



CHAPTER 3

Name _____

Pt. 1 _____

Pt. 2 _____

allusion
altruistic
appease
arbitrary
assail

banal
euphemism
mercenary
syndrome
taint

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 allusion
(ə-lōō'zhən)
-noun

___ *Allusion* to means

- After I suggested that Monty have fruit for dessert instead of chocolate cake, he responded, "Is that an **allusion** to my weight?"
- Ramon didn't have the courage to come right out and ask Lia to marry him. Instead, he made only an **allusion** to marriage by asking, "Wouldn't it be easier if we had to fill out just one tax return?"

A. a contrast to. B. a hint about. C. an answer for.

2 altruistic
(āl'trōō-īs'tīk)
-adjective

___ *Altruistic* means

- When an enemy approaches, ground squirrels show **altruistic** behavior. They risk their own lives to give alarm calls to nearby relatives.
- "I'm not often **altruistic**," Brett admitted. "I usually put my own welfare first."

A. unselfish. B. cheerful. C. greedy.

3 appease
(ə-pēz')*-verb*

___ *Appease* means

- My sister was so outraged when I accidentally dropped and broke her cell phone that nothing I could say or do would **appease** her.
- Roger was furious when he saw me out with another guy, but I quickly **appeased** him by explaining that the "date" was my cousin.

A. to annoy. B. to heal. C. to calm.

4 arbitrary
(är'bī-trēr'ē)
-adjective

___ *Arbitrary* means

- Professor Miller's students were angry that he graded essays in an **arbitrary** way, rather than using clear-cut standards.
- Parents should not enforce rules according to their moods. Such **arbitrary** discipline only confuses children.

A. steady. B. slow. C. impulsive.

5 assail
(ə-sāl')*-verb*

___ *Assail* means

- The storm **assailed** us with hail and heavy rain.
- The two candidates continuously **assailed** each other with accusations of dishonesty.

A. to attack. B. to confuse. C. to support.

6 banal
(bə-nāl')*-adjective*

___ *Banal* means

- The film, with its overused expressions and unimaginative plot, was the most **banal** I had ever seen.
- "Nice to see you" may be a **banal** comment, but what it lacks in originality it makes up for in friendliness.

A. greedy. B. unoriginal. C. clever.

- 7 euphemism**
(yōō'fə-mīz'əm)
-noun
- ___ *Euphemism* means
- Common **euphemisms** include “final resting place” (for *grave*), “intoxicated” (for *drunk*), and “powder room” (for *toilet*).
 - The Central Intelligence Agency is on record as having referred to assassination with the **euphemism** “change of health.”
- A. a harsh term. B. a term that doesn't offend. C. a foreign term.
- 8 mercenary**
(mūr'sə-nēr'ē)
-adjective
- ___ *Mercenary* means
- Ed is totally **mercenary**. His philosophy is, “Pay me enough, and I'll do anything.”
 - The con man pretended to love the wealthy widow, but he actually married her for **mercenary** reasons.
- A. jealous. B. angry. C. greedy.
- 9 syndrome**
(sīn'drōm)
-noun
- ___ *Syndrome* means
- Headaches are usually harmless, but as part of a **syndrome** including fever and a stiff neck, they may be a sign of a serious illness.
 - Jet lag is a **syndrome** resulting from flying long distances; it often includes exhaustion, headache, and loss of appetite.
- A. a group of symptoms. B. a cause. C. something required.
- 10 taint**
(tānt)
-verb
- ___ *Taint* means
- The involvement of organized crime has **tainted** many sports, including boxing and horse racing.
 - The government scandal **tainted** the reputations of everyone involved.
- A. to benefit. B. to damage. C. to start.

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. _____ Determined by personal judgment, not rule or reason; based on impulse
2. _____ Motivated only by financial gain; greedy
3. _____ An indirect reference
4. _____ A group of symptoms typical of a particular disease or condition
5. _____ A mild or vague term used as a substitute for one considered offensive or unpleasant
6. _____ To calm, especially by giving in to the demands of
7. _____ Lacking originality; overused; commonplace
8. _____ To stain the honor of someone or something
9. _____ To attack physically or verbally
10. _____ Unselfishly concerned for the welfare of others; unselfish

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. allusion
F. banal

B. altruistic
G. euphemism

C. appease
H. mercenary

D. arbitrary
I. syndrome

E. assail
J. taint

- _____ 1. There have been people ___ enough to collect money for charities but keep most if it for themselves.
- _____ 2. "Someone hasn't shown me his report card," my mother said, making a(n) ___ to my brother.
- _____ 3. It takes a(n) ___ person to adopt a disabled child.
- _____ 4. The angry toddler threw his bottle at his babysitter and continued to ___ her with screaming .
- _____ 5. The local undertaker insists on using a(n) ___ for the chapel of his funeral parlor. He calls it the "slumber room."
- _____ 6. The report that the football player cheated during the game ___(e)d the team's image.
- _____ 7. The only thing that would ___ the frantic travelers was a guarantee that the airline hadn't cancelled the flight .
- _____ 8. Abraham Lincoln is thought to have had Marfan's ___, a group of symptoms which includes unusually long bones and abnormal blood circulation.
- _____ 9. The judge's harsh sentence was ___. Rather than being based on past similar cases or on the seriousness of the crime, it was based on the judge's opinion of the defendant.
- _____ 10. "You're special" probably appears on thousands of greeting cards, but when someone says it to you and means it, it never seems ___.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items 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. ___ people tend to place the public welfare above their own self-interest. In contrast, ___ people will exploit° anyone for a profit—they will even sell harmful products.
- _____ 3-4. The angry customer loudly ___(e)d the salesman for having sold her a broken clock. The salesman quickly ___(e)d her by giving her a full refund.
- _____ 5-6. A certain rare ___ includes a very odd symptom—an uncontrollable urge to use obscene language. This disease can ___ a victim's reputation, because some people who hear the foul language won't understand the reason for it.
- _____ 7-8. My boss judges performance in a(n) ___ manner, praising and scolding according to his moods. And when he says, "Please stay a few minutes longer today," "a few minutes" is a(n) ___ for "an hour."

9–10. The critic hated stale language. Instead of writing a(n) ____ comment such as “That ballerina is light on her feet,” he made an interesting ____ to the dancer’s movements: “She was never heavier than moonlight.”

Final Check: *No Luck with Women*

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.

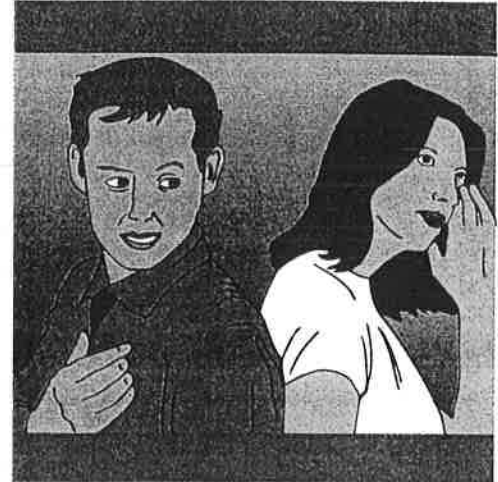
My older brother, Mark, has no luck with women. He doesn’t understand why. I do.

To begin with, when he first meets a woman, he goes into one of two styles of conversation. The first is to (1) _____ her with a stream of personal questions: “What’s your name? Where do you live? Is that your real hair color? What kind of work do you do? Do you want to have kids someday? Are you seeing anyone? Would you like to have dinner with me?” Naturally, most women find this surprising and annoying. His other approach is to say the most (2) _____ things imaginable:

“Nice day, isn’t it? I thought it might rain this morning, but it didn’t. It might rain tomorrow, but who knows. Last week was nice weather, too.” By this time the poor girl has either walked away or passed out from boredom.

Another thing Mark often does in his encounters^o with women is to say things that make him sound totally (3) _____, as if money were the most important thing in the world to him. He makes frequent (4) _____s to his own salary, asks the woman how much she makes, and complains about the prices of everything on a menu. When he takes a date to a movie, he sometimes embarrasses her by trying to get his money back from the theater manager afterward, claiming he hadn’t liked the movie. Naturally, this sort of behavior somewhat (5) _____s him in the woman’s eyes, and he rarely gets a second date. When one of his former girlfriends complained to me about Mark’s behavior, I tried to (6) _____ her by telling her that underneath it all, Mark is really a nice guy. She replied by saying that she wasn’t interested in digging that far down.

Mark, of course, finds women’s reactions to him completely (7) _____. He shakes his head and says, “Women are just not reasonable. Here I am, as nice as can be, and they act as if I have some horrible, contagious (8) _____.” I try to be a(n) (9) _____ sister and help the guy out. I point out how his behaviors turn women off, using gentle (10) _____s such as “You’re a special, unusual person, Mark. You’re just a little eccentric.” Maybe I need to come right out and let him hear the truth, even if it makes him mad: “You’re *weird*, Mark.”



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

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