



connoisseur  
conspiracy  
contrite  
distraught  
germane

lucid  
plight  
superficially  
symmetrical  
verbose

## 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 connoisseur**

(kɒn'ə-sûr')

-noun

\_\_\_ *Connoisseur* means

- My sister is a **connoisseur** of Southern novels. She's read dozens of them, and she knows all about the authors and their different styles.
- Curtis has broad knowledge of French wines—where they are made, when they are at their best, and exactly how each one tastes. He's a true **connoisseur**.

A. a doubter.                      B. an authority.                      C. a leader.

**2 conspiracy**

(kən-spīr'ə-sē)

-noun

\_\_\_ *Conspiracy* means

- The **conspiracy** to overthrow the government was started by two of the premier's own advisors.
- Although only Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the assassination of President Kennedy, many believe there was a **conspiracy** to kill the President.

A. a plot.                      B. an idea.                      C. an announcement.

**3 contrite**

(kən-trīt')

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Contrite* means

- Dolores was especially **contrite** about tearing her sister's dress because she'd borrowed it without permission.
- Judges are often more lenient with offenders who truly regret their crimes. A criminal who seems genuinely **contrite** may get a shorter sentence.

A. angry.                      B. confused.                      C. sorry.

**4 distraught**

(dī-strōt')

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Distraught* means

- The parents of the little girl who wandered off in the crowded mall were **distraught** until she was found.
- As the snowstorm got worse and worse and his wife still hadn't arrived home from work, Jeff became increasingly **distraught**.

A. upset.                      B. busy.                      C. forgetful.

**5 germane**

(jər-mān')

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Germane* means

- Stacy went to the law library to look up information that might be **germane** to her client's case.
- It bothered Christine when her new boss asked if she had a boyfriend. That information certainly wasn't **germane** to her work.

A. damaging.                      B. related.                      C. foreign.

**6 lucid**

(loo'sīd)

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Lucid* means

- I usually find computer manuals horribly unclear, but this one is **lucid**.
- The scientist's explanation of global warming was so **lucid** that the entire audience was able to grasp it.

A. easy to understand.                      B. repetitious.                      C. fair to both sides.

- 7 plight**  
(plīt)  
-noun  
\_\_\_ *Plight* means
- The **plight** of the homeless can be somewhat relieved by decent shelters.
  - There were reports of a cave-in at the mine, but it was too soon to know much about the **plight** of the trapped miners.
- A. a delayed situation. B. an unlikely situation. C. an unfortunate situation.
- 8 superficially**  
(sōō'pər-fīsh'əl-lē)  
-adverb  
\_\_\_ *Superficially* means
- Nina spent a full week studying for the exam. Joyce, however, reviewed **superficially**, flipping through the pages of her textbook an hour before the test.
  - This morning, the mechanic was short of time and inspected my car only **superficially**. He said he'd check it thoroughly later and then give me an estimate.
- A. thoroughly. B. slightly. C. daily.
- 9 symmetrical**  
(sī-mēt'ri-kəl)  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Symmetrical* means
- The children's sandcastle was **symmetrical**, with a wall on each side and a tower and flag at each end.
  - No one's face is perfectly **symmetrical**. For example, one eye is usually slightly higher than the other, and the left and right sides of the mouth differ.
- A. unique. B. beautiful. C. balanced.
- 10 verbose**  
(vər-bōs')  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Verbose* means
- The **verbose** senator said, "At this point in time, we have an urgent and important need for more monetary funds to declare unconditional war on drugs and combat this evil and harmful situation." The reporter wrote, "The senator said we urgently need more money to fight drugs."
  - Gabe is the most **verbose** person I know. He always uses ten words when one would do.
- A. loud. B. wordy. C. self-important.

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Very troubled; distressed
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Using or containing too many words
3. \_\_\_\_\_ In an on-the-surface manner; not thoroughly
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Having to do with the issue at hand; relevant
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly expressed; easily understood
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Truly sorry for having done wrong; repentant
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Well proportioned; balanced; the same on both sides
8. \_\_\_\_\_ An expert in fine art or in matters of taste
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A situation marked by difficulty, hardship, or misfortune
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A secret plot by two or more people, especially for a harmful or illegal purpose

**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.