



<b>absolve</b>	<b>antagonist</b>
<b>adamant</b>	<b>eccentric</b>
<b>amiable</b>	<b>encounter</b>
<b>amoral</b>	<b>epitome</b>
<b>animosity</b>	<b>malign</b>

### 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 **absolve**  
(äb-zölv')  
-verb

- Having insufficient evidence of his guilt, the jury had to **absolve** Mr. Melman of the murder.
- Accused of taking bribes, the mayor said, "In the end, I'll clear my name and be **absolved** of any wrongdoing."

   *Absolve* means

- a. to accuse.                      b. to clear of guilt.                      c. to inform.

2 **adamant**  
(äd'ä-mönt)  
-adjective

- Ron is **adamant** about not changing plans. He insists we still camp out even though the weather report now says it will be cold and rainy.
- **Adamant** in his support of gun control, Senator Keen won't give in to pressure from powerful opponents.

   *Adamant* means

- a. firm.                              b. uncertain.                              c. flexible.

3 **amiable**  
(ä'mē-ä-bäl)  
-adjective

- My **amiable** dog greets both strangers and old friends with a happy yip and energetic tail-wagging.
- At first, our history teacher doesn't seem very friendly, but once you get to know her, she shows her **amiable** side.

   *Amiable* means

- a. intelligent.                      b. uncaring.                              c. good-natured.

4 **amoral**  
(ä-mör'äl)  
-adjective

- Jerry is almost totally **amoral**. He cares only about making money and having fun and couldn't care less about right or wrong.
- A former president of Uganda, Idi Amin, was truly **amoral**. He jailed, tortured, and killed innocent opponents without the slightest feeling of guilt.

   *Amoral* means

- a. cowardly.                              b. lazy.                                      c. lacking ethical principles.

5 **animosity**  
(än'ä-mös'ä-tē)  
-noun

- I was shocked when Sandy said she hated Lionel. I'd never realized she felt such **animosity** toward him.
- Ill will between the two families goes back so many generations that nobody remembers what originally caused the **animosity**.

   *Animosity* means

- a. strong dislike.                      b. admiration.                              c. great fear.

6 **antagonist**  
(än-täg'ä-nist)  
-noun

- At the divorce hearing, the husband and wife were such bitter **antagonists** that it was hard to believe they had once loved each other.
- In the ring, the two boxers were **antagonists**, but in their private lives they were good friends.

   *Antagonist* means

- a. a supporter.                              b. an enemy.                              c. an example.

7 **eccentric**

(ĭk-sĕn'trĭk)

*-adjective*

- Bruce is quite **eccentric**. For example, he lives in a circular house and rides to work on a motorcycle, in a three-piece suit.
- Florence Nightingale, the famous nursing reformer, had the **eccentric** habit of carrying a pet owl around in one of her pockets.

\_\_\_ *Eccentric* means

- a. ordinary.                      b. odd.                      c. careful.

8 **encounter**

(ĕn-koun'tər)

*-noun*

- My **encounter** with Matt in a Los Angeles supermarket surprised me, since I thought he still lived in Chicago.
- I dislike returning to my small hometown, where I am likely to have **encounters** with people who knew me as a troubled kid.

\_\_\_ *Encounter* means

- a. a thought.                      b. a dinner.                      c. a meeting.

9 **epitome**

(ĭ-pĭt'ə-mĕ)

*-noun*

- To many, the **epitome** of cuteness is a furry, round-eyed puppy.
- The great ballplayer and civil rights leader Jackie Robinson was the **epitome** of both physical and moral strength.

\_\_\_ *Epitome* means

- a. a perfect model.                      b. an opposite.                      c. a main cause.

10 **malign**

(mə'lĭn)

*-verb*

- That vicious Hollywood reporter often **maligns** movie stars, forever damaging their public images.
- Stacy refuses to **malign** her ex-husband, even though he was the one who insisted on the divorce.

