

complement  
discreet  
fastidious  
flout  
heinous

implement  
impromptu  
inference  
intuition  
obtrusive

## 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 complement**  
(kŏm'plə-mənt)  
-verb

— *Complement* means

- The new singer's voice **complemented** the other voices, rounding out the group's sound.
  - A red tie would **complement** Pedro's gray suit and white shirt, giving the outfit a needed touch of color.
- A. to go perfectly with.      B. to reach out for.      C. to overpower.

**2 discreet**  
(dĭ-skrĕt')

— *Discreet* means

- Once the teacher realized Jared could not read well, she made **discreet** efforts to give him extra help. She didn't want to embarrass him in front of his classmates.
  - "Be **discreet** about these drawings, Wilson," the boss said. "Don't show them to just anyone. We don't want another company stealing our designs."
- A. honest.      B. cautious.      C. obvious.

**3 fastidious**  
(fās-tĭd'ē-əs)  
-adjective

— *Fastidious* means

- Tilly was a **fastidious** housekeeper who vacuumed every day, dusted twice a day, and never allowed so much as a pencil or safety pin to be out of place.
  - A **fastidious** dresser, Mr. Lapp never leaves his home without looking as if he has just stepped out of a fashion magazine.
- A. working quickly.      B. having insight.      C. very particular.

**4 flout**  
(flout)  
-verb

— *Flout* means

- My neighbors were evicted from their apartment because they **flouted** the building's rules. They threw trash in the hallway, had loud all-night parties, and just laughed at anyone who complained.
  - The men in the warehouse are **flouting** regulations about eating on the job. Wastebaskets are filled with sandwich wrappers and empty chip, pretzel, and nacho bags.
- A. to mock and defy.      B. to put into effect.      C. to show off.

**5 heinous**  
(hā'nəs)  
-adjective

— *Heinous* means

- The child murderer's final **heinous** act was taunting the victim's father as the guilty verdict was announced.
  - Millions of people were shocked recently by news reports of a **heinous** act: a woman had locked her little daughter in the basement and starved her to death.
- A. wicked.      B. unplanned.      C. detailed.

**6 implement**  
(ĭm'plə-mĕnt')  
-verb

— *Implement* means

- NASA expects to **implement** a plan to return astronauts to the moon by 2020.
  - Brett is full of ideas about starting his own business, but he never follows through and **implements** them.
- A. to recall.      B. to put into effect.      C. to criticize.

**7 impromptu**  
(im-prŏmp'tōō')  
-adjective

Impromptu means

- My speech at my cousin's birthday dinner was **impromptu**; I hadn't expected to be called on to say anything.
- When Maya discovered that she and Barry had both brought guitars to the party, she suggested an **impromptu** duet.
  - A. not rehearsed.
  - B. not very good.
  - C. very quiet.

**8 inference**  
(in'fær-əns)  
-noun

Inference means

- Ruby said with a wink, "Did you notice how Uncle Joe's hair has miraculously grown back?" My **inference** was that he was wearing a toupee.
- "Where did you buy these pork chops?" asked Harry. "Why? What's wrong with them?" Maria asked, making the **inference** that he didn't like them.
  - A. a statement.
  - B. a conclusion.
  - C. a secret.

**9 intuition**  
(in'tōō-īsh'ən)  
-noun

Intuition means

- "I paint by **intuition**," the artist said. "In a flash, I see how a work should look. I don't really think it out."
- "The minute I met your mother," my father said, "my **intuition** told me that we'd get married someday."
  - A. careful study.
  - B. memory.
  - C. instinct.

**10 obtrusive**  
(ŏb-trōō'siv)  
-adjective

Obtrusive means

- The huge, sprawling new mall seemed **obtrusive** in the quiet little country town.
- My brother's stutter is often hardly noticeable, but when he is nervous or in a hurry, it can become **obtrusive**.
  - A. overly obvious.
  - B. unplanned.
  - C. greatly improved.

## 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ To treat with scorn or contempt; defy insultingly
- \_\_\_\_\_ Instinctive knowledge; hunch
- \_\_\_\_\_ To carry out; put into practice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Undesirably noticeable
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wise in keeping silent about secrets and other information of a delicate nature; prudent; tactful
- \_\_\_\_\_ Performed or spoken without practice or preparation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extremely evil; outrageous
- \_\_\_\_\_ A conclusion drawn from evidence; an assumption
- \_\_\_\_\_ To add (to something or someone) what is lacking or needed; round out; bring to perfection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extremely attentive to details; fussy

**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. complement  
F. implement

B. discreet  
G. impromptu

C. fastidious  
H. inference

D. flout  
I. intuition

E. heinous  
J. obtrusive

1. Rachel's \_\_\_\_\_ told her not to date a man who kept tropical fish in his bathtub.
2. After Rudy \_\_\_\_\_(e)d his 11 p.m. curfew—breezing in at 2 a.m. with a cheerful “Hi, folks!”—his parents took away his car keys for a month.
3. In the American system of justice, anyone charged with a crime, no matter how \_\_\_\_\_ the offense, is entitled to be defended by a lawyer.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ press conference turned out to be a bad idea. The senator should have planned his remarks beforehand.
5. “Loose lips sink ships” was a famous World War II slogan. It warned Americans to be \_\_\_\_\_ and not say anything that might reveal military plans.
6. To \_\_\_\_\_ their plan for a surprise attack on the girls' club, the boys needed squirt guns and a gallon of grape juice.
7. The writer Ernest Hemingway had a “tough guy” image but was \_\_\_\_\_ about using words; he rewrote the ending of one novel forty-four times.
8. Wendy is an excellent hair stylist, because she doesn't just cut hair. She also advises her customers about which hairstyle will \_\_\_\_\_ their features.
9. Alicia signed her card to Manuel “Warm regards.” Manuel's \_\_\_\_\_ was that she meant “I feel *only* warm regards, not love.”
10. The new partition between the restaurant's smoking and nonsmoking sections looks \_\_\_\_\_. Some plants or flowers might help it blend in better.

**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. Although Anne is one of my best friends, my \_\_\_\_\_ tells me we would not be good roommates. She's so \_\_\_\_\_ that she irons her bedsheets, while I'm notorious<sup>o</sup> for giving my apartment sporadic<sup>o</sup> cleanings—like once a year.
- 3–4. The dark, rumbling voice of the bass \_\_\_\_\_(e)d the high, sweet tones of the soprano as they sang a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ but flawless duet. Having just met, they were surprised and delighted at how good they sounded together.
- 5–6. What Kay actually said was, “It would be \_\_\_\_\_ not to discuss the missing funds in front of Debra.” But she meant us to make this \_\_\_\_\_: “I think she stole them.”

7–8. Connoisseurs° of science fiction love one movie in which evil alien invaders decide to annihilate° all life on Earth. The aliens \_\_\_ this \_\_\_ plan by constructing a “space shield” that cuts off all sunlight.

9–10. There seems to be a conspiracy° to \_\_\_ the rule, “No sidewalk vendors on government property.” The vendors have set up their stands in an \_\_\_ spot—right in front of City Hall.

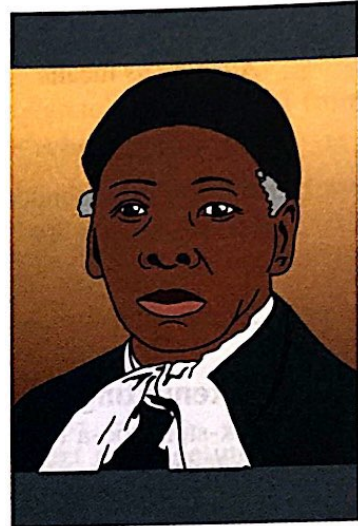
## Final Check: Harriet Tubman

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.

In 1849 Harriet Tubman—then in her late twenties—fled from the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ brutality she had endured as a slave. Aware that a lone black woman would be a(n) (2) \_\_\_\_\_ figure among ordinary travelers, she traveled on foot and only at night, over hundreds of miles, to reach Pennsylvania. There, for the first time in her life, she was free, but her parents, brothers, and sisters remained behind in Maryland, still slaves. Harriet decided to go back for them—and, over the next ten years, for many more.

Harriet had several qualities that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d each other and facilitated° her mission. First, because she was knowledgeable and had good (4) \_\_\_\_\_, she could always sense when an opportune° time for an escape had arrived, and who could and couldn't be trusted. Second, she was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ about planning; she always worked out a plan to the last detail before she (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d it. Third, she was flexible, capable of taking (7) \_\_\_\_\_ action if an unexpected problem arose. Time and again, when a disaster seemed imminent°, she was able to forestall° it. For instance, when she learned that slave-hunters had posted a description of a runaway man, she disguised him as a woman. When the slave-hunters turned up at a railroad station, she fooled them by having the runaways board a southbound train instead of a northbound one. Fourth, she was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ about her plans. She knew how important it was to be reticent°, since anyone might be a spy. Often, her instructions about where and when to meet were not actually stated, but were (9) \_\_\_\_\_ s in the songs and Bible stories she used, familiar to those waiting to escape. Fifth, she was physically strong, able to endure extended periods of deprivation°; she could go for a long time without food, shelter, or rest.

Harriet Tubman (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d the unjust laws of an evil system, but she was never captured, and she never lost a single runaway. She led more slaves to freedom than any other individual—over three hundred—and her name is venerated° to this day.



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

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