



autonomy
bureaucratic
mandate
ostracize
raucous

recourse
reiterate
tantamount
tenacious
utopia

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 autonomy

(ô-tôn'ə-mē)

-noun

___ *Autonomy* means

- In 1776, the American colonists, tired of being ruled by England, fought for their **autonomy**.
- Children as young as age two begin to want some **autonomy**. The term "terrible twos" reflects their struggle for independence.

A. assistance. B. freedom from control. C. self-sacrifice.

2 bureaucratic

(byōōr'ə-krāt'ik)

-adjective

___ *Bureaucratic* means

- **Bureaucratic** organizations can become so bogged down in regulations that almost no work gets done.
- "This family is more **bureaucratic** than the federal government!" Mac complained to his parents. "You have rules for everything."

A. over-regulated. B. old-fashioned. C. independent.

3 mandate

(măn'dāt')

-noun

___ *Mandate* means

- All the union members voted for the strike, giving their leaders a clear **mandate**.
- The senator received so many letters supporting his position on gun control that he felt he had the **mandate** of the people.

A. a criticism. B. a delay. C. official permission.

4 ostracize

(ôs'trə-sīz')

-verb

___ *Ostracize* means

- Children who look or act "different" are often **ostracized** by their classmates. No one will play with them or even talk to them.
- When Selena married a man twenty years younger than herself, she was **ostracized** by the entire family. No one would have anything to do with her.

A. to reject. B. to feel sorry for. C. to control.

5 raucous

(rô'kəs)

-adjective

___ *Raucous* means

- The audience at the rock concert was so **raucous** that we feared the noise and commotion would lead to violence.
- At the horror movie, the audience's behavior became **raucous**. Everyone was shouting at the characters on the screen and pretending to shriek with fright.

A. persistent. B. disorderly. C. angry.

6 recourse

(rē'kôrs')

-noun

___ *Recourse* means

- "Unless you pay your bill," the company threatened, "we'll have no **recourse** but to sue you."
- "We'll try treating you with medication," the doctor explained. "If that isn't effective, the only **recourse** will be surgery."

A. a choice. B. a problem. C. a question.

- 7 reiterate**
(rē-īt'ə-rāt')
-verb
- ___ *Reiterate* means
- The agency director stated, "I have said this before, but let me **reiterate**: Unless we receive the funds to hire more staff, the children of this city will continue to suffer."
 - I hate it when a speaker **reiterates** the same point over and over, as if the listeners weren't paying attention or were just too stupid to understand.
- A. to repeat. B. to forget. C. to exclude.
- 8 tantamount**
(tānt'ə-mount')
-adjective
- ___ *Tantamount to* means
- Charging three dollars for a cup of coffee is **tantamount** to robbery.
 - My mother's refusal to let me have the car was **tantamount** to forbidding me to go to the beach.
- A. the result of. B. just like. C. independent of.
- 9 tenacious**
(tə-nā'shəs)
-adjective
- ___ *Tenacious* means
- The cat's grip on the tree limb was **tenacious**, but we weren't sure how long she could keep hanging on so firmly.
 - My aunt's **tenacious** determination to recover may have pulled her through her illness.
- A. grasping strongly. B. weak and ineffective. C. slowly shrinking.
- 10 utopia**
(yoo-tō'pē-ə)
-noun
- ___ *Utopia* means
- In 1888, Edward Bellamy wrote about a **utopia** where everyone would have a comfortable income, work only until the age of 45, and then enjoy leisure.
 - Everyone has a different idea of **utopia**. A situation that seems perfect to me might make you miserable.
- A. a city. B. a self-government. C. a paradise.

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. _____ An ideal or perfect place or state; a place achieving social or political perfection
2. _____ Noisy and disorderly; boisterous
3. _____ A source of help, security, or strength; something to turn to; option
4. _____ Insisting on strict rules and routine, often to the point of hindering effectiveness
5. _____ To state again or repeatedly
6. _____ Independence; self-government
7. _____ A group's expressed wishes; clear signal to act; vote of confidence
8. _____ To expel or exclude from a group; shun
9. _____ Equal in effect or value; the same as
10. _____ Holding firmly; persistent; stubborn

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.