\_\_\_ *Malign* means

- a. to praise.                      b. to recognize.                      c. to speak ill of.

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ Not giving in; stubborn
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Lacking a moral sense; without principles
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Differing from what is customary; odd
4. \_\_\_\_\_ To find innocent or blameless
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A brief or an unexpected meeting
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A perfect or typical example of a general quality or type
7. \_\_\_\_\_ An opponent; one who opposes or competes
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Bitter hostility
9. \_\_\_\_\_ To make evil and often untrue statements about; speak evil of
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Good-natured; friendly and pleasant

**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.

## ➤ Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. absolve	b. adamant	c. amiable	d. amoral	e. animosity
f. antagonist	g. eccentric	h. encounter	i. epitome	j. malign

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Lilly was \_\_\_ in her belief that Sam was a genius at business. Even after his first two undertakings failed, she still had faith in him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. My brothers had planned to meet in the restaurant, but their \_\_\_ took place in the parking lot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I'm tired of hearing the two candidates for governor \_\_\_ each other with stupid insults.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Because he doesn't want to lose a sale, Mac remains polite and \_\_\_ even when he's annoyed with a customer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Some criminals are truly \_\_\_—they don't see that some actions are right and that others are wrong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The \_\_\_ of refreshment is drinking an ice-cold lemonade on a sizzling hot day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Jed was \_\_\_(e)d of stealing money from the company, but the damage the accusation did to his reputation remained.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The owners of the department store were always competing with each other. They acted more like \_\_\_s than partners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I avoid serious discussions with my sister because she shows great \_\_\_ toward me if I don't share her opinion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Today it's not odd for females to learn carpentry, but when my mother went to high school, girls who took wood shop were considered \_\_\_.

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 129. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the next two practices, for which answers are not given.

## ➤ Sentence Check 2

Using the answer lines provided, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2. The \_\_\_ millionaire dressed so shabbily that every \_\_\_ with him convinced us that he was poor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. Hector feels such \_\_\_ toward his sister that he never says a single kind thing about her; he only \_\_\_s her.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. Since the congresswoman was \_\_\_\_\_ in opposing the nuclear power plant, the plant's owners regarded her as their toughest \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. Wayne is so \_\_\_\_\_ that he doesn't even have the desire to be \_\_\_\_\_(e)d of guilt for all the times he has lied, cheated, and stolen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. With his friendly air, good-natured laugh and generosity, Santa Claus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ grandfather.

### ► **Final Check: Joseph Palmer**

Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

In 1830, a Massachusetts farmer named Joseph Palmer moved to the city, only to find that people continually reacted to him with anger and hatred. Why? Palmer certainly wasn't a(n) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ man—no, he had a strong sense of right and wrong. He was a friendly and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ person as well. And on the whole, Palmer was the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of a normal citizen, living a typical life with his family. Yet his neighbors crossed to the other side of the street to avoid an (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with him. Children insulted Palmer and sometimes threw stones at him. Grown men hurled rocks through the windows of his house. Even the local minister (5) \_\_\_\_\_(e)d Palmer, telling the congregation that Palmer admired only himself.

One day, four men carrying scissors and a razor attacked Palmer and threw him to the ground. Pulling out a pocketknife, Palmer fought back, slashing at their legs. His (6) \_\_\_\_\_s fled. Afterward, Palmer was the one arrested and jailed. While in jail he was attacked two more times. Both times, he fought his way free. After a year—although his accusers still wouldn't (7) \_\_\_\_\_ him of guilt—he was released.

Palmer had won. The cause of all the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and abuse had been his long, flowing beard. Palmer, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to the end, had refused to shave.

Thirty years after Palmer's difficulties, it was no longer (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to wear whiskers. Among the many who wore beards then was the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

<b>Scores</b>	Sentence Check 2 _____%	Final Check _____%
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.

acclaim  
adjacent  
elicit  
engross  
escalate

exploit  
methodical  
obsolete  
tangible  
terminate

## 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 **acclaim**

(ə-klām')

-noun

\_\_\_ *Acclaim* means

- Any subway system that is clean, quiet, and safe deserves **acclaim**.
- Although Vincent Van Gogh is now considered a genius, the artist received little **acclaim** in his lifetime.

a. criticism.                      b. praise.                      c. change.

2 **adjacent**

(ə-jā'sənt)

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Adjacent* means

- Because their desks are **adjacent**, Jeff and Kellie often exchange looks and comments.
- If you keep your dishes in a cupboard that's **adjacent** to the dishwasher, you won't have to walk when putting away the clean dishes.

a. close.                      b. similar.                      c. separated.

3 **elicit**

(i-lis'it)

-verb

\_\_\_ *Elicit* means

- Elizabeth Taylor's violet eyes always **elicit** admiration and wonder.
- The basketball player's three-point shot to win the game in its final seconds **elicited** a roar of delight from the excited fans.

a. to stop.                      b. to follow.                      c. to bring out.

4 **engross**

(ən'grōs')

-verb

\_\_\_ *Engross* means

- The suspenseful TV movie so **engrossed** Bryan that he didn't even budge when he was called to dinner.
- The fascinating single-file march of black ants along the sidewalk **engrossed** me for several minutes.

a. to hold the interest of.                      b. to disgust.                      c. to bore.

5 **escalate**

(ēs'kə-lāt')

-verb

\_\_\_ *Escalate* means

- The fight between the two hockey players **escalated** into an all-out battle among members of both teams.
- "We need to **escalate** our fund-raising efforts," the theater manager said. "Otherwise, the company won't survive."

a. to expand.                      b. to delay.                      c. to weaken.

6 **exploit**

(ěks-ploit')

-verb

\_\_\_ *Exploit* means

- At the turn of the century, factory owners **exploited** children by making them work in terrible conditions for as many as eighteen hours a day.
- Although Ricky is the English teacher's son, he refuses to **exploit** his status. He works as hard as anyone else in the class.

a. to forget.                      b. to take advantage of.                      c. to be sad about.

- 7 **methodical**  
(mə-thōd'ī-kəl)  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Methodical* means
- A **methodical** way to store spices is to shelve them in alphabetical order.
  - Joan is so **methodical** about her diet that she classifies the foods in each meal into different nutritional categories.
- a. accidental.                      b. out-of-date.                      c. orderly.
- 8 **obsolete**  
(ōb'sə-lēt')
- \_\_\_ *Obsolete* means
- Computers are so common now that they have made typewriters almost **obsolete**.
  - In the United States, the automobile quickly made travel by horse and carriage **obsolete**.
- a. popular.                      b. useful.                      c. extinct.
- 9 **tangible**  
(tān'jə-bəl)  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Tangible* means
- The sculptor loved making her ideas **tangible** by giving them form in metal and stone.
  - Corn-chip crumbs, empty soda bottles, and dirty napkins were **tangible** evidence that a party had taken place the night before.
- a. clever.                      b. solid.                      c. hidden.
- 10 **terminate**  
(tūr'mə-nāt)  
-verb  
\_\_\_ *Terminate* means
- As the clock's hands inched toward 3:00, the students waited impatiently for the bell to **terminate** the last class before spring vacation.
  - The referee should have **terminated** the boxing match when he first saw the weaker fighter losing the ability to defend himself.
- a. to end.                      b. to revive.                      c. to begin.

### *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 draw forth
2. \_\_\_\_\_ To stop; bring to an end
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Orderly; systematic
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Close; near (to something)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Able to be touched; having form and matter
6. \_\_\_\_\_ No longer active or in use; out of date
7. \_\_\_\_\_ To increase or intensify
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Great praise or applause; enthusiastic approval
9. \_\_\_\_\_ To hold the full attention of; absorb
10. \_\_\_\_\_ To use selfishly or unethically; take unfair advantage of

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### ➤ Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. acclaim	b. adjacent	c. elicit	d. engross	e. escalate
f. exploit	g. methodical	h. obsolete	i. tangible	j. terminate

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A wedding ring is a(n) \_\_\_ expression of a couple's commitment to each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. If solar energy becomes as cheap and plentiful as sunshine, nuclear energy, which is expensive, may become \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. With movies like *Saving Private Ryan*, *Forrest Gump*, and *Cast Away* to his credit, actor Tom Hanks has won Oscars and the \_\_\_ of admiring critics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Our house is \_\_\_ to one with a high wooden fence, so our view on that side is completely blocked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The shouting match between Rose and her brother \_\_\_(e)d until it was so loud that the neighbors complained.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Sometimes an article I'm reading on the bus will \_\_\_ me so much that I'll pass my stop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When workers feel \_\_\_(e)d by their employers, they often go on strike for larger salaries and better working conditions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Diana is very \_\_\_ about writing letters. She keeps her writing materials in one spot, makes a list of the people she owes letters to, and writes once a week.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When Luke was caught stealing money on the job, the company \_\_\_(e)d his employment and brought him up on criminal charges.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. In one disturbing survey, the question "Which do you like better, TV or Daddy?" \_\_\_(e)d this response from a number of children: "TV."

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 129. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the next two practices, for which answers are not given.

### ➤ Sentence Check 2

Using the answer lines provided, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2. The gifted ice skater's routine \_\_\_(e)d the audience. It was the epitome<sup>o</sup> of grace and power combined. At the end, a long, rapid spin \_\_\_(e)d a burst of applause.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. Although hand-crafted furniture is almost \_\_\_, mass production hasn't yet \_\_\_(e)d all demand for it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. Workers want \_\_\_ rewards such as money and a pension, but they also  
\_\_\_\_\_ welcome less concrete benefits, such as \_\_\_ for a job well done.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. The more the British \_\_\_(e)d the American colonies by taxing them  
\_\_\_\_\_ unfairly, the more the colonists' animosity<sup>o</sup> toward the British \_\_\_(e)d.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. Patty's \_\_\_ baking technique includes arranging all ingredients in a  
\_\_\_\_\_ row, with each one \_\_\_ to the one that is used after it.

### ➤ *Final Check: A Cruel Sport*

Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

As Alex sat down in the carnival tent, the lights dimmed. A spotlight revealed a short, heavy man holding a thick chain. He tugged the chain, and an old, muzzled bear appeared. The man, the animal's owner, announced that the bear's name was Sally. He said he would give a hundred dollars to anyone who wrestled Sally to the floor.

"That's disgusting! You have no right to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ an animal that way!" a woman called out. Several voices joined her in protest. A number of people walked out of the tent. Alex wanted to leave too, but he was too shocked to move. He had thought bear wrestling was (2) \_\_\_\_\_, given up long ago as a cruel sport.

But the man's offer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d one drunken response. "I'll do it!" a big man yelled, winning the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of Sally's owner, who congratulated him warmly. The drunk began swinging at Sally. She backed away. "Knock her on her rear!" the owner shouted. When Sally finally raised a paw to defend herself, her opponent could see that she had no claws. Feeling very brave now, he (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d his attack.

The horrible scene (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d Alex, who could barely believe his eyes. The man sitting (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to Alex rose to his feet and left, muttering "This shouldn't be allowed. I'm calling the police."

Meanwhile, the drunken man knocked Sally over. Her owner then (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d the match and handed Sally a bucket of food. The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ way in which he conducted his act showed Alex he had done it many, many times before.

Finally, the owner led Sally away. The animal's drooping head and her labored walk were (10) \_\_\_\_\_ expressions of her misery. As Sally passed him, Alex saw two police officers enter the tent. He hoped with all his heart that the law could prevent another such display of cruelty to this living creature.

<i>Scores</i>	Sentence Check 2 _____%	Final Check _____%
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.