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 agenda
(a-jën’da)
noun

Agenda means

- There are two items on the agenda for today’s office meeting: the company’s new product and the holiday party.
- Ralph’s daily agenda includes driving his granddaughter to school, working at the soup kitchen, and walking his dog after dinner.

A. a schedule.   B. a desk.   C. work.

2 antidote
(án’ti-dö’t’) 
noun

Antidote means

- Because there was no antidote for the snake’s poison, the cat that was bitten died.
- For me, a good antidote to feeling low is to bake a batch of brownies.

A. a short story.   B. a cause.   C. a cure.

3 apathy
(äp’ə-thē) 
noun

Apathy means

- Determined to shock her students out of their apathy, the history teacher showed up for class one day dressed as Joan of Arc.
- Voter apathy was high, causing a low turnout on election day.

A. pity.   B. understanding.   C. lack of interest.

4 bland
(blând) 
 adjective

Bland means

- The addition of a bright red scarf changed Linda’s grey outfit from bland to striking.
- Mexicans, accustomed to hot and spicy foods, often find American dishes bland by comparison.

A. old.   B. dull.   C. bitter.

5 propaganda
(pröp’ə-gän’da) 
noun

Propaganda means

- Until recently, the propaganda put out by cigarette companies said that nicotine didn’t harm people’s health.
- The political candidates ran TV ads made up largely of propaganda directed against their opponents.

A. research.   B. complaints.   C. publicity.

6 prospects
(prö̱s’pëkts’) 
noun

Prospects means

- The movie’s prospects for doing well at the box office were harmed by several bad reviews in the newspapers and on TV.
- What are my prospects of finding a hotel room in this town during Super Bowl weekend?

7 radical (rād′′-ikəl) -adjective
- Radical means
  A. extreme.  B. average.  C. young.

8 reinforce (rē′n-fôr′s′) -verb
- Reinforce means
  A. to ruin.  B. to make stronger.  C. to repeat.

9 relevant (rē′l-ə-vənt′) -adjective
- Relevant means
  A. known.  B. related.  C. threatening.

10 ruthless (rū′thə-lis) -adjective
- Ruthless means
  A. sweet.  B. confusing.  C. without mercy.

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. _______________ Chances of success
2. _______________ Lack of interest and concern
3. _______________ To strengthen; add support to
4. _______________ A list of things to be done; a schedule
5. _______________ Lacking pity; merciless
6. _______________ Dull; not interesting or exciting
7. _______________ Related to the matter at hand; to the point
8. _______________ Favoring extreme changes, especially in politics and government
9. _______________ Something that reduces the effects of a poison; anything that relieves a harmful situation
10. _______________ Ideas spread to support or oppose a cause; distorted information

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. agenda</th>
<th>B. antidote</th>
<th>C. apathy</th>
<th>D. bland</th>
<th>E. propaganda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F. prospects</td>
<td>G. radical</td>
<td>H. reinforce</td>
<td>I. relevant</td>
<td>J. ruthless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. There are ___ drivers who make no effort to avoid hitting animals on the road.
2. Carlos’s personality is so ___ and unexciting that people tend not to notice him.
3. Your statement isn’t ___; it has nothing to do with our conversation.
4. Victoria will ___ the plant by tying its thin stem to a strong stick.
5. My sister’s ___ of passing Accounting II aren’t good. She hasn’t studied all term.
6. All medicine cabinets should contain a general ___ for accidental poisoning.
7. Every morning Lin writes out her ___, jotting down what she needs to accomplish that day.
8. Because my science teacher wants to do away with grading in his courses, many of the other teachers consider his views too ___.
9. Sidewalk litter is a sign of ___, showing that people don’t care about a clean environment.
10. Advertisements are an important part of the ___ used by companies to persuade us to buy their products.

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. Working at top speed, the doctors injected the poisoned woman with a powerful ___. Everyone in the emergency room seemed anxious and tense except the woman’s husband. We couldn’t understand his apparent ___.

3-4. Gang members are a menace to our neighborhoods. The only items on their ___ are theft and violence. Their ___ methods—threats and smashed windows—cause terror among local businesspeople.

5-6. Mr. Turner’s lectures would not seem so ___ to students if he didn’t speak in such a dull tone of voice and if he included information that seemed ___ to their lives.
7–8. The German Nazi Party used ___ in booklets, speeches, and films to spread its lies. Eventually this ___ group took over the German government, causing many German citizens to leave the country and seek refuge elsewhere.

9–10. If Henry starts exercising, his ___ for getting into shape will be very good. His desire to exercise was ___(e)d by the fact that he gained ten pounds last year.

Final Check: Students and Politics

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.

During the 1960s, the country’s morale was weakened by the Vietnam war and social problems. At that time, many young people were attracted to ___ political groups. The groups all had similar long lists of things they wanted to accomplish. Their extensive ___ included ending the war, feeding the hungry, and doing away with social prejudice. In universities, they demanded courses that were more ___ to the times: women’s studies, African American literature, and world religions. These activists hoped such classes would serve as an ___ to the “traditional” thinking of the 1950s they found so harmful. But in some cases, students also insisted that universities stop offering classical literature courses, saying such courses were nothing more than ___ for an outdated way of life. Many small “underground” newspapers of the time helped to ___ the idea that the past had nothing worthwhile to offer.

Today, some ‘60s activists are concerned by the ___ that they believe they see among today’s young people. These former activists fear today’s students are, at best, so lacking in spirit as to be ___ and harmless. At worst, they are so money-hungry and so ___ that they genuinely don’t care about people who are poverty-stricken. However, others believe the ___ for social progress are bright. Many of today’s students do volunteer work as a way of helping bring about social change.

Scores  
Sentence Check 2 _____ %  Final Check _____ %

Enter your scores above and in the Vocabulary Performance Chart on the inside back cover of the book.