



attrition	oblivious
circumvent	reticent
cohesive	robust
grievous	sanction
inundate	vociferous

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 **attrition**
(ə-trīsh'ən)
-noun
___ *Attrition* means
- Sports teams are constantly looking for new talent to replace players lost through **attrition**—those who retire, quit because of injuries, and so on.
 - Colleges try not to have a high rate of **attrition**. They want students to stay until graduation rather than drop out early.
- a. an increase in numbers. b. a natural loss of individuals. c. ill health.
- 2 **circumvent**
(sūr'kəm-vēnt')
-verb
___ *Circumvent* means
- If we take this roundabout route, we can **circumvent** the rush-hour traffic and get home early.
 - I had to swerve to the right to **circumvent** a huge pothole.
- a. to avoid. b. to meet head-on. c. to make smaller.
- 3 **cohesive**
(kō-hēs'iv)
-adjective
___ *Cohesive* means
- For a **cohesive** pie dough, one that doesn't fall apart, be sure to add enough liquid.
 - A family needs to be **cohesive**—to stay together even when stresses and strains threaten to tear it apart.
- a. connected. b. popular. c. large.
- 4 **grievous**
(grēv'əs)
-adjective
___ *Grievous* means
- The death of a beloved pet is a **grievous** loss for a child.
 - The assassination of a great leader, such as Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr., often does **grievous** harm to a society.
- a. preventable. b. unavoidable. c. terrible.
- 5 **inundate**
(īn'ūn-dāt')
-verb
___ *Inundate* means
- During the heavy rains, the river overflowed and **inundated** the fields, destroying all the crops.
 - After his brief announcement, the President was **inundated** with questions from reporters.
- a. to flood. b. to strengthen. c. to go around.
- 6 **oblivious**
(ə-blīv'ē-əs)
-adjective
___ *Oblivious to* means
- The driver continued into the intersection, apparently **oblivious** to the fact that the light had turned red.
 - It's easy to spot lovers. They are the ones who, **oblivious** to everyone else present, see only each other.
- a. angry about. b. not noticing. c. overwhelmed by.

- 7 **reticent**
(rĕt'ə-sənt)
-adjective
- ___ *Reticent* means
- Paul is very **reticent** about his first marriage; he never talks about his former wife or what led to their divorce.
 - It's odd that many people who love to gossip about someone else are so **reticent** about their own lives.
- a. dishonest. b. quiet. c. unaware.
- 8 **robust**
(rō-büst')
- ___ *Robust* means
- Once an energetic, **robust** man, Mr. Rand has been considerably weakened by illness.
 - A number of weight lifters who were previously **robust** have ruined their health and vigor by taking steroids.
- a. very noisy. b. sickly. c. strong and well.
- 9 **sanction**
(sǎngk'shən)
-verb
- ___ *Sanction* means
- By greeting the dictator with extreme courtesy and fanfare, the legislature seemed to **sanction** his policies.
 - Many people whose children attend religious schools would like the government to **sanction** the use of public funds to help pay for their education.
- a. to grant approval of. b. to criticize severely. c. to remember.
- 10 **vociferous**
(vō-sĭf'ər-əs)
-adjective
- ___ *Vociferous* means
- When male loons sense that their territory is being invaded, they give **vociferous** cries of challenge.
 - The principal became angry and **vociferous**, shouting at students who tried to sneak out of the fire drill.
- a. distant. b. mild. c. loud.

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. _____ To authorize, allow, or approve
2. _____ To cover, as by flooding; overwhelm with a large number or amount
3. _____ To avoid by going around or as if by going around; to escape from, prevent, or stop through cleverness
4. _____ Quiet or uncommunicative; reluctant to speak out
5. _____ Healthy and strong; vigorous
6. _____ Sticking or holding together; unified
7. _____ Noisy; expressing feelings loudly and intensely
8. _____ A gradual natural decrease in number; becoming fewer in number
9. _____ Causing grief or pain; very serious or severe
10. _____ Unaware; failing to notice

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 only once.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| a. attrition | b. circumvent | c. cohesive | d. grievous | e. inundate |
| f. oblivious | g. reticent | h. robust | i. sanction | j. vociferous |

- _____ 1. The chatty, slow-moving clerk at the checkout counter seemed _____ to the fact that the line of impatient customers was growing longer and longer.
- _____ 2. A quiet, polite discussion may be better than a(n) _____ argument, but some people get more satisfaction out of yelling and shouting.
- _____ 3. In many places, the law doesn't _____ gambling—but the officials don't do much to stop it, either.
- _____ 4. A half-hour of aerobic exercise every other day will help you stay _____.
- _____ 5. People sometimes do odd things to _____ regulations. In New York, when saloons were illegal, one owner called his place "O'Neal's Baloon."
- _____ 6. If you want your essay to be _____, stick to your point.
- _____ 7. Alzheimer's disease is a disaster for the patient and a(n) _____ burden for the family.
- _____ 8. Some days we're _____(e)d with junk mail—the mailbox is crammed full and overflowing with it.
- _____ 9. The cutting down of the rain forests has caused a dangerous rate of _____ among species that live in those forests.
- _____ 10. Some people who could benefit from counseling avoid seeing a therapist because they are _____ about private matters.

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.

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions: Select 4 words from this week's vocabulary lesson. In the space below, write one of your selected words at the top of the box, draw a picture that represents the word in the box, and write an original sentence that uses the word at the bottom of the box.

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