

berate
 estrange
 euphoric
 impetuous
 infallible

maudlin
 regress
 relinquish
 ubiquitous
 zenith

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 **berate**

(bĭ-rāt')

-verb

___ *Berate* means

- Nick's mother often **berates** him. And when she isn't yelling at him, she ignores him.
 - Vanessa can accept reasonable criticism, but she was upset when her boss **berated** her loudly in front of everyone else in the office.
- A. to disappoint. B. to neglect. C. to scold angrily.

2 **estrange**

(ĕ-strānj')

-verb

___ *Estrange* means

- My cousin's recent moodiness has **estranged** some of his old friends.
 - After his divorce, Gavin didn't want to **estrange** his children, so he called and visited them often.
- A. to frighten. B. to drive away. C. to dislike.

3 **euphoric**

(yōō-fôr'ĭk)

-adjective

___ *Euphoric* means

- I was **euphoric** when I received my grades. To my amazement and joy, they were all A's and B's.
 - Nikki is **euphoric** today, and it's easy to see why she's in such high spirits. She's just gotten the lead role in our school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*.
- A. very happy. B. boastful. C. sentimental.

4 **impetuous**

(ĭm-pĕch'ōō-əs)

-adjective

___ *Impetuous* means

- Whenever I make an **impetuous** purchase, I end up being dissatisfied: the shoes aren't comfortable, the shirt is the wrong color, the jacket costs too much. From now on, I intend to think more carefully before I buy.
 - Children tend to be **impetuous** and often don't think about the consequences of their actions. For instance, they'll throw snowballs at passing cars without worrying about possibly causing an accident.
- A. impulsive. B. considerate. C. imaginative.

5 **infallible**

(ĭn-fāl'ə-bəl)

-adjective

___ *Infallible* means

- Computers aren't **infallible**. If you put the wrong data into a computer, you'll get wrong answers.
 - A sign over my sister's desk reads, "I'm **infallible**. I never make mistakes."
- A. perfect. B. imperfect. C. everywhere.

6 **maudlin**

(môd'lĭn)

-adjective

___ *Maudlin* means

- The verses in greeting cards are often far too sentimental. I prefer humor to such **maudlin** messages.
 - The authors of **maudlin** soap operas must feel that they haven't done their job unless viewers are crying by the end of each show.
- A. short. B. comical. C. overly emotional.

7 regress

(rĭ-grēs')

*-verb*___ *Regress* means

- When his baby sister was born, seven-year-old Jeremy **regressed** for a while and began sucking his thumb again.
 - Adolescents under stress sometimes **regress** to childish ways: dependency, temper tantrums, and silliness.
- A. to go backward. B. to reach a high point. C. to act hastily.

8 relinquish

(rĭ-lĭng'kwĭsh)

*-verb*___ *Relinquish* means

- No beer is allowed in the "family area" of the stadium, so fans must **relinquish** their six-packs at the gate before they take their seats.
 - Donna had to **relinquish** her share in the beach house because she couldn't afford it anymore.
- A. to buy. B. to give up. C. to enjoy.

9 ubiquitous

(yōō-bĭk'wə-təs)

*-adjective*___ *Ubiquitous* means

- Mites are **ubiquitous**. They live on top of Mt. Everest, in the depths of the ocean, at the South Pole, and even around the roots of your hairs.
 - We postponed our plan to drive home on Sunday because a dense fog was **ubiquitous**. It covered the entire town.
- A. scarce. B. newly discovered. C. found everywhere.

10 zenith

(zē'nĭth)

*-noun*___ *Zenith* means

- Florence reached the **zenith** of her career when she became president of Ace Products.
 - At age 50, my uncle is afraid that he has already passed the **zenith** of his life; but at age 52, my father thinks the best is yet to come.
- A. an end. B. an earlier condition. C. the highest point.

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 surrender (something); give (something) up
2. _____ Done or acting in a hurry, with little thought; impulsive
3. _____ Tearfully sentimental; overly emotional
4. _____ To criticize or scold harshly
5. _____ Existing or seeming to exist everywhere at the same time
6. _____ The highest point or condition; peak
7. _____ To make unsympathetic or unfriendly; alienate
8. _____ Not capable of error or failure; unable to make a mistake
9. _____ Overjoyed; having an intense feeling of well-being
10. _____ To return to an earlier, generally worse, condition or behavior

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.