

- 7 **parsimonious**
(pär'sə-mō'nē-əs)
-adjective
- The boss, a **parsimonious** man, insists that we save old memos and letters and use the backs of pages as note paper.
 - Elena is a **parsimonious** cook. She creates cheap meals from old cheese rinds, stale bread, and wilted vegetables. They taste awful.
- ___ *Parsimonious* means a. stingy. b. mischievous. c. talented.
- 8 **prodigal**
(prōd'ĭ-gəl)
-adjective
- Mary and Kim both make decent salaries. They could live comfortably on what they make if they weren't such **prodigal** spenders.
 - I don't think it's **prodigal** to spend some extra money to get well-made shoes. Cheap ones fall apart so fast that you soon end up buying another pair.
- ___ *Prodigal* means a. useful. b. extravagant. c. careful.
- 9 **surreptitious**
(sūr'əp-tīsh'əs)
-adjective
- Students naturally want to know what will be covered on a test. Instead of trying to find out by **surreptitious** means, it is better simply to ask the instructor, who is often willing to provide at least a rough idea.
 - As the wedding reception ended, several guests made **surreptitious** trips to the parking lot, where they tied tin cans and crepe paper to the newlyweds' car.
- ___ *Surreptitious* means a. straightforward. b. useless. c. secret.
- 10 **writhe**
(rīth)
-verb
- Grandpa remembers the scratchy long underwear he wore to school in the winter: "It was so itchy that I would **writhe** and wriggle at my desk all day long."
 - The children **writhed** with impatience as they waited to board the plane. "Stop fidgeting before you drive me nuts," their weary father begged them.
- ___ *Writhe* means a. freeze. b. squeeze. c. squirm.

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. _____ Too thrifty; stingy; miserly
2. _____ Wasteful and reckless with money
3. _____ High-spirited enthusiasm
4. _____ To twist and turn, as in pain or discomfort
5. _____ A condition of moral deterioration; decay
6. _____ Worthy of imitation; praiseworthy
7. _____ Unable to pay debts; penniless
8. _____ To merge to form one whole
9. _____ Done in a secret or sly way; stealthy
10. _____ Occurring as a minor consequence of something more important

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, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. coalesce	b. decadence	c. exemplary	d. exuberance	e. incidental
f. insolvent	g. parsimonious	h. prodigal	i. surreptitious	j. writhe

- _____ 1. Three high schools in the county have ___(e)d to create a centralized "magnet" school.
- _____ 2. Although the local newspaper is small, it has an excellent reputation. In fact, every year it wins statewide awards for its ___ reporting.
- _____ 3. "Stopping smoking can save your life," said the doctor. "And there are some ___ benefits as well: you won't have stained teeth, yellow fingers, or bad breath."
- _____ 4. The school's ___ administration decided to save money by dimming all the lights. The students, who could barely see to read, protested angrily.
- _____ 5. "When the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," the economist warned, "that is a sign of ___: the society is starting to weaken."
- _____ 6. Smoking is forbidden in the office, but some employees keep sneaking off for ___ trips to the fire stairs, where they light up.
- _____ 7. Trying to scratch an itchy spot on its back, the pig ___(e)d and twisted as it rubbed against the fence.
- _____ 8. When stories came out about the senator's lavish offices, his many trips to luxury resorts, and his huge staff of underworked employees, taxpayers complained about such a(n) ___ waste of their money.
- _____ 9. The shelter for the homeless has made an urgent appeal for donations. Without more contributions to pay its bills, it will soon be ___.
- _____ 10. As soon as Tony came in the door, I knew he had good news. His ___ showed all over his face.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 175. 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, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- _____ 1-2. When it comes to food, most of us have some private, ___ pleasures. Liz stirs honey and mashed potatoes together until they ___, then eats the goo with a spoon.
- _____ 3-4. In their ___ over knowing a secret, children often blurt it out—"My daddy's hair comes *off!*"—while their parents ___ with embarrassment.

- _____ 5-6. Vann will never end up ____; he's far too ____ ever to overspend. On Halloween, he gave each trick-or-treater a penny.
- _____ 7-8. ____ spending is sometimes considered a sign of _____. People who love opulence^o and fling their money around senselessly are seen as deteriorating morally.
- _____ 9-10. "Virtue is its own reward," is an old saying, meaning that ____ behavior is valuable for its own sake. Other benefits, such as praise, are merely _____.

► **Final Check: What Are You Stingy About?**

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.

Few people like to think of themselves as cheap, but almost everyone seems to be (1) _____ about something. Even rich, extravagant people who are (2) _____ in most ways are likely to be thrifty about, say, toothpaste. My father, who has taken business trips with many fat-cat executives, reports that even they will squeeze the last little bit out of a tube of toothpaste by shutting a window or a door on it, rather than throw it away. Many of us are stingy with soap, using a bar until it is reduced to a tiny sliver and then squeezing a few of the soap fragments together in the hope they will (3) _____. Nearly anyone will (4) _____ and crawl to get a dropped nickel out from under the bed.

I fold and save used aluminum foil to reuse again and again. And when a bottle of shampoo is nearly empty, I add water to get a few more washes out of it. Countless people reuse tea bags. My sagacious^o mother-in-law taught us a thrifty trick: When a bottle of beer or soda looks empty, lay it on its side for a while—a few drinkable drops will soon collect.

Why do we do these things? We aren't really afraid that taking a new tea bag or a new piece of foil is a sign of moral (5) _____, or that it will make us (6) _____. Nor do we think our thrift is (7) _____, because it's often (8) _____; we do it on the sly rather than holding ourselves up as a model. Since the actual saving is so small, it must be (9) _____ to the main benefit: the feeling of satisfaction we get. This is like the (10) _____ we feel when we find a dime or a quarter on the street—or even a penny, if it's heads up.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____ % Final Check _____ %

Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.