



assimilate  
belligerent  
demeanor  
denunciation  
dissipate

indolent  
inherent  
nonchalant  
unassuming  
unilateral

## 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 **assimilate**  
(ə-sīm'ə-lāt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ *Assimilate* means

- To **assimilate** into the culture of a new country, it's essential to learn the language.
- The United States has often been called a "melting pot"—meaning that people of many cultures have **assimilated**, or blended together, within it.  
A. to be absorbed.                      B. to spread thin.                      C. to remain.

2 **belligerent**  
(bə-līj'ə-rənt)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Belligerent* means

- When anyone contradicts Bruce, he becomes **belligerent**. He has often started fights with people who disagreed with him.
- Angie was suspended for her **belligerent** behavior during an argument with one of her teachers. She actually shook her fist at him and threatened to hit him.  
A. overly casual.                      B. quarrelsome.                      C. confused.

3 **demeanor**  
(dī-mēn'ər)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Demeanor* means

- Troy's **demeanor** was quiet and controlled, but inside he was boiling with anger.
- Proper **demeanor** during a funeral or lecture is obviously quite different from acceptable conduct at a ball game or rock concert.  
A. behavior.                      B. feelings.                      C. expectation.

4 **denunciation**  
(dī-nūn'sē-ā'shən)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Denunciation* means

- In an unusual **denunciation** of parents, the community leader said, "Parents have not been taking enough responsibility for their children."
- The mayor's public **denunciation** of the police chief angered many officers; local citizens, however, applauded the mayor's public statement of disapproval.  
A. appreciation.                      B. ignoring.                      C. criticism.

5 **dissipate**  
(dīs'ə-pāt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ *Dissipate* means

- After twenty minutes of meditation, I find that the stresses of my day have **dissipated**, and I'm relaxed enough to enjoy the evening.
- Teddy hates catching a cold. When anyone is sneezing and coughing in his presence, he opens a window and fans the air to **dissipate** the cold germs.  
A. to blend.                      B. to scatter.                      C. to assemble.

6 **indolent**  
(īn'də-lənt)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Indolent* means

- My **indolent** sister says that the most work she ever wants to do is clicking the remote control to switch TV channels.
- My uncle has been fired from three jobs for being **indolent**. He shows up on time, but he does very little work and leaves early.  
A. destructive.                      B. shy.                      C. unwilling to work.

**7 inherent**

(in-hîr'ənt)

*-adjective*\_\_\_ *Inherent* means

- An **inherent** danger of life in San Francisco is the possibility of earthquakes.
- Marco believes that kindness is **inherent** in human nature, but I think people are born selfish. Maybe we're both right.
  - A. shrinking.
  - B. humble.
  - C. natural.

**8 nonchalant**

(nɒn'shə-lɒnt')

*-adjective*\_\_\_ *Nonchalant* means

- Because the automobile is so commonplace today, many people have become **nonchalant** about traveling by car. In the early twentieth century, however, people saw driving as an exciting and risky adventure.
- My friend was very **nonchalant** about giving her oral report in class, but I was a nervous wreck about giving mine.
  - A. relaxed.
  - B. anxious.
  - C. angry.

**9 unassuming**

(ʊn'ə-soo'mɪŋ)

*-adjective*\_\_\_ *Unassuming* means

- In the business world, you shouldn't be too **unassuming**. If you're overly modest about your skills and achievements, for example, you might not get a promotion you deserve.
- As **unassuming** as ever, Alice accepted the award in a quiet, modest way.
  - A. argumentative.
  - B. lazy.
  - C. humble.

**10 unilateral**

(yoo'n'ə-lăt'ər-əl)

*-adjective*\_\_\_ *Unilateral* means

- Many people believe in **unilateral** disarmament; that is, they think their own nation should give up all weapons of war even if no other country will do so.
- Tanya's **unilateral** decisions are hurting her marriage. For instance, she recently bought nonrefundable tickets to Florida without consulting her husband.
  - A. gradual.
  - B. one-sided.
  - C. group.

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ Conduct; outward behavior; manner
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Lazy; avoiding or disliking work
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Modest; not boastful or arrogant
4. \_\_\_\_\_ To thin out or scatter and gradually vanish; drive away
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Calm, carefree, and casually unconcerned
6. \_\_\_\_\_ To become more similar to a larger whole; especially, to blend into or adjust to a main culture
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Involving or done by only one side
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Existing as a natural or essential quality of a person or thing; built-in
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Quick or eager to argue or fight; hostile; aggressive
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A strong expression of disapproval; an act of condemning, especially publicly

**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.