



# CHAPTER 7

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Pt. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Pt. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

degenerate  
implausible  
incoherent  
intercede  
intricate

sanctuary  
scrutiny  
sinister  
suffice  
vulnerable

## 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 degenerate

(dĭ-jĕn'ər-āt')

-verb

\_\_\_ *Degenerate* means

- Mr. Freedman's family was called to the nursing home when the old man's condition began to **degenerate**. It was feared he didn't have long to live.
- Mel's relationship with his parents **degenerated** when he dropped out of school against their wishes and became a bartender.

A. to improve.                      B. to remain the same.                      C. to get worse.

### 2 implausible

(ĭm-plō'zə-bəl)

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Implausible* means

- As **implausible** as it may sound, southern Florida sometimes does get snow.
- Insurance companies hear such **implausible** excuses for auto accidents as "I hit the telephone pole when I was blinded by the lights of a flying saucer."

A. unbelievable.                      B. acceptable.                      C. valuable.

### 3 incoherent

(ĭn'kō-hĭr'ənt)

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Incoherent* means

- If Mitch doesn't get some sleep soon, he'll become completely **incoherent**. He's so tired that he's already having trouble expressing his thoughts clearly.
- My sister talks a lot in her sleep, but she's so **incoherent** then that we can never figure out what she's saying.

A. calm.                      B. unclear.                      C. inconvenient.

### 4 intercede

(ĭn'tər-sĕd')

-verb

\_\_\_ *Intercede* means

- When the principal said Harry couldn't play in Friday's football game, the coach **interceded**, hoping to change the principal's mind.
- Inez's parents refused to come to her wedding until her brother **interceded** and persuaded them to come after all.

A. to give in to someone.                      B. to plead for someone.                      C. to examine closely.

### 5 intricate

(ĭn'trĭ-kĭt)

-adjective

\_\_\_ *Intricate* means

- *War and Peace* is a long, **intricate** novel that weaves together the detailed life stories of many individuals.
- It's amazing to see the **intricate** gold and silver jewelry that ancient Indians made with only simple tools. It obviously required great patience and skill to create such complex ornaments.

A. simple.                      B. uninteresting.                      C. complicated.

### 6 sanctuary

(săngk'chōō-ĕr'ē)

-noun

\_\_\_ *Sanctuary* means

- Old, unused trains in Grand Central Station serve as a nighttime **sanctuary** for some of New York City's homeless.
- When the household of children becomes too noisy, Ned finds the laundry room to be a **sanctuary**, a place where he can read in quiet.

A. a reminder.                      B. a shelter.                      C. a challenge.

7 **scrutiny**  
(skrōōt'ən-ē)  
-noun

— *Scrutiny* means

- Store security guards give careful **scrutiny** to people carrying large bags, since the bags may be used for shoplifting.
- Before being published, a book comes under the **scrutiny** of a proofreader, who examines it for grammar and spelling errors.

A. attention.                      B. protection.                      C. permission.

8 **sinister**  
(sɪn'is-tər)  
-adjective

— *Sinister* means

- In the movie, a mad scientist thought up the **sinister** scheme of releasing a deadly virus. His evil plot failed when he died from the virus himself.
- The creepy novel *The Boys from Brazil* tells of a **sinister** plot to clone dozens of copies of Adolf Hitler who would then take over the world.

A. illogical.                      B. evil.                      C. inconsiderate.

9 **suffice**  
(sə-fis')  
-verb

— *Suffice* means

- The amount of research you've done may **suffice** for a high-school term paper, but not for a college essay.
- I forgot to buy something for lunch tomorrow, but the leftover meatloaf will **suffice**.

A. to be wasted.                      B. to be adequate.                      C. to be examined.

10 **vulnerable**  
(vül'nər-ə-bəl)  
-adjective

— *Vulnerable* means

- Homes in heavily wooded areas are especially **vulnerable** to termites.
- Because they tend to have brittle bones, the elderly are **vulnerable** to fractures.

A. open.                      B. safe.                      C. attracted.

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Having many parts arranged in a complicated way; complex
2. \_\_\_\_\_ To be good enough
3. \_\_\_\_\_ To worsen; deteriorate
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A place of safety, protection, or relief
5. \_\_\_\_\_ To make a request or plead on behalf of someone else
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Open to damage or attack; susceptible
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Difficult to believe; unlikely
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Evil; wicked
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Close inspection; careful examination
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Unable to speak in an orderly, logical way

**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. degenerate | B. implausible | C. incoherent | D. intercede | E. intricate  |
| F. sanctuary  | G. scrutiny    | H. sinister   | I. suffice   | J. vulnerable |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ken's cartoons \_\_\_ for the school newspaper, but they wouldn't be good enough for the city papers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In the *Batman* movies, the Joker's name is misleading, for he's a(n) \_\_\_ man who takes pleasure in doing evil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. People who live in big cities are more \_\_\_ to muggings than are residents of small towns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The leaves outside the window created a(n) \_\_\_ lacy shadow on my bedroom wall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Although it seems \_\_\_, the seemingly dead desert really does blossom after a rainstorm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. People who allow an escaped convict to use their home as a \_\_\_ may face criminal charges themselves.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. My brother was so upset that he was \_\_\_. It wasn't until he calmed down that I understood what he was saying: that he had been fired.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Unclaimed bags at airports receive the \_\_\_ of security officers watching for drugs or explosives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When I don't have company, my apartment tends to, \_\_\_ into a jumble of papers, clothes, and school supplies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. When Dad informed my little sister that she had to be home from her date no later than ten o'clock, Mom \_\_\_(e)d and gave her a midnight curfew.

**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. Birds feel \_\_\_ to attack when they are out in the open where shrubbery is scarce. To attract them to your bird feeder, put it near a \_\_\_ of thickly growing trees and large bushes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4. To get into the party, Malcolm made up a flagrant° lie—a(n) \_\_\_ story about having lost our invitations in a fire. However, the unlikely tale did not \_\_\_ to get us in.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. When a complicated musical piece is played by a talented orchestra, audiences can appreciate the \_\_\_ structure. But when poor musicians try the piece, it usually \_\_\_s into noise.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. As he left the bank, the robber shot and wounded an elderly man on mere impulse. Shocked by the \_\_\_\_\_ act, the bank clerk was at first \_\_\_\_\_. However, after calming down, she was able to clearly tell the police about the robbery and the totally arbitrary° shooting.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. The children's eager \_\_\_\_\_ of the carefully arranged candies and cookies brought a stern warning from their mother: "Look, but don't touch!" However, their grandmother \_\_\_\_\_(e)d and convinced her that it would be unfair to give all the goodies to company and none to the children.

### Final Check: *The New French Employee*

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.

One summer, Nan worked in a factory with an employee who had recently arrived from France, a soft-spoken young man named Jean-Louis. He spoke little English, but Nan's basic French (1) \_\_\_\_\_(e)d for simple conversations and helpful translations.

However, one day when she was called to the foreman's office, she wished she knew no French at all. FBI agents were there with Jean-Louis. After explaining that Jean-Louis may have been more (2) \_\_\_\_\_ than the innocent young man he appeared to be, the foreman left her there to translate for the agents. The agents said Jean-Louis had been on the run after committing several jewel thefts in France. They had already been to Jean-Louis's apartment and confiscated° a diamond necklace and some expensive watches. Nan struggled to translate their questions, which were often too (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for her limited vocabulary. At times, she became so nervous that she was nearly (4) \_\_\_\_\_. When Jean-Louis finally deciphered° what Nan was saying, he said the police were maligning° him. He claimed he was being mistaken for his no-good twin brother, who was responsible for the robberies, and therefore he was innocent—he should be absolved° of all blame. The angry FBI agents found Jean-Louis's story (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The conversation soon (6) \_\_\_\_\_(e)d into a shouting match, with everyone yelling at poor Nan. When her boss heard the racket, he (7) \_\_\_\_\_(e)d, appeased° the agents, and got them to excuse her.

Nan then went to the ladies' room, a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from the turmoil° of all the shouting. After the agents left with Jean-Louis, she was calm enough to go back to work. But she felt (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for days as she wondered if she was under the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of jewel thieves who might blame her for Jean-Louis's arrest.



Scores Sentence Check 2 \_\_\_\_\_% Final Check \_\_\_\_\_%