



CHAPTER **8**

Name _____

Pt. 1 _____

Pt. 2 _____

blatant
blight
contrive
garble
gaunt

gloat
immaculate
plagiarism
qualm
retaliate

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 blatant
(blā'tənt)
-adjective

___ *Blatant* means

- Eva is a **blatant** bargain-hunter. Not only does she wait for end-of season sales, but she chooses an already-reduced item and then asks if the salesperson will accept a lower price.
- The company's disregard of the environment is **blatant**. It makes no effort to stop polluting coastal waters with garbage.

A. unmistakable. B. scrambled. C. not noticeable.

2 blight
(blīt)
-noun

___ *Blight* means

- Nothing has hurt our country more than the **blight** of drugs.
- There are two ways of looking at TV: as a valuable source of information or as a **blight** that dulls the mind.

A. something that assists. B. something that is new. C. something that harms.

3 contrive
(kən-trīv')
-verb

___ *Contrive* means

- My eight-year-old son could write a book titled *101 Ways I Have Contrived to Stay Up Past My Bedtime*.
- Jill has to **contrive** a way to get a day off from work for her friend's wedding. She's already used up her vacation time.

A. to think up. B. to mix up. C. to avoid.

4 garble
(gär'bəl)
-verb

___ *Garble* means

- The new reporter **garbled** the newspaper story; the result was an article that made no sense at all.
- The company had **garbled** the bike's assembly instructions so badly that we were constantly confused about which step to do next.

A. to read. B. to lose. C. to jumble.

5 gaunt
(gōnt)
-adjective

___ *Gaunt* means

- Abraham Lincoln's beard made his **gaunt** face look fuller.
- Sharon's eating disorder, called anorexia nervosa, has made her so **gaunt** that she looks like a walking skeleton.

A. very thin. B. wide. C. confused.

6 gloat
(glōt)
-verb

___ *Gloat* means

- The coach told his team, "There's only one thing worse than a sore loser, and that's a mean winner. Don't **gloat**."
- Neil's sister always tattles on him and then **gloats** when he's punished, saying, "I told you so."

A. to apologize fully. B. to be overly self-satisfied. C. to pay back.

7 immaculate(ĭ-măk'yə-lĭt)
-adjective

- It's amazing that while Carolyn's appearance is always **immaculate**, her apartment often seems very dirty.
- Don't expect a child to come home from a birthday party with **immaculate** clothing. Children usually manage to get as much birthday cake on their clothing as in their mouths.

___ *Immaculate* means A. uncomfortable. B. spotless. C. soiled.

8 plagiarism(plā'jĕ-rĭz'əm)
-noun

- When the author saw a movie with the same plot as one of her novels, she sued for **plagiarism**.
- The teacher warned her students that copying an author's exact words and using them as one's own is **plagiarism**.

___ *Plagiarism* means A. creativity. B. the stealing of ideas. C. planning.

9 qualm(kwŏm)
-noun

- Lorenzo is so honest that he has **qualms** about telling "little white lies." For instance, it bothers him to say he likes a friend's new haircut when he really doesn't.
- After hiding Kwan's bike as an April Fool's joke, I began to have **qualms**. What if she thought it was stolen and called the police?

___ *Qualm* means A. a guilty feeling. B. a proud memory. C. a clever plan.

10 retaliate

(rĭ-tăl'ĕ-ăt')

-verb

- When I broke my sister's stereo, she **retaliated** by taking my iPod earphones and refusing to give them back.
- When Ron refused to pay his younger brother for washing his car, he **retaliated** by washing it again—with its windows open.

___ *Retaliate* means A. to forgive. B. to take revenge. C. to confuse.

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. _____ An uneasy feeling about how right or proper a particular action is
2. _____ To mix up or confuse (as a story or message); scramble
3. _____ To feel or express delight or self-satisfaction, often spitefully
4. _____ Something that weakens, damages, or destroys
5. _____ Using someone else's writings or ideas as one's own
6. _____ To plan cleverly; think up
7. _____ To return an injury for an injury; pay back
8. _____ Very obvious, often offensively so
9. _____ Perfectly clean
10. _____ Thin and bony

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. blatant
F. gloat

B. blight
G. immaculate

C. contrive
H. plagiarism

D. garble
I. qualm

E. gaunt
J. retaliate

- _____ 1. A(n) ___ house may be a sign that someone has nothing better to do than clean.
- _____ 2. Child abuse is a ___ on the physical and mental health of our youth.
- _____ 3. My aunt refuses to drive Mr. Elson to bingo because he ___s so much when he wins, which is often.
- _____ 4. The F's and D's on my brother's report card are ___ evidence of how little he has studied this term.
- _____ 5. Emilio still hopes to ___ a way to get Rita to go out with him, even though she's refused him four times.
- _____ 6. When my friend Jamee left a message with my little brother, inviting me to go to the mall, my brother ___(e)d it so badly that the message I got was "Jamee wants you to go play ball."
- _____ 7. Every time the Hatfields harmed the McCoys, the McCoys would ___, so the feud went on for years.
- _____ 8. Rescued after being lost at sea for nine days, the men were terribly ___, but they put on weight rapidly.
- _____ 9. My parents say it is foolish to give spare change to panhandlers, but I always feel a ___ when I walk by them and give nothing.
- _____ 10. Mark Twain joked that charges of ___ were ridiculous because no one can be completely original. He wrote, "We mortals can't create—we can only copy."

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. The living room looked ___ except for a lump under the carpet, a(n) ___ sign that my son had taken a shortcut in cleaning up.
- _____ 3–4. After the bully struck him, Jules wanted to ___ by throwing a rock, but he had ___s about doing anything so dangerous.
- _____ 5–6. The little girl was so ___ after her illness that her parents carefully ___(e)d fattening meals that were sure to arouse her appetite.

_____ 7–8. “At least I know you aren’t guilty of _____,” said my teacher. “Nobody else would have _____(e)d the report so badly that it’s impossible to follow.”

_____ 9–10. Willie is a _____ on our school. Not only does he start fights with opposing players on the basketball court, but he also _____s after he’s benched, as if he’s proud of causing such turmoil°. In fact, although he’s a great player, the coach is pondering° kicking him off the team.

Final Check: A Cruel Teacher

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.

It has been twenty years since I was in Mr. Brill’s tenth-grade biology class, but I still get nervