

collaborate
despondent
instigate
resilient
retrospect

rudimentary
scoff
squelch
venerate
zealot

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 collaborate

(kə-lāb'ə-rāt')

-verb

___ Collaborate means

- When Sarah and I were asked to **collaborate** on an article for the school newspaper, we found it difficult to work together.
- Several writers and editors have **collaborated** in preparing this vocabulary text, sharing their knowledge and skills.

A. to compete. B. to stop work. C. to act as a team.

2 despondent

(dĭ-spŏn'dənt)

-adjective

___ Despondent means

- Devon becomes **despondent** too easily. If he gets even one bad grade, he loses all hope of succeeding in school.
- For months after his wife died, Mr. Craig was **despondent**. No matter how hard they tried, his family and friends could not cheer him up.

A. ill. B. depressed. C. angry.

3 instigate

(ĭn'stə-gāt')

-verb

___ Instigate means

- The rock group's violent performance **instigated** a riot in the audience.
- An English captain named Robert Jenkins **instigated** a war in 1738 by displaying his pickled ear, which he said had been cut off by a Spanish patrol. The horrified British declared war on Spain—the "War of Jenkins' Ear."

A. to prevent. B. to predict. C. to cause.

4 resilient

(rĭ-zĭl'yənt)

-adjective

___ Resilient means

- Children can be amazingly **resilient**. Even after a sad or frightening experience, they often bounce back to their normal cheerful selves.
- Plant life is **resilient**. For example, a few weeks after the Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in Washington in 1980, flowers were growing in the ashes.

A. widespread. B. slow to recover. C. quick to recover.

5 retrospect

(rĕt'rə-spĕkt')

-noun

___ In retrospect means

- After hobbling around on her broken foot for a week before seeing a doctor, Mae then needed surgery. In **retrospect**, it's clear she should have gotten help sooner.
- When I took Ms. Klein's writing course, I thought she was too demanding. In **retrospect**, though, I realize that she taught me more than anyone else.

A. looking back. B. looking for excuses. C. looking ahead.

6 rudimentary

(rŭd'ə-mĕn'tər-ē)

-adjective

___ Rudimentary means

- A grammar book usually starts with **rudimentary** skills, such as identifying nouns and verbs.
- I'm so used to adding and subtracting on a calculator that I've probably forgotten how to do those **rudimentary** mathematical calculations on my own.

A. basic. B. intermediate. C. advanced.

7 scoff

(skɒf)

*-verb*___ *Scoff at* means

- Bystanders **scoffed** at the street musician playing a tune on a row of tin cans, but he seemed unaware that people were making fun of him.
 - Tony **scoffed** at reports that a hurricane was coming until he saw the winds knocking down trees and overturning cars.
- A. to laugh at. B. to watch. C. to take seriously.

8 squelch

(skwɛlʃ)

*-verb*___ *Squelch* means

- My history teacher shot me a dirty look during class when I couldn't quite manage to **squelch** a burp.
 - Decades of communism in Eastern Europe didn't **squelch** the desire for freedom. As soon as they could, the people in these countries began to form democracies.
- A. to encourage. B. to hold back. C. to release.

9 venerate

(vɛn'ər-āt')

*-verb*___ *Venerate* means

- The Tlingit Indians **venerate** the wolf and the raven, and their totem poles illustrate stories in praise of these animals.
 - The guests at our dean's retirement banquet made it clear that they **venerated** her; when she entered the room, everyone rose.
- A. to pity. B. to honor. C. to remember.

10 zealot

(zɛl'ət)

*-noun*___ *Zealot* means

- Annie, a **zealot** about health, runs a hundred miles a week and never lets a grain of sugar touch her lips.
 - The Crusaders were Christian **zealots** during the Middle Ages who left their homes and families and went off to try to capture the Holy Land.
- A. an extremist. B. an observer. C. a doubter.

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.

- _____ To bring about by moving others to action; stir up
- _____ Fundamental; necessary to learn first
- _____ Able to recover quickly from harm, illness, or misfortune
- _____ To work together on a project; cooperate in an effort
- _____ A person totally devoted to a purpose or cause
- _____ To silence or suppress; crush
- _____ To respect deeply; revere
- _____ Downhearted; hopeless; overwhelmed with sadness
- _____ Reviewing the past; considering past events
- _____ To make fun of; mock; refuse to take seriously

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.