



CHAPTER 9

bolster	relegate
depreciate	replete
indiscriminate	sedentary
inquisitive	tenet
nebulous	terse

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 bolster**
(bōl'stər)
-verb

___ *Bolster* means

 - The front porch was sagging, so we had to **bolster** it with cinder blocks until it could be repaired.
 - When Yoko was in the hospital, visits from friends **bolstered** her spirits.

A. to reach. B. to replace. C. to support.

- 2 depreciate**
(dī-prē'shē-āt')
-verb

___ *Depreciate* means

 - As soon as you drive a new car off the lot, it **depreciates**; it's immediately worth less than you paid for it.
 - The property **depreciated** when the city built a sewage plant nearby.

A. to become better. B. to become less valuable. C. to become definite.

- 3 indiscriminate**
(in'dī-skrim'ī-nīt)
-adjective

___ *Indiscriminate* means

 - Some people end up hopelessly in debt because of **indiscriminate** spending, so be selective about what and how much you buy.
 - I confess to an **indiscriminate** love of chocolate. I don't distinguish between plain old Hershey bars and fancy imported chocolates—I adore them all.

A. healthy. B. unenthusiastic. C. not selective.

- 4 inquisitive**
(in-kwīz'ə-tīv)
-adjective

___ *Inquisitive* means

 - **Inquisitive** students usually do better than those who are less curious and less eager to learn.
 - Small children are naturally **inquisitive**. They wonder about the world around them, and they are constantly asking "Why?"

A. hard-working. B. particular. C. questioning.

- 5 nebulous**
(nēb'yə-ləs)
-adjective

___ *Nebulous* means

 - When I ask Leonard what he wants for his birthday, he never gives me any specific ideas. He just gives a **nebulous** answer like "Oh, something I can use."
 - "A good essay cannot be **nebulous**," the English instructor explained. "It must contain sharp, precise details."

A. indefinite. B. long. C. specific.

- 6 relegate**
(rēl'ə-gāt')
-verb

___ *Relegate* means

 - At family gatherings, we kids were always **relegated** to the kitchen table, while the adults ate in the dining room.
 - When we have overnight guests, my parents give them my room and **relegate** me to a cot in the attic.

A. to send. B. to punish. C. to reward.

7 replete

(rĭ-plĕt')

*-adjective*___ *Replete* means

- The show was **replete** with dazzling effects, including gorgeous scenery, glittering costumes, dramatic lighting, and thrilling music.
- The book of household hints got an excellent review. "It's **replete** with good advice," the critic wrote. "Every homeowner should purchase a copy."

A. replaced. B. filled. C. followed.

8 sedentary

(sĕd'n-tĕr'ĕ)

*-adjective*___ *Sedentary* means

- People in **sedentary** occupations, such as bus drivers and writers, need to make a special effort to exercise.
- My older sister's lifestyle is so **sedentary** that the longest walk she ever takes is from her living-room couch to the front seat of her car.

A. involving much walking. B. involving stress. C. involving much sitting.

9 tenet

(tĕn'ĭt)

*-noun*___ *Tenet* means

- One of the basic **tenets** of democracy is freedom of speech.
- This world might be a paradise if everyone lived by such **tenets** as "Never cause suffering."

A. a principle. B. a ritual. C. a prediction.

10 terse

(tĕrs)

*-adjective*___ *Terse* means

- I was hurt by Roberto's **terse** response to my invitation. All he said was "No thanks."
- A British humor magazine once gave this **terse** advice to people about to marry: "Don't."

A. dishonest. B. unclear. C. short.

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 fall or decrease in value or price; to lower the value of
2. _____ Not chosen carefully; not based on careful selection
3. _____ Marked by much sitting; requiring or taking little exercise
4. _____ A belief or principle held to be true by an individual or group
5. _____ Brief and clear; effectively concise
6. _____ To hold up, strengthen, or reinforce; support with a rigid object
7. _____ Curious; eager to learn
8. _____ Plentifully supplied; well-filled
9. _____ Vague; unclear
10. _____ To assign to a less important or less satisfying position, place, or condition

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.