



adroit  
constituent  
contention  
irreparable  
pinnacle

platitude  
promiscuous  
repudiate  
spontaneous  
stigma

## 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 **adroit**  
(ə-droit')  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Adroit* means

- Doris is **adroit** in any kind of discussion or debate. She's very skillful at getting others to see things her way.
  - **Adroit** chess players can make it seem as if the opponent is winning, when in fact he or she is about to lose in another move or two.
- A. impulsive.                      B. expert.                      C. not selective.

2 **constituent**  
(kən-stitch'ōō-ənt)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Constituent* means

- Our senator genuinely wants to represent the citizens, so she makes serious efforts to find out how her **constituents** feel about important issues.
  - Many of Councilman Hall's **constituents** live in poverty, so one way he helps those he represents is by working for programs to assist the poor.
- A. someone represented.    B. someone who speaks well.    C. an officeholder.

3 **contention**  
(kən-tēn'shən)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Contention* means

- The artist's **contention** is that he was born in Paris, but actually he was born in a small town in Missouri.
  - John's **contention** was that smoking hadn't hurt his health, but right after making that statement, he had a fit of coughing that lasted ten minutes.
- A. an attempt.                      B. a realization.                      C. a claim.

4 **irreparable**  
(ir-rēp'ə-rə-bəl)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Irreparable* means

- The damage to the vase is **irreparable**. It broke into so many pieces that it cannot possibly be put together again.
  - LaTanya apologized to Fred for her angry words, but I'm afraid the harm to their friendship is **irreparable**.
- A. untrue.                      B. not able to be fixed.                      C. unnatural.

5 **pinnacle**  
(pīn'ə-kəl)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Pinnacle* means

- The rock singer seems to have reached the **pinnacle** of her career: she's at the height of her popularity, and her recordings are selling more than ever before.
  - Robin felt that being elected class president was the **pinnacle** of her college years. Her parents, though, wish that she had thought of her "personal best" more in terms of academic achievement.
- A. the highest point.                      B. the starting point.                      C. the end.

6 **platitude**  
(plăt'ə-tōōd')  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Platitude* means

- Some conversations are made up entirely of **platitudes**: "Good to see you." "We've got to get together sometime." "Well, take care."
  - I made no response to the clerk's "Have a nice day." He meant well, but I'm tired of **platitudes** like that.
- A. good advice.                      B. an unoriginal comment.                      C. a lie.

**7 promiscuous**  
(prə-mĭs'kyōō-əs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Promiscuous* means

- In this age of HIV and AIDS, it's more important than ever for people to be choosy about sexual partners. Being **promiscuous** can have deadly consequences.
  - When it comes to women, Erik and Harry are opposites. Erik dates one woman at a time and is serious about commitment, but Harry is totally **promiscuous**.
- A. faithful.                      B. unselective.                      C. rude.

**8 repudiate**  
(rĭ-pyōō'dē-āt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ *Repudiate* means

- The actor **repudiated** his biography, saying it had been written without his consent or cooperation and that it was filled with lies.
  - After the millionaire died, several people showed up claiming to be his children and demanding a share of his estate, but his real family **repudiated** their claims.
- A. to accept.                      B. to discuss.                      C. to reject.

**9 spontaneous**  
(spŏn-tā'nē-əs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Spontaneous* means

- The key to good acting is to be so well prepared that all words and actions seem natural and **spontaneous**, not rehearsed.
  - When I asked Shawn to the movies, I tried to make the invitation sound **spontaneous**, as if I'd just thought of it. I didn't want him to know that I'd been planning it, nervously, for days.
- A. unplanned.                      B. clever.                      C. irresistible.

**10 stigma**  
(stĭg'mə)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Stigma* means

- In the past, seeing a psychiatrist might harm a person's reputation, but now there's little or no **stigma** attached to seeking help for psychological problems.
  - For a long time, there was a **stigma** associated with divorce. Today, of course, divorce is so common that it's no longer considered a disgrace.
- A. dishonor.                      B. an insight.                      C. an argument.

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Not able to be repaired or made better
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Skillful and clever under challenging conditions
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A mark of shame or disgrace; blemish on character or reputation
4. \_\_\_\_\_ To deny the truth, validity, or authority of
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Occurring or done as a result of a natural feeling or impulse; not forced or planned
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Lacking standards of selection; having many sexual partners
7. \_\_\_\_\_ A peak of achievement; topmost point
8. \_\_\_\_\_ A member of a group represented by an elected official
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A remark that is commonplace or has become uninteresting through repeated use
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A claim that something is true; a declaration

**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.