



CHAPTER 17

exhort
 flamboyant
 foible
 innocuous
 magnanimous

masochist
 meticulous
 rancor
 recrimination
 repugnant

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 exhort
 (ĕg-zôrt')
 -verb

___ *Exhort* means

- The school counselor gave an impassioned speech to the parents, in which she **exhorted** them to make every effort to keep their children off drugs.
- On the eve of the invasion, the general **exhorted** the troops to fight bravely for their homeland.

A. to accuse. B. to praise. C. to urge.

2 flamboyant
 (flām-boi'ənt)
 -adjective

___ *Flamboyant* means

- Lily can't resist **flamboyant** clothes. She'd wear a hot-pink dress with gold satin trim to a funeral.
- The **flamboyant** pianist always wore sequined suits and glittering jewelry when he sat down at his silver piano.

A. flashy. B. self-centered. C. concerned with details.

3 foible
 (foi'bəl)
 -noun

___ *Foible* means

- Serious character flaws, such as abusiveness, are hard to overlook, but **foibles**—such as drinking soup through a straw—can often be easily tolerated.
- "I accept my husband's **foible** of leaving clothes lying around," Kia remarked, "because it lets me be messy without feeling guilty."

A. a serious problem. B. a minor fault. C. a complaint.

4 innocuous
 (ĭn-nōk'yōō-əs)
 -adjective

___ *Innocuous* means

- Although most children engage in **innocuous** pranks on Halloween, some get out of control and do serious damage.
- Experts at the Poison Information Center can tell you if a household substance is harmful or **innocuous**.

A. without bad effects. B. expensive. C. satisfying.

5 magnanimous
 (māg-nān'ə-məs)
 -adjective

___ *Magnanimous* means

- At age 5, Jonathan is already learning to be **magnanimous**. He hugs his baby sister, even when she hits him on the head with a wooden block.
- Last Thanksgiving, someone at work drew a funny picture of our boss as an enormous turkey. When the boss saw it, he was **magnanimous**—he laughed, said it was terrific, and even hung it up over his desk.

A. forgiving. B. consistent. C. resentful.

6 masochist
 (mās'ə-kĭst)
 -noun

___ *Masochist* means

- Psychologists are trying to understand why **masochists** obtain satisfaction from suffering.
- "A **masochist's** idea of a good time," said the comedian, "is getting hit by a truck on the way home from having all his teeth pulled."

A. someone filled with hatred. B. someone who enjoys being hurt. C. someone who enjoys hurting others.

- 7 meticulous**
(mə-tīk'yōō-ləs)
-adjective
- *Meticulous* means
- When you proofread your own writing, be **meticulous**—check every detail.
 - Marcus is **meticulous** about his appearance. He never has a wrinkle in his clothing or a hair out of place.
- A. very careful. B. bold. C. unconcerned.
- 8 rancor**
(răn'kər)
-noun
- *Rancor* means
- The **rancor** between my uncles has lasted for twenty years, ever since Uncle Dmitri married the woman to whom Uncle Sergei had proposed.
 - When there is long-lasting **rancor** between divorced parents, their children may also start to share this bitterness.
- A. a minor fault. B. deep hostility. C. secrecy.
- 9 recrimination**
(rĭ-křim'ə-nā'shən)
-noun
- *Recrimination* means
- The couple's session with the marriage counselor failed miserably; it began with the husband and wife hurling accusations at each other, and it never progressed beyond these **recriminations**.
 - When Lainie's father and her teacher met to discuss Lainie's poor grades, they exchanged **recriminations**—each accused the other of not helping her do better.
- A. an urgent plea. B. a detailed suggestion. C. an accusation in reply.
- 10 repugnant**
(rĭ-pŭg'nənt)
-adjective
- *Repugnant* means
- My parents find some of my eating habits **repugnant**, but I see nothing offensive about mixing peas and ketchup into mashed potatoes.
 - A snake is **repugnant** to many people—"Slimy!" they say, shivering with distaste. However, snakes are not at all slimy, and most are harmless.
- A. disgusting. B. amusing. C. remarkable.

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. _____ Intense hatred or ill will; long-lasting resentment
2. _____ Harmless; inoffensive
3. _____ Offensive; distasteful; repulsive
4. _____ A person who gains satisfaction from suffering physical or psychological pain
5. _____ Very showy; strikingly bold
6. _____ A minor weakness or character flaw; a minor fault in behavior
7. _____ An accusation made in response to an accuser; countercharge
8. _____ To urge with argument or strong advice; plead earnestly
9. _____ Noble in mind and spirit; especially generous in forgiving
10. _____ Extremely careful and exact; showing great attention to details

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.