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 **brusque**  
   (brůsk)  
   -adjective  
   • Rose lost her job as a receptionist because she was so **brusque** with people who called. The office replaced her with someone who spoke more politely.
   • Although Maria seems **brusque** when you first meet her, she’s really just shy with people she doesn’t know well. After you talk with her awhile, she becomes more relaxed and friendly.

   _Brusque means_  
   a. blunt.  
   b. admirable.  
   c. silly.

2 **dispassionate**  
   (dĭs-păsh′ē-ə-nĭt)  
   -adjective  
   • The surgeon’s voice was **dispassionate** when he told the patient’s family that the operation had failed, but despite his calm tone, his eyes looked very sad.
   • “Historians are supposed to be **dispassionate,**” the lecturer apologized, “but when my topic is the horrors of slavery, I find it hard to keep my feelings hidden.”

   _Dispassionate means_  
   a. unreasonable.  
   b. unemotional.  
   c. disturbing.

3 **effervescent**  
   (ĕf′ər-ə-vĕs′ənt)  
   -adjective  
   • The lecturer could hardly be described as **effervescent.** She droned on about the Federal Reserve in a dreyary voice, never looking up from her notes.
   • Marnie is on the way to stardom. When her play opened last night, the critics raved about her “**effervescent** charm,” saying that she “lit up the stage.”

   _Effervescent means_  
   a. hard-working.  
   b. nervous.  
   c. lively.

4 **indefatigable**  
   (in′dĕ-făt′′ī-gə-bal)  
   -adjective  
   • When Mona and her friend Patty get together, they are **indefatigable** talkers. They talk endlessly and tirelessly about everything.
   • The great athlete seemed **indefatigable.** After running a marathon, swimming for miles, and biking up steep hills, she was still energetic.

   _Indefatigable means_  
   a. easily tired.  
   b. never getting tired.  
   c. depressed.

5 **misanthrope**  
   (mĭs′′ăn-thrŏp′′)  
   -noun  
   • Molière’s play *The Misanthrope* is about a man, Alceste, who is enraged and disgusted by his fellow humans. To put it briefly, Alceste hates everyone.
   • One of our neighbors is a true **misanthrope.** She hasn’t a friend in the world; in fact, she looks on everyone as an enemy.

   _Misanthrope means_  
   a. an antisocial person.  
   b. a criminal.  
   c. a lunatic.

6 **morose**  
   (mŏrōs′′)  
   -adjective  
   • On the first workday of the year, everyone at the office seemed **morose.** No wonder we felt low; after the holidays, it’s always a letdown to get back to work.
   • Larry always becomes **morose** when he drinks. Since alcohol makes him feel so dreary and blue, you’d think he’d give it up.

   _Morose means_  
   a. confused.  
   b. frantic.  
   c. gloomy.
7 nonchalance
(nön'shə-läns')
-noun

- Nonchalance is not appropriate behind the wheel of a car. An automobile is not a toy to be played with casually—it is a dangerous machine to be handled with concentration.

- Trying to create an impression of nonchalance despite his nervousness, Hari strolled to the speaker's stand smiling and whistling a little tune.

Nonchalance means
a. uneasiness.
   b. lack of concern.
   c. lack of awareness.

8 progeny
(prö-jə-nē)
-noun

- In the wonderful children's book Charlotte's Web, Charlotte, the spider, dies, but several of her progeny stay to befriend Charlotte's beloved Wilbur, the pig.

- Grandfather worked at two jobs in order to provide food and clothing for his many progeny.

Progeny means
a. enemies.
   b. leaders.
   c. offspring.

9 stoic
(stō'ik)
-adjective

- My dog's reaction to getting his yearly shots is hardly stoic. It takes the vet and two assistants to hold him down, and he howls as if he's being torn to pieces.

- "Some patients' stoic response to illness or injury is truly amazing," the doctor said. "Come what may, they remain calm and courageous."

Stoic means
a. emotional.
   b. showing no distress.
   c. planned.

10 voracious
(vô-rā'shas)
-adjective

- Beagles are voracious eaters—their owners say they will eat anything that's not nailed down—so they tend to become fat unless they get enough exercise.

- Ginny has a voracious appetite for news. She gets a morning and an evening newspaper, listens to an "all news, all the time" radio station, and watches the TV newscast every night.

Voracious means
a. greedy.
   b. small.
   c. unconcerned.

