



decorum
espouse
exhilaration
exorbitant
extricate

facilitate
orthodox
rejuvenate
synchronize
tenuous

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 **decorum**
(dĭ-kô'rəm)
-noun

— *Decorum* means

- **Decorum** demands that you send a thank-you note for all birthday gifts, even those you don't like or will never use.
 - In her newspaper columns, Miss Manners gives advice on **decorum** in all kinds of situations. For example, she says that at a dinner party, you must be polite even if you find a bug crawling in your salad.
- A. a difficult situation. B. beauty. C. proper conduct.

2 **espouse**
(ĕ-spouz')
-verb

— *Espouse* means

- Some politicians **espouse** whatever ideas they think will win them votes.
 - People who **espouse** animals' rights often find themselves in conflict with scientists who argue for the use of animals in medical experiments.
- A. to speak for. B. to argue against. C. to study.

3 **exhilaration**
(ĕg-zĭl'ə-rā'shən)
-noun

— *Exhilaration* means

- After the last exam of the year, Olivia and I were so filled with **exhilaration** that we skipped all the way to the car.
 - A marching band gives most people a feeling of **exhilaration**. The lively music makes them feel excited.
- A. appropriateness. B. happiness. C. commitment.

4 **exorbitant**
(ĕg-zôr'bĭ-tənt)
-adjective

— *Exorbitant* means

- Even if I were rich, I wouldn't pay three hundred dollars for those shoes. That's an **exorbitant** price.
 - The armed forces often spend **exorbitant** amounts on minor items, including an eight-hundred-dollar ashtray and a toilet seat that cost thousands of dollars.
- A. estimated. B. inconvenient. C. extremely high.

5 **extricate**
(ĕks'trĭ-kāt')
-verb

— *Extricate* means

- The fly struggled and struggled but was unable to **extricate** itself from the spider's web.
 - The young couple ran up so many debts that they finally needed a counselor to help them **extricate** themselves from their financial mess.
- A. to untangle. B. to distinguish. C. to excuse.

6 **facilitate**
(fə-sĭl'ə-tāt')
-verb

— *Facilitate* means

- Automatic doors in supermarkets **facilitate** the entry and exit of customers with bags or shopping carts.
 - For those with poor eyesight, large print **facilitates** reading.
- A. to decrease. B. to cause. C. to make possible.

7 orthodox
(ôr'thə-dōks')
-adjective

— *Orthodox* means

- When Father McKenzie brought drums and electric guitars into church, he shocked the more **orthodox** members of his congregation.
 - The **orthodox** footwear for a sprint or distance race is some kind of running shoes, but a champion Ethiopian runner competed in the Olympics barefoot.
- A. revolutionary. B. traditional. C. important.

8 rejuvenate
(rĭ-jōō'və-nāt')
-verb

— *Rejuvenate* means

- The Fountain of Youth was a legendary spring whose water could **rejuvenate** people.
 - The grass had become brown and matted, but a warm spring rain **rejuvenated** it, perking it up and turning it green again.
- A. to set free. B. to excite. C. to give new life to.

9 synchronize
(sĭng'krə-nīz')
-verb

— *Synchronize* means

- The secret agents **synchronized** their watches so that they could cross the border at exactly the same minute.
 - We need to **synchronize** the clocks in our house: the kitchen clock is ten minutes slower than the alarm clock in the bedroom.
- A. to coordinate. B. to repair. C. to find.

10 tenuous
(tĕn'yōō-əs)
-adjective

— *Tenuous* means

- It doesn't take much to destroy an already **tenuous** relationship. Something as slight as forgetting to telephone can cause an unstable relationship to collapse.
 - Del was opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment, but his position seemed **tenuous**. He couldn't support it with any facts, and his logic was weak.
- A. shaky. B. easy. C. established.

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. _____ Cheerfulness; high spirits
2. _____ To free from a tangled situation or a difficulty
3. _____ Having little substance or basis; weak; poorly supported
4. _____ Correctness in behavior and manners; standards or conventions of socially acceptable behavior
5. _____ To make (someone) feel or seem young again; to make (something) seem fresh or new again
6. _____ To support, argue for, or adopt (an idea or cause)
7. _____ To cause to occur at exactly the same time; to cause (clocks and watches) to agree in time
8. _____ To make easier to do or to get
9. _____ Following established, traditional rules or beliefs, especially in religion; following what is customary or commonly accepted
10. _____ Excessive, especially in amount, cost, or price; beyond what is reasonable or appropriate

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.