



analogy
annihilate
criterion
emanate
holistic

placebo
proficient
staunch
subversive
vindicate

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 **analogy**
(ə-nāl'ə-jē)
-noun

— *Analogy* means

- To help students understand vision, teachers often draw an **analogy** between the eye and a camera.
- The commencement address, titled "You Are the Captain of Your Ship," used the **analogy** of life as an ocean-going vessel that the captain must steer between rocks.

A. a picture. B. a comparison. C. a standard.

2 **annihilate**
(ə-nī'ə-lāt')
-verb

— *Annihilate* means

- The movie was about a plot to **annihilate** entire cities by poisoning their water supply.
- "Universal Destroyer" is a warlike video game in which the aim is to **annihilate** the opponents.

A. to escape from. B. to seize. C. to wipe out.

3 **criterion**
(krī-tēr'ē-ən)
-noun

— *Criterion* means

- One **criterion** by which writing teachers judge a paper is clear organization.
- Some advertisers aren't concerned about telling the truth. Their only **criterion** for a good commercial is selling the product.

A. a standard. B. a beginning. C. an answer.

4 **emanate**
(ēm'ə-nāt')
-verb

— *Emanate* means

- As the cinnamon bread baked, a wonderful smell **emanated** from the kitchen.
- The screeching and scraping **emanating** from Keisha's bedroom tell me that she is practicing her violin.

A. to disappear. B. to come out. C. to expand.

5 **holistic**
(hō-līs'tīk)
-adjective

— *Holistic* means

- A good drug center takes a **holistic** approach to treatment, seeing each client not just as "an addict" but as a whole person. Along with medical aid, it provides emotional support, individual and family counseling, and follow-up services.
- Eastern cultures tend to take a more **holistic** view of learning than Western societies, focusing on the whole rather than analyzing parts.

A. easygoing. B. concerned with the whole. C. nonfinancial.

6 **placebo**
(plə-sē'bō)
-noun

— *Placebo* means

- When the little boy had a headache and there was no aspirin in the house, his mother gave him a **placebo**: a small candy that she told him was a "pain pill." It seemed to work—his headache went away.
- The doctor lost his license when it was found that the pills for depression he had been giving to many of his patients were actually a **placebo**—just sugar pills.

A. a fake medicine. B. an over-the-counter pill. C. an expensive cure.

- 7 proficient**
(prə-ˈfɪʃ-ənt)
-adjective
- ___ *Proficient* means
- It's not all that hard to become **proficient** on a computer. Be patient, and you'll develop the necessary skill.
 - Wayne is a **proficient** woodworker. He is able to make professional-quality desks, bookshelves, and cabinets.
- A. expert. B. hard-working. C. enthusiastic.
- 8 staunch**
(stɔːnʃ)
-adjective
- ___ *Staunch* means
- Although the mayor had been accused of taking bribes, he still had some **staunch** supporters.
 - The newspaper's astrological predictions are often way off the mark, yet Teresa remains a **staunch** believer in astrology and checks her horoscope every day.
- A. busy. B. unsteady. C. faithful.
- 9 subversive**
(səb-ˈvɜːsɪv)
-adjective
- ___ *Subversive* means
- To some Americans, criticizing the President is a **subversive** act, aimed at undermining his power. To others, it is simply an example of freedom of speech.
 - The so-called "consulting company" was a cover for **subversive** activities; it was actually a ring of antigovernment agents.
- A. having faith. B. intended to destroy. C. blameless.
- 10 vindicate**
(vɪn-ˈdæ-kət)
-verb
- ___ *Vindicate* means
- When Kai was accused of cheating on a geometry test, he **vindicated** himself by reciting several theorems from memory, proving that he knew the material.
 - In our society, people falsely accused of crimes often must spend a great deal of money on legal fees in order to **vindicate** themselves.
- A. to prove innocent. B. to make a commitment. C. to weaken.

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. _____ To clear from blame or suspicion; justify or prove right
2. _____ A substance which contains no medicine, but which the receiver believes is a medicine
3. _____ To flow or come out from a source; come forth
4. _____ A comparison between two things in order to clarify or dramatize a point
5. _____ To destroy completely; reduce to nothingness
6. _____ A standard by which something is or can be judged
7. _____ Acting or intending to undermine or overthrow something established
8. _____ Firm; loyal; strong in support
9. _____ Emphasizing the whole and the interdependence of its parts, rather than the parts separately
10. _____ Skilled; highly competent

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.