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 **endorse**
   (ën-dörs’)
   -verb
   _Endorse means_  
   A. to buy.  
   B. to support.  
   C. to see.

2 **erode**
   (ë-röd’)
   -verb
   _Erode means_  
   A. to wear away.  
   B. to build up.  
   C. to escape.

3 **gruesome**
   (groö’som)
   -adjective
   _Gruesome means_  
   A. unfair.  
   B. boring.  
   C. frightening.

4 **hypocrite**
   (hip’ə-krit’)
   -noun
   _Hypocrite means_  
   A. an insincere person.  
   B. a religious person.  
   C. a loud person.

5 **idealistic**
   (i-dë’ə-lis’tik)
   -adjective
   _Idealistic means_  
   A. full of ideas.  
   B. emphasizing principles.  
   C. young.

6 **illusion**
   (i-lō’zhon)
   -noun
   _Illusion means_  
   A. a fact.  
   B. a new idea.  
   C. a false impression.
7 **impact**

(imˈpäkt′)

- **noun**

- When birds accidentally fly into windows, the **impact** of hitting the glass often kills them.
- That boxer punches with such power that the **impact** of his uppercut can knock out most opponents.

**Impact means**

A. a force.  
B. a possibility.  
C. a sight.

8 **imply**

(im-ˈpli′)

- **verb**

- To Sherlock Holmes, the clues **implied** that the murderer was an elderly man who carried a cane.
- When my friend asked me, “Do you feel all right?” she **implied** that I did not look well.

**Imply means**

A. to hide.  
B. to overlook.  
C. to suggest.

9 **novice**

(nəvˈis)

- **noun**

- Because my father has never played tennis, he will join the class for **novices**.
- “Don’t buy an expensive camera for a **novice**,” said the saleswoman. “Let your son first get some experience with a cheaper camera.”

**Novice means**

A. a child.  
B. a beginner.  
C. a friend.

10 **obstacle**

(əbˈsta-kəl)

- **noun**

- I’d better clean my apartment soon. There are too many **obstacles** on the floor between my bed and the refrigerator.
- The major **obstacle** to Hal’s getting a promotion is his laziness.

**Obstacle means**

A. something hidden.  
B. something helpful.  
C. something that prevents movement.

**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 express indirectly; suggest
2. ______________________ Something that gets in the way; a barrier
3. ______________________ One who claims to be something he or she is not; an insincere person
4. ______________________ A false impression; a mistaken view of reality
5. ______________________ To support; express approval of; to state in an ad that one supports a product or service, usually for a fee
6. ______________________ Horrible; shocking; frightful
7. ______________________ A beginner; someone new to a field or activity
8. ______________________ The force of one thing striking another
9. ______________________ To gradually wear (something) away
10. ______________________ Tending to emphasize ideals and principles over practical concerns

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. endorse</th>
<th>B. erode</th>
<th>C. gruesome</th>
<th>D. hypocrite</th>
<th>E. idealistic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F. illusion</td>
<td>G. impact</td>
<td>H. imply</td>
<td>I. novice</td>
<td>J. obstacle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The horror movie became too ___ for me to watch when the monster started eating people.

2. Year after year, the waves continue to ___ the beach, wearing it away by constantly beating against it.

3. Poems often ___ an idea. That is, they hint at the idea rather than state it directly.

4. I was such a(n) ___ at computers that I didn’t even know how to send an e-mail.

5. Karen is the least ___ person I know. She is guided only by a desire to get ahead.

6. Don’t be such a(n) ___! If you don’t like Anita, then you shouldn’t pretend that you do.

7. An actress hired to ___ meat products on TV was fired when the producer learned she was a vegetarian.

8. Ballet dancers sometimes break their toes when they land with too great a(n) ___ after a leap.

9. We can never drive straight into our driveway because there are always ___s there—tricycles, garbage cans, or toys.

10. When the moon is low in the sky, it looks much larger than when it is overhead. This difference in size, however, is only a(n) ___.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 177. 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. “Just because I let them meet in the church basement,” said Reverend Lucas, “does not ___ that I ___ everything the group stands for.”

3–4. When the first soldier to fly in an airplane took off in 1908, he had no ___s about the danger—he knew flying was risky. However, he never expected to die from the ___ of crashing into a cemetery wall.
5–6. The first Peace Corps volunteers may have been ____, but they were tough about their dreams. No ____ would keep them from working for a better world.

7–8. Because she was just out of college, Faye was a(n) ____ at interviewing job applicants. Nevertheless, she could see that Perry was a(n) ____ who boasted about job skills he didn’t have.

9–10. Ten years in the soil had ____d the body down to a mere skeleton. But when a gardener’s shovel uncovered the ____ remains of the murder victim, she could still be identified by a gold locket around her neck.

Final Check: Night Nurse

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.

I’m no (1) ________________, so I’ll acknowledge® I should never have taken the job of nurse on the midnight shift in a hospital emergency room. Not a single person in my family would (2) ________________ my career decision, and maybe my family was right. I wasn’t naïve®; I had no (3) ________________s about the difficulty of the work. I knew the emergency room would be tough, but I wasn’t going to let that be a(n) (4) ________________. Still, I did start out more (5) ________________ about helping the world than I am now, ten months later. I don’t mean to (6) ________________ that I’ve given up on nursing, because I haven’t. But when I first rushed a stretcher off an ambulance—as a(n) (7) ________________ at the job—disappointment and regret had not yet started to (8) ________________ my hopeful outlook.

I work at one of the biggest urban® hospitals in the state. More often than not, each shift brings a series of (9) ________________ injuries, caused by everything from shootings to household accidents, but mostly by car crashes. One effect of my job has been to make me always wear a seat belt—I’ve seen first-hand the damage caused by the (10) ________________ of a human head thrown against a windshield.

Emergency-room workers seem to follow one of two routes. Either they become accustomed to the difficult sights and stay in the field for years, or they quickly burn out and find refuge® in another line of work. I’m in the second category. Next week, I’m applying for a job in a doctor’s office.