

coalesce	insolvent	
decadence	parsimonious	
exemplary	prodigal	
exuberance	surreptitious	
incidental	writhe	

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 coalesce (kō'ə-lĕs')	 Four block association task force. 	ns in our neighborhood wi	ill coalesce to form a single		
-verb	• When I got caught in a rainstorm, I learned that the dyes in my new shirt weren't waterproof. The red and blue stripes ran and coalesced into purple smears.				
Coalesce means	a. to join.	b. to produce.	c. to come into being.		
2 decadence (děk'ə-dəns)		always seems to see decaded day" are spoiled, lazy, and ex	dence among young people, ktravagant.		
-noun	• Grandfather considers the internal combustion engine a sign of the decadence of Western civilization. "Stop the decay before it's too late!" he says. "Get out of your cars, get on your feet, and walk!"				
Decadence means	a. a disappointment.	b. a decline.	c. disapproval.		
3 exemplary (ĭg-zĕm'plə-rē)			rom her former boss, in which bys does more than is asked."		
-adjective	• This year, the "Teach exemplary instructors		s given to not one but two		
Exemplary means	a. excellent.	b. extra.	c. exotic.		
4 exuberance (ĭg-zoo'bər-əns)	 Jenny called all her france her first-choice college 		rance over being accepted at		
-noun		they are the only ones where the the the the the the the the the th	to are happy to see summer rance, too!		
Exuberance means	a. fear.	b. boredom.	c. joy.		
5 incidental (ĭn'sĭ-dĕn'tl) -adjective	 Selma chose her colle incidental reason was 	ege because it has such a go that it is located in a beautif	ood nursing program, but an ful town.		
	• Rita and Jen moved in together so they could split the rent, but an incidental effect is that they can borrow each other's clothes.				
Incidental means	a. secondary.	b. incorrect.	c. secret.		
6 insolvent (ĭn-sŏl'vənt)	 Barry lost his head w spree, couldn't pay his 	hen he got his first credit c bills, and ended up insolve	card. He went on a spending nt.		
-adjective	 Compulsive gamblers but they can't control t 	often lose so much money heir urge, and their debt kee	that they become insolvent , eps growing.		
Insolvent means	a. without money.	b. without friends.	c. without goals.		

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7 parsimonious (pär'sə-mō'nē-əs)	• The boss, a parsimo use the backs of page	nious man, insists that we say as note paper.	ave old memos and letters and		
-adjective	 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 (prŏď ĭ-gəl)	 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. 				
-adjective					
Prodigal means	a. useful.	b. extravagant.	c. careful.		
9 surreptitious (sŭr'əp-tĭsh'əs) -adjective	trying to find out	want to know what will be by surreptitious means, it ten willing to provide at lease	covered on a test. Instead of is better simply to ask the t a rough idea.		
adjeenne	• 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)	• 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."				
-verb	• The children writhed with impatience as they waited to board the plane. "Stop fidgeting before you drive me nuts," their weary father begged them.				
	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.

Too thrifty; stingy; miserly 1. _____ _____ 2. _____ Wasteful and reckless with money High-spirited enthusiasm 3. _____ 4. _____ To twist and turn, as in pain or discomfort A condition of moral deterioration; decay 5. _____ Worthy of imitation; praiseworthy 6. _____ Unable to pay debts; penniless 7. _____ 8. _____ To merge to form one whole Done in a secret or sly way; stealthy 9. Occurring as a minor consequence of something more important 10.

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 f, insolvent	b. decadencec. exemplaryd. exuberancee. incidentalg. parsimonioush. prodigali. surreptitiousj. writhe
	1. Three high schools in the county have(e)d to create a centralize "magnet" school.
	2. Although the local newspaper is small, it has an excellent reputation. I fact, every year it wins statewide awards for its reporting.
	3. "Stopping smoking can save your life," said the doctor. "And there ar some benefits as well: you won't have stained teeth, yellow fingers, o 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 warner "that is a sign of: the society is starting to weaken."
	6. Smoking is forbidden in the office, but some employees keep sneaking o 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 rubbed against the fence.
en attaren al in efi	8. When stories came out about the senator's lavish offices, his many trips luxury resorts, and his huge staff of underworked employees, taxpaye complained about such a(n) waste of their money.
ind and more a	9. The shelter for the homeless has made an urgent appeal for donation 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. Hisshowed 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.

\succ 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.

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- _____ 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° 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.

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

Final Check

Scores Sentence Check 2 %