



CHAPTER 30

abrasive
admonish
antithesis
culmination
docile

emulate
hierarchy
incapacitate
prognosis
tumult

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 **abrasive**
(ə-brā'siv)
-adjective

___ Abrasive means

- Pumice stone, a naturally **abrasive** substance, can be used for rubbing away rough spots on the feet.
- Roz has an **abrasive** personality—critical and negative. She always seems to rub people the wrong way.

A. simple. B. harsh. C. common.

2 **admonish**
(əd-mŏn'ish)
-verb

___ Admonish means

- When the guide found the hikers deep in the woods but unhurt, he **admonished** them for straying off the trail.
- Because the little girl had spent her entire allowance on candy, her parents **admonished** her for wasting her money.

A. to lead. B. to criticize. C. to irritate.

3 **antithesis**
(än-tith'ī-sīs)
-noun

___ Antithesis means

- My taste in music is the **antithesis** of my brother's. I like heavy metal, played loud; he likes soft classical music.
- Pauline's free-spirited second husband is the **antithesis** of her first, who was a very timid and cautious man.

A. the reverse. B. something superior. C. an imitation.

4 **culmination**
(kŭl'mə-nā'shən)
-noun

___ Culmination means

- For an actor or actress, receiving an Academy Award is often the **culmination** of many years of effort, progressing from drama school to bit parts to major roles.
- The Super Bowl is the **culmination** of the entire professional football season. All the rivalries, victories, and defeats lead up to this final contest.

A. a series. B. a cause. C. a final high point.

5 **docile**
(dŏs'īl)
-adjective

___ Docile means

- After only a month of obedience training, our uncontrollable puppy calmed down, learned to pay attention to us, and became far more **docile**.
- Drugs and even surgery have been used in mental hospitals to make violent patients **docile**, so that they could be managed more easily.

A. obedient. B. strong. C. curable.

6 **emulate**
(ēm'yōō-lāt')
-verb

___ Emulate means

- Jessie has always tried to **emulate** her older sister; she tries hard to do just as well as her sister—if not better—in school, at sports, and in popularity.
- Youngsters often want to **emulate** famous athletes. They train almost as hard as the champions do, with dreams of someday being as skilled as their heroes.

A. to admire. B. to imitate. C. to submit to.

7 hierarchy
(hī'ər-âr'kē)
-noun

— *Hierarchy* means

- The armed forces are a clear example of a strict **hierarchy**. Everyone has a specific rank and must follow the orders of those whose rank is higher.
 - Eva soon learned that all requests and suggestions had to be passed up through the levels of the company **hierarchy**. She could communicate directly with her own boss, but not with the boss's boss—let alone with the company president.
- A. a ranked system. B. a training system. C. a large system.

8 incapacitate
(in'kə-pās'ə-tāt')
-verb

— *Incapacitate* means

- The lecture was canceled because the speaker was **incapacitated** by the flu.
 - My mother can't tolerate alcohol. Even half a glass of wine **incapacitates** her; all she can do is giggle for a while and then go to sleep.
- A. to irritate. B. to be concerned with. C. to disable.

9 prognosis
(prŏg-nō'sis)
-noun

— *Prognosis* means

- Nathan's operation went well. The surgeon's **prognosis** is that Nathan will fully recover.
 - Unless something can be done to reduce global warming, the **prognosis** for the environment will remain poor.
- A. a forecast. B. an illness. C. an organization.

10 tumult
(tōō'mŭlt')
-noun

— *Tumult* means

- Spectators at a hockey match are often wild and noisy, and the **tumult** becomes even greater during a "sudden-death" overtime.
 - On New Year's Eve, the **tumult** in Times Square reaches such proportions that the crowd noise can be heard a mile away.
- A. damage. B. uproar. C. friction.

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. _____ The noisy disorder of a crowd; a commotion
2. _____ To make unable or unfit, especially for normal activities; disable
3. _____ Tending to give in to the control or power of others without resisting; easy to handle or discipline; willingly led
4. _____ Able to cause a wearing away by rubbing or scraping; rough; irritating
5. _____ A prediction of the course, outcome, or fate of something, especially a disease or injury
6. _____ To scold gently but seriously; caution; give a warning
7. _____ The exact opposite
8. _____ The highest point or degree of a series of actions or events; the climax
9. _____ To try to equal or surpass, especially by imitation; imitate
10. _____ An organization of people in a series of levels, according to importance or authority

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.