



attrition
circumvent
cohesive
grievous
inundate

oblivious
reticent
robust
sanction
vociferous

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 attrition

(ə-trīsh'ən)

-noun

___ *Attrition* means

- Sports teams are constantly looking for new talent to replace players lost through **attrition**—those who retire, quit because of injuries, and so on.
- Colleges try not to have a high rate of **attrition**. They want students to stay until graduation, rather than drop out early.

A. an increase in numbers. B. a natural loss of individuals. C. ill health.

2 circumvent

(sŭr'kəm-vĕnt')

-verb

___ *Circumvent* means

- If we take this roundabout route, we can **circumvent** the rush-hour traffic and get home early.
- I had to swerve to the right to **circumvent** a huge pothole.

A. to avoid. B. to meet head-on. C. to make smaller.

3 cohesive

(kō-hē'sīv)

-adjective

___ *Cohesive* means

- For a **cohesive** pie dough, one that doesn't fall apart, be sure to add enough liquid.
- A family needs to be **cohesive**—to stay together even when stresses and strains threaten to tear it apart.

A. connected. B. popular. C. large.

4 grievous

(grĕv'əs)

-adjective

___ *Grievous* means

- The death of a beloved pet is a **grievous** loss for a child.
- The assassination of a great leader, such as Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr., often does **grievous** harm to a society.

A. preventable. B. unavoidable. C. terrible.

5 inundate

(ĭn'ŭn-dāt')

-verb

___ *Inundate* means

- During the heavy rains, the river overflowed and **inundated** the fields, destroying all the crops.
- After his brief announcement at the beginning of the press conference, the President was **inundated** with questions from reporters.

A. to flood. B. to strengthen. C. to go around.

6 oblivious

(ə-blĭv'ĕ-əs)

-adjective

___ *Oblivious to* means

- The driver continued into the intersection, apparently **oblivious** to the fact that the light had turned red.
- It's easy to spot two people in love. They are the ones who, **oblivious** to everyone else present, see only each other.

A. angry about. B. not noticing. C. overwhelmed by.

7 reticent
(rĕt'ĭ-sənt)
-adjective

___ *Reticent* means

- Lamar is very **reticent** about his first marriage; he never talks about his former wife or what led to their divorce.
 - It's odd that many people who love to gossip about someone else are so **reticent** about their own lives.
- A. dishonest. B. quiet. C. unaware.

8 robust
(rō-büst')

-adjective

___ *Robust* means

- Once an energetic, **robust** man, Mr. Rand has been considerably weakened by illness.
- A number of weightlifters who were previously **robust** have ruined their health and vigor by taking steroids.

A. very noisy. B. sickly. C. strong and well.

9 sanction
(sǎngk'shən)
-verb

___ *Sanction* means

- By greeting the dictator with extreme courtesy and fanfare, the ambassador seemed to **sanction** his policies.
- Many people whose children attend religious schools would like the government to **sanction** the use of public funds to help pay for their education.

A. to grant approval of. B. to criticize severely. C. to remember.

10 vociferous
(vō-sĭf'ər-əs)
-adjective

___ *Vociferous* means

- When male loons sense that their territory is being invaded, they give **vociferous** cries of challenge.
- The principal became angry and **vociferous**, shouting at students who tried to sneak out of the fire drill.

A. distant. B. mild. C. loud.

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 authorize, allow, or approve
2. _____ To cover, as by flooding; overwhelm with a large number or amount
3. _____ To avoid by going around or as if by going around; to escape from, prevent, or stop through cleverness
4. _____ Quiet or uncommunicative; reluctant to speak out
5. _____ Healthy and strong; vigorous
6. _____ Sticking or holding together; unified
7. _____ Noisy; expressing feelings loudly and intensely
8. _____ A gradual natural decrease in number; becoming fewer in number
9. _____ Causing grief or pain; very serious or severe
10. _____ Unaware; failing to notice

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.