



CHAPTER  
7

**equivocate**  
**fortuitous**  
**impeccable**  
**liaison**  
**predisposed**

**propensity**  
**reprehensible**  
**sham**  
**solace**  
**solicitous**

## 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 **equivocate**  
(ē-kwiv'ə-kāt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ *Equivocate* means

- I can't get my boss to tell me whether or not he intends to give me a raise. When I ask him, he **equivocates**, saying, "You've been doing good work, Bob."
  - Hank doesn't want to come right out and tell Barb he doesn't love her. If she asks, he **equivocates** by telling her something like "You know how I feel."
- a. to be blunt.                      b. to be unclear.                      c. to deny.

2 **fortuitous**  
(fôr-tōō'ə-təs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Fortuitous* means

- The birth of triplets wasn't entirely **fortuitous**. The mother had taken a fertility drug, which often causes multiple births.
  - It was strictly **fortuitous** that Vince found his missing class notes. They happened to drop out of his dictionary when it fell to the floor.
- a. accidental.                      b. predictable.                      c. overdue.

3 **impeccable**  
(im-pĕk'ə-bəl)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Impeccable* means

- My aunt always looks stylish but never overdressed. Her taste in clothes is **impeccable**.
  - When she auditioned for the play, Julie gave an **impeccable** performance. She read the lines perfectly.
- a. flawless.                      b. deceptive.                      c. faulty.

4 **liaison**  
(lē'ə-zōn')  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Liaison* means

- The president of the Student Council acts as a **liaison** between the students and the administration.
  - Because she is bilingual, Elsa often serves as a **liaison** between the Spanish- and English-speaking personnel in her office.
- a. a follower.                      b. a caregiver.                      c. a link.

5 **predisposed**  
(prē'dīs-pōzd')  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Predisposed* means

- Terry didn't want to move in the first place, so she was **predisposed** to hate the new apartment.
  - As a Mel Gibson fan, I'm **predisposed** to enjoy any movie he stars in.
- a. unlikely.                      b. likely.                      c. pretending.

6 **propensity**  
(prə-pĕn'sī-tē)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Propensity* means

- Because Ivan has a **propensity** to gain weight, he watches what he eats.
  - Cheryl is aware of her **propensity** to blab, so she warns her friends not to tell her anything they wouldn't want repeated.
- a. a coincidence.                      b. a readiness.                      c. a concern.

7 **reprehensible**  
(rĕp'ri-hĕn'sə-bəl)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Reprehensible* means

- The Riordans never discipline their son. No matter how **reprehensible** his behavior is, they just say, "Kids will be kids."
  - The company's failure to clean up the oil spill was **reprehensible** and drew harsh criticism.
- a. shameful.                      b. misleading.                      c. uncertain.

8 **sham**  
(shām)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Sham* means

- Karen's apparent affection for Raul is a **sham**. He's rich, and she cares only about his money.
  - When the city inspectors came, the restaurant kitchen was sparkling. However, such cleanliness was a **sham**—the place is usually filthy.
- a. something false.              b. something confusing.              c. something accidental.

9 **solace**  
(sōl'is)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Solace* means

- After a family quarrel, Tamara finds **solace** in the privacy and quiet of her own room.
  - When I need **solace** because of some upsetting experience, I find that stroking my cat can be very comforting.
- a. excitement.                      b. perfection.                      c. relief.

10 **solicitous**  
(sə-līs'ə-təs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Solicitous* means

- The waiter was overly **solicitous**. He kept interrupting our conversation to ask, "Is everything all right here?"
  - **Solicitous** toward her elderly neighbor, Marie calls every day to see how he is feeling and if he needs anything.
- a. distant.                      b. attentive.                      c. patient.

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_ A natural preference or tendency
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Deserving of blame, criticism, or disapproval
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Happening by chance, by accident, or at random; lucky
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Comfort in sorrow or misfortune; consolation
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A person who serves as a connection between individuals or groups; a go-between
6. \_\_\_\_\_ To be deliberately vague in order to mislead
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Faultless; perfect
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Showing or expressing concern, care, or attention
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tending toward or open to something beforehand
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A pretense or counterfeit; something meant to deceive

**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. equivocate	b. fortuitous	c. impeccable	d. liaison	e. predisposed
f. propensity	g. reprehensible	h. sham	i. solace	j. solicitous

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When my grandmother died, I found \_\_\_ in the thought that she had lived a long, happy life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jan writes at least three drafts of every paper so that the final result will be \_\_\_\_\_. She wants each assignment to be perfect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The boss is in a rotten mood today, so he's not \_\_\_ to tolerate any mistakes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. My brother and I are both grown up, but Mom is still \_\_\_ about our health. She says, "You'll always be my babies."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Many people consider rape such a(n) \_\_\_ crime that they think the penalties should be as harsh as possible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The "going-out-of-business" sale was a \_\_\_\_\_. A year later, the store was still open.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. It's hard to believe that Stacy, with her \_\_\_ for flashy clothes and nightlife, has become a missionary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Unexpectedly, I ran into an old friend who had just started her own business. The \_\_\_ meeting led to a job offer for me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Olive acted as a \_\_\_ between her divorced parents, but she finally insisted that they deal with each other directly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The job candidate \_\_\_(e)d when he said he'd been "working out West." Actually, he'd been a ski bum for three years.

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 175. 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. When Shirley said she was sick of Len's \_\_\_ to flirt with other women, he \_\_\_(e)d by making an ambiguous<sup>o</sup> statement: "I promise you'll never catch me flirting again."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. The woman wasn't permitted to visit her husband, a political prisoner, so it gave her some \_\_\_ to have a minister act as a \_\_\_ between them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. Even before I met my father's nurse, I was \_\_\_ to like her, because I had heard how \_\_\_ she was toward him.