



CHAPTER 30

abrasive	emulate
admonish	hierarchy
antithesis	incapacitate
culmination	prognosis
docile	tumult

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 abrasive
(ə-brā'siv)
-adjective

___ Abrasive means

- Pumice stone, a naturally **abrasive** substance, can be used for rubbing away rough spots on the feet.
 - Roz has an **abrasive** personality—critical and negative. She always seems to rub people the wrong way.
- A. simple. B. harsh. C. common.

2 admonish
(əd-mŏn'ish)
-verb

___ Admonish means

- When the guide found the hikers deep in the woods but unhurt, he **admonished** them for straying off the trail.
 - Because the little girl had spent her entire allowance on candy, her parents **admonished** her for wasting her money.
- A. to lead. B. to criticize. C. to irritate.

3 antithesis
(än-tith'ī-sīs)
-noun

___ Antithesis means

- My taste in music is the **antithesis** of my brother's. I like heavy metal, played loud; he likes soft classical music.
 - Pauline's free-spirited second husband is the **antithesis** of her first, who was a very timid and cautious man.
- A. the reverse. B. something superior. C. an imitation.

4 culmination
(kül'mā-nā'shən)
-noun

___ Culmination means

- For an actor or actress, receiving an Academy Award is often the **culmination** of many years of effort, progressing from drama school to bit parts to major roles.
 - The Super Bowl is the **culmination** of the entire professional football season. All the rivalries, victories, and defeats lead up to this final contest.
- A. a series. B. a cause. C. a final high point.

5 docile
(dŏs'īl)
-adjective

___ Docile means

- After only a month of obedience training, our uncontrollable puppy calmed down, learned to pay attention to us, and became far more **docile**.
 - Drugs and even surgery have been used in mental hospitals to make violent patients **docile**, so that they could be managed more easily.
- A. obedient. B. strong. C. curable.

6 emulate
(ēm'yŏŏ-lāt')
-verb

___ Emulate means

- Jessie has always tried to **emulate** her older sister; she tries hard to do just as well as her sister—if not better—in school, at sports, and in popularity.
 - Youngsters often want to **emulate** famous athletes. They train almost as hard as the champions do, with dreams of someday being as skilled as their heroes.
- A. to admire. B. to imitate. C. to submit to.

7 **hierarchy**
(hī'ər-âr'kē)
-noun

Hierarchy means

8 **incapacitate**
(in'kə-pās'ə-tāt')
-verb

Incapacitate means

9 **prognosis**
(prōg-nō'sīs)
-noun

Prognosis means

10 **tumult**
(tūm'ūlt')
-noun

Tumult means

- The armed forces are a clear example of a strict **hierarchy**. Everyone has a specific rank and must follow the orders of those whose rank is higher.
- Eva soon learned that all requests and suggestions had to be passed up through the levels of the company **hierarchy**. She could communicate directly with her own boss, but not with the boss's boss—let alone with the company president.
 - A. a ranked system.
 - B. a training system.
 - C. a large system.

- The lecture was canceled because the speaker was **incapacitated** by the flu.
- My mother can't tolerate alcohol. Even half a glass of wine **incapacitates** her; all she can do is giggle for a while and then go to sleep.
 - A. to irritate.
 - B. to be concerned with.
 - C. to disable.

- Nathan's operation went well. The surgeon's **prognosis** is that Nathan will fully recover.
- Unless something can be done to reduce global warming, the **prognosis** for the environment will remain poor.
 - A. a forecast.
 - B. an illness.
 - C. an organization.

- Spectators at a hockey match are often wild and noisy, and the **tumult** becomes even greater during a "sudden-death" overtime.
- On New Year's Eve, the **tumult** in Times Square reaches such proportions that the crowd noise can be heard a mile away.
 - A. damage.
 - B. uproar.
 - C. friction.

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.

- _____ The noisy disorder of a crowd; a commotion
- _____ To make unable or unfit, especially for normal activities; disable
- _____ Tending to give in to the control or power of others without resisting; easy to handle or discipline; willingly led
- _____ Able to cause a wearing away by rubbing or scraping; rough; irritating
- _____ A prediction of the course, outcome, or fate of something, especially a disease or injury
- _____ To scold gently but seriously; caution; give a warning
- _____ The exact opposite
- _____ The highest point or degree of a series of actions or events; the climax
- _____ To try to equal or surpass, especially by imitation; imitate
- _____ An organization of people in a series of levels, according to importance 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 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. abrasive
F. emulate

B. admonish
G. hierarchy

C. antithesis
H. incapacitate

D. culmination
I. prognosis

E. docile
J. tumult

1. At the rock concert, the audience grew more and more excited and out of control. There was such ___ that no one could hear the music.
2. I ruined a nonstick frying pan by using a(n) ___ cleanser on it—the surface rubbed right off.
3. The runner was ___(e)d by a sprained ankle and had to miss the big race.
4. Wendell's ideas about furniture are the ___ of mine. He likes colonial maple, but I like ultramodern tubular steel.
5. The ___ of the Roman Catholic Church goes from the parish priest up through bishops, archbishops, and cardinals, to the Pope at the head.
6. Mother ___(e)d us for spending too much money on her birthday gift, but we could see that she was pleased.
7. The company is financially sick, and unless some changes are made in top management, the ___ is poor—it could go out of business.
8. In the prison movie, the convicts acted very ___ while planning a riot. The guards—who weren't too bright—kept congratulating the inmates on being so well-behaved.
9. In colonial America, many people believed in and feared witches. Hysteria over "witch-hunting" reached its ___ in Salem, Massachusetts, where nineteen supposed witches were put to death.
10. "If you want to ___ Elvis Presley, fine," my mother said. "But try to match his energy and warmth onstage—not his self-destructiveness."

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 rebellious little girl, always demanding more and more autonomy^o, was the ___ of her obedient, ___ sister. They were an incongruous^o pair of siblings.
- 3-4. The ___ for Dale's arthritis is not encouraging. Her doctor didn't equivocate^o but told her frankly that in time it might ___ her completely.

5-6. Beth moved steadily up the company _____ until she was named president. This appointment, the _____ of twenty years of hard work and dedication, put her at the pinnacle° of her career.

7-8. Cory has many good qualities that I would like to _____. But his _____ manner is a handicap; he estranges° people because he rejects any ideas that diverge° from his own.

9-10. Gil didn't expect the children's behavior in the car to be impeccable°, but the _____ in the back seat finally reached such a level that he had to _____ them.

Final Check: Firing Our Boss

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 stint° in the bookkeeping department had lasted for three years when Jay Keller was brought in as department head. I don't expect supervisors to be pals with their subordinates°, and I don't object to being (1) _____ (e)d when I've done something wrong. Keller's criticism, however, was constant and harsh, and the office atmosphere seemed permeated° by his antipathy° toward us. His (2) _____ style made everyone in the department miserable. Keller was the complete (3) _____ of Chandra Borden, our previous boss, who had been so thoughtful and solicitous° about our needs that we all tried to (4) _____ her. In contrast, Keller's mere presence could (5) _____ us to a point where we could hardly add two and two.



Within a few weeks, even the most (6) _____ employees were becoming rebellious and starting to have subversive° thoughts. Our frustration and anger finally reached its (7) _____ when Keller loudly belittled a new worker in front of everyone else, using such derogatory° terms ("Stupid! Airhead!") that he made her cry. Furious, we suddenly decided that our only recourse° was to go over Keller's head—to ignore the company (8) _____ and, as a group, present our vehement° denunciation° of Keller directly to his boss.

Our meeting in her office began in (9) _____, but then we settled down and told our story, trying to be as lucid° as possible so she could understand exactly what had been going on. We concluded with the contention° that ours was a deeply troubled department and that if Keller stayed, the (10) _____ for it was not good: everyone else would quit. That was Friday afternoon. On Monday morning, our spontaneous° action proved to be successful: we had a new boss.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____ % Final Check _____ %

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