

equivocate	propensity
fortuitous	reprehensible
impeccable	sham
liaison	solace
predisposed	solicitous

## 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 equivocate**  
(ē-kwiv'ə-kāt')  
-verb

\_\_\_ *Equivocate* means

- Bob can't get his boss to say whether or not he intends to give him a raise. When Bob asks him, he **equivocates**, saying, "You've been doing good work, Bob."
- Lonnell doesn't want to come right out and tell Tiffany he doesn't love her. If she asks, he **equivocates** by telling her something like "You know how I feel."

A. to be blunt.                      B. to be unclear.                      C. to deny.

**2 fortuitous**  
(fôr-tōō'ə-təs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Fortuitous* means

- The birth of triplets wasn't entirely **fortuitous**. The mother had taken a fertility drug, which often causes multiple births.
- It was strictly **fortuitous** that Vince found his missing class notes. They happened to drop out of his dictionary when it fell to the floor.

A. accidental.                      B. predictable.                      C. overdue.

**3 impeccable**  
(im-pĕk'ə-bəl)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Impeccable* means

- My aunt always looks stylish but never overdressed. Her taste in clothes is **impeccable**.
- When she auditioned for the play, Julie gave an **impeccable** performance. She read the lines perfectly and got the part.

A. flawless.                      B. deceptive.                      C. faulty.

**4 liaison**  
(lē-ā'zōn')  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Liaison* means

- The president of the Student Council acts as a **liaison** between the students and the administration.
- Because she is bilingual, Elena often serves as a **liaison** between the Spanish- and English-speaking personnel in her office.

A. a follower.                      B. a caregiver.                      C. a link.

**5 predisposed**  
(prē'dis-pōzd')  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Predisposed* means

- Terry didn't want to move in the first place, so she was **predisposed** to hate the new apartment.
- As a Brad Pitt fan, I'm **predisposed** to enjoy any movie he stars in.

A. unlikely.                      B. likely.                      C. pretending.

**6 propensity**  
(prə-pĕn'sī-tē)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Propensity* means

- Because Ivan has a **propensity** to gain weight, he watches what he eats.
- Cheryl is aware of her **propensity** to blab, so she warns her friends not to tell her anything they wouldn't want repeated.

A. a coincidence.                      B. an inclination.                      C. a concern.

**7 reprehensible**  
(rĕp'ri-hĕn'sə-bəl)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Reprehensible* means

- The Riordans never discipline their son. No matter how **reprehensible** his behavior is, they just say, "Kids will be kids."
- The company's failure to clean up the oil spill was **reprehensible** and drew harsh criticism.

A. shameful.                      B. misleading.                      C. uncertain.

**8 sham**  
(shām)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Sham* means

- Karen's apparent affection for Raul is a **sham**. He's rich, and she cares only about his money.
- When the city inspectors came, the restaurant kitchen was sparkling. However, such cleanliness was a **sham**—the place is usually filthy.

A. something false.    B. something confusing.    C. something accidental.

**9 solace**  
(sōl'is)  
-noun

\_\_\_ *Solace* means

- After a family quarrel, Tamara finds **solace** in the privacy and quiet of her own room.
- Whenever I'm upset and need **solace**, I call my friend Lisa. Talking to her always makes me feel better.

A. excitement.                      B. perfection.                      C. relief.

**10 solicitous**  
(sə-lis'itəs)  
-adjective

\_\_\_ *Solicitous* means

- The waiter was overly **solicitous**. He kept interrupting our conversation to ask, "Is everything all right here?"
- **Solicitous** toward her elderly neighbor, Marie calls every day to see how he is feeling and if he needs anything.

A. distant.                      B. attentive.                      C. patient.

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_ A natural preference or tendency
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Deserving of blame, criticism, or disapproval
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Happening by chance, by accident, or at random; lucky
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Comfort in sorrow or misfortune; consolation
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A person who serves as a connection between individuals or groups; a go-between
6. \_\_\_\_\_ To be deliberately vague in order to mislead
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Faultless; perfect
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Showing or expressing concern, care, or attention
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tending toward or open to something beforehand
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A pretense or counterfeit; something meant to deceive

**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.