



atrophy
deplore
deprivation
exacerbate
imperative

mitigate
objective
panacea
unprecedented
utilitarian

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 **atrophy**

(ă'trə-fē)

-verb

___ *Atrophy* means

- Since unused muscles **atrophy**, an arm or a leg that remains in a cast for some time becomes thinner.
- "If you watch any more of those mindless television programs," my father said, "your brain will **atrophy**."

A. to grow. B. to waste away. C. to cause pain.

2 **deplore**

(dī-plôr')

-verb

___ *Deplore* means

- Bernie **deplored** his coworkers' habit of taking home paper clips, Scotch tape, pens, and stationery from the office, a practice he felt was dishonest.
- Many people **deplore** some of the content on the Internet but feel they must tolerate it, because they disapprove just as strongly of censorship.

A. to condemn. B. to ignore. C. to make worse.

3 **deprivation**

(dĕp'rə-vā'shən)

-noun

___ *Deprivation* means

- Children who spend their early years in institutions where they receive no love may suffer throughout life from the effects of this **deprivation**.
- Weight-loss programs typically claim that their members experience no sense of **deprivation**. "You'll never be hungry!" they promise.

A. a deficiency. B. a feeling of disapproval. C. a strong desire.

4 **exacerbate**

(ĕg-zās'ər-bāt')

-verb

___ *Exacerbate* means

- Scratching a mosquito bite only makes it worse: the scraping **exacerbates** the itching and may even cause an infection.
- Instead of soothing the baby, the sound of the music box seemed only to **exacerbate** his crying.

A. to find the cause of. B. to relieve. C. to make worse.

5 **imperative**

(ĭm-pĕr'ə-tĭv)

-adjective

___ *Imperative* means

- It is **imperative** that I renew my driver's license today—it expires at midnight.
- "It is **imperative** for this letter to reach Mr. Rivera tomorrow," the boss said, "so please send it by Express Mail."

A. impossible. B. difficult. C. essential.

6 **mitigate**

(mĭt'ə-gāt')

-verb

___ *Mitigate* means

- The disabilities resulting from Mr. Dobbs's stroke were **mitigated** by physical therapy, but he still has difficulty using his right arm.
- Time usually **mitigates** the pain of a lost love. When Richard's girlfriend broke their engagement, he was miserable, but now the hurt is much less.

A. to relieve. B. to worsen. C. to reveal.

