____ 5. When my friend said her teacher was “different,” I wasn’t sure if she meant the description to be complimentary or ___.
- _____ 6. Dwayne didn’t show up for the final exam because he hadn’t studied, but he ___(e)d a story about having a flat tire.
- _____ 7. In the psychology class, the students were given an interesting team assignment. They had to make some statement about human nature and then ___ it by finding supporting evidence.
- _____ 8. Ivan is in a ___ over his car. He doesn’t know whether to get his old car the major repairs it desperately needs, take out a loan and buy his dream car, or spend the money he has on another used car he doesn’t like.
- _____ 9. The sun may seem to be shining calmly and steadily, but in fact, nuclear reactions inside the sun are causing a seething mass of ___ flames.
- _____ 10. A critic once ___(e)d a book he disliked by saying, “This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force.”

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. Many surfers prefer ___ water to calmer waves. Their ___ goal is excitement, and they get a feeling of exhilaration^o from confronting a dangerous situation.
- _____ 3–4. I was in a ___ over whether to study, practice the piano, or go to a movie with my friend Sal. To complicate things further, Sal wanted to see a(n) ___ horror film, and I dislike anything gruesome.

5-6. When the evidence does not ___ their theories, scrupulous° researchers will report this honestly. But less conscientious researchers will flout° scientific ethics and ___ fake "results" to appear to prove their theories.

7-8. With the trial ___, the defense lawyer tried to forestall° negative news stories by asking for a "gag" order. The lawyer argued that if ___ stories about his client's character were published, the trial would be a travesty° of justice.

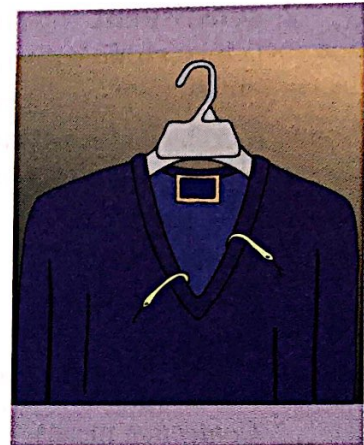
9-10. When Craig called Peggy "the perfect secretary," she was offended. He was complimenting her, but she ___(e)d his comment, thinking he had ___(e)d her by saying she belonged in a subordinate° position.

Final Check: Rumors

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.

Did you hear that K-Mart sold sweaters with baby snakes inside? The story, of course, was untrue, but it was not easy to squelch°.

How do such unrealistic rumors get started? Sometimes they are (1) _____(e)d. In the case of the K-Mart rumor, the story was actually fraudulent°; someone had deliberately made it up and disseminated° it to discredit the store. Often, though, a rumor starts with an innocent misinterpretation. For instance, when a magazine article drew an analogy° between a worm farm turning out bait and McDonald's turning out hamburgers, some readers (2) _____(e)d this to mean that McDonald's was grinding up worms in its burgers—and the preposterous° story spread.



Rumors about individuals can start when someone makes a(n) (3) _____ statement or (4) _____s someone else, out of rancor° or jealousy: "Josie got an A because she's dating Professor X," or "Al isn't in class today— he left town because he knew his arrest for stealing a copy of the final exam was (5) _____." Even an innuendo°—something that's merely hinted at—can start a rumor that can do irrevocable° harm to someone's reputation: "Josie and Professor X are really quite discreet°, aren't they?" No story is too gruesome to make the rounds, not even the (6) _____ tale of the girl whose beehive hairdo housed a black widow spider, which eventually burrowed into her brain and killed her.

Once a rumor gets started, people who hear it are sometimes in a (7) _____. Even if there's nothing to corroborate° the rumor, they may be afraid to ignore it. And so there is a proliferation° of rumors, spreading fear, damaging reputations, and turning calm situations into (8) _____ ones. To stop or forestall° rumors, one thing is probably of (9) _____ importance: before accepting any story, be sure the facts (10) _____ it.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%