



complement
discreet
fastidious
flout
heinous

implement
impromptu
inference
intuition
obtrusive

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 **complement**
(kŏm'plə-mənt)
-verb

___ *Complement* means

- The new singer's voice **complemented** the other voices, rounding out the group's sound.
 - A red tie would **complement** Pedro's gray suit and white shirt, giving the outfit a needed touch of color.
- A. to go perfectly with. B. to reach out for. C. to overpower.

2 **discreet**
(dĭ-skṛēt')

-adjective

___ *Discreet* means

- Once the teacher realized Jared could not read well, she made **discreet** efforts to give him extra help. She didn't want to embarrass him in front of his classmates.
 - "Be **discreet** about these drawings, Wilson," the boss said. "Don't show them to just anyone. We don't want another company stealing our designs."
- A. honest. B. cautious. C. obvious.

3 **fastidious**
(fäs-tĭd'ē-əs)
-adjective

___ *Fastidious* means

- Tilly was a **fastidious** housekeeper who vacuumed every day, dusted twice a day, and never allowed so much as a pencil or safety pin to be out of place.
 - A **fastidious** dresser, Mr. Lapp never leaves his home without looking as if he has just stepped out of a fashion magazine.
- A. working quickly. B. having insight. C. very particular.

4 **flout**
(flout)
-verb

___ *Flout* means

- My neighbors were evicted from their apartment because they **flouted** the building's rules. They threw trash in the hallway, had loud all-night parties, and just laughed at anyone who complained.
 - The men in the warehouse are **flouting** regulations about eating on the job. Wastebaskets are filled with sandwich wrappers and empty chip, pretzel, and nacho bags.
- A. to mock and defy. B. to put into effect. C. to show off.

5 **heinous**
(hā'nəs)
-adjective

___ *Heinous* means

- The child murderer's final **heinous** act was taunting the victim's father as the guilty verdict was announced.
 - Millions of people were shocked recently by news reports of a **heinous** act: a woman had locked her little daughter in the basement and starved her to death.
- A. wicked. B. unplanned. C. detailed.

6 **implement**
(ĭm'plə-mĕnt')
-verb

___ *Implement* means

- NASA expects to **implement** a plan to return astronauts to the moon by 2020.
 - Brett is full of ideas about starting his own business, but he never follows through and **implements** them.
- A. to recall. B. to put into effect. C. to criticize.

7 impromptu
(im-prŏmp'tōō')
-adjective

___ *Impromptu* means

- My speech at my cousin's birthday dinner was **impromptu**; I hadn't expected to be called on to say anything.
 - When Maya discovered that she and Barry had both brought guitars to the party, she suggested an **impromptu** duet.
- A. not rehearsed. B. not very good. C. very quiet.

8 inference
(in'fər-əns)
-noun

___ *Inference* means

- Ruby said with a wink, "Did you notice how Uncle Joe's hair has miraculously grown back?" My **inference** was that he was wearing a toupee.
 - "Where did you buy these pork chops?" asked Harry. "Why? What's wrong with them?" Maria asked, making the **inference** that he didn't like them.
- A. a statement. B. a conclusion. C. a secret.

9 intuition
(in'tōō-īsh'ən)
-noun

___ *Intuition* means

- "I paint by **intuition**," the artist said. "In a flash, I see how a work should look. I don't really think it out."
 - "The minute I met your mother," my father said, "my **intuition** told me that we'd get married someday."
- A. careful study. B. memory. C. instinct.

10 obtrusive
(ŏb-trōō'siv)
-adjective

___ *Obtrusive* means

- The huge, sprawling new mall seemed **obtrusive** in the quiet little country town.
 - My brother's stutter is often hardly noticeable, but when he is nervous or in a hurry, it can become **obtrusive**.
- A. overly obvious. B. unplanned. C. greatly improved.

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 treat with scorn or contempt; defy insultingly
2. _____ Instinctive knowledge; hunch
3. _____ To carry out; put into practice
4. _____ Undesirably noticeable
5. _____ Wise in keeping silent about secrets and other information of a delicate nature; prudent; tactful
6. _____ Performed or spoken without practice or preparation
7. _____ Extremely evil; outrageous
8. _____ A conclusion drawn from evidence; an assumption
9. _____ To add (to something or someone) what is lacking or needed; round out; bring to perfection
10. _____ Extremely attentive to details; fussy

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.