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 person who hates or distrusts humankind
2. __________________ Children; descendants
3. __________________ Bubbling with high spirits; exhilarated
4. __________________ Not influenced by emotion; impartial
5. __________________ Rudely abrupt; curt
6. __________________ Casual indifference; lack of concern
7. __________________ Untiring
8. __________________ Seemingly unaffected by pain or discomfort
9. __________________ Ravenous; consuming or eager to consume large amounts; insatiable
10. __________________ Very gloomy or sullen

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, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. brusque  b. dispassionate  c. effervescent  d. indefatigable  e. misanthrope
f. morose  g. nonchalance  h. progeny  i. stoic  j. voracious

1. It's difficult to ask Professor Henderson a question. His typical response is a(n) ___ “What? What kind of question is that?”

2. Dad was a(n) ___ walker. He could hike for mile after mile, never seeming to get weary.

3. When they feel nervous and ill at ease, many people try to achieve an air of ___ by putting their hands in their pockets and humming.

4. The kids were sulky and ___ on the first day of school. They hated to face the fact that summer had ended.

5. “I intend to bear this with ___ courage,” Eileen vowed as she set forth for the dentist's office. “And also with plenty of Novocain.”

6. At the end of the day, the second-graders were as ___ as they had been when it began, telling jokes and giggling. Their teacher envied their high spirits.

7. The funny book _Cheaper by the Dozen_ tells the story of the Gilbreth clan, which consisted of a mother, a father, and twelve red-haired ___.

8. Although they are small, most rodents are ___ eaters. Mice, gerbils, and hamsters nibble almost constantly.

9. Will Rogers was the exact opposite of a(n) ___. He once said, “I never met a man I didn’t like.”

10. I find this editorial convincing, partly because it is so ___. I like it when a writer reasons with readers, rather than trying to manipulate their feelings.

**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, complete each item below with two words from the box. Use each word once.

1-2. The English have the reputation of being ___, with ice water in their veins, and ___ dry-eyed in the face of tragedy. But their emotional reaction to the death of Princess Diana cast doubt on that hackneyed stereotype.

3-4. Simon, who is enthusiastic and ___, was brimming over with excitement as he presented his idea in class. But the professor, a blunt, curt type, gave it a(n) ___ one-word dismissal: “Wrong.”
5–6. Our ___ gloomy uncle is utterly friendless, but he insists he is not a(n) ___.
   “I don’t hate people,” he claims. “I just haven’t met any that I like.”

7–8. Jill is a sensation-seeker who has a(n) ___ appetite for excitement and
   is ___ in looking for it. She is tireless in her quest for thrilling, risky
   experiences.

9–10. Marian approached parenthood with a certain ___, taking it all lightly.
   But her husband, who was awed by the thought of having ___, felt very
   solemn about it.

➤Final Check: Do Opposites Attract?

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.

With regard to romance, it is widely believed that “opposites attract,” but psychologists tell us
that lovers usually resemble each other in many ways. Let us hope the psychologists are right,
because it seems likely that a marriage between opposites would be a bumpy road.

If Joe is (1)____________________, ready to jog a few miles after sawing a cord of firewood,
while Ann needs to lie down and rest for an hour after dusting the piano, how happy can they be
together? If Jordan has a(n) (2)____________________ appetite while Amy “eats like a bird,”
imagine a typical meal: he’s on his third helping before she has even taken a bite. If Julio is sad
and (3)____________________ while Assunta is bubbly, bouncy, and (4)____________________,
how long can it be before one of them starts to get on the other’s nerves? What about Jerrold, who
takes to his bed with the sniffles while his (5)____________________ wife Abbie bravely
hobbles off to work on a broken leg? What about (6)____________________ Jan, whose attitude
toward life is one of casual (7)____________________, and his wife Alice, who is intensely
committed to every cause from AIDS to humane zoos?

No, the outlook is not bright for these couples. And what of their (8)____________________?
Children are supposed to “take after” their parents, but that would be a problem for someone
whose father is a(n) (9)____________________ and whose mother “loves everyone,” or for the
offspring of a(n) (10)____________________, blunt, no-nonsense mother and an easygoing,
soft-spoken father.

Opposites may attract, then, but, despite their affinity® for each other, it might not be
sagacious® for opposites to marry.

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<th>Scores</th>
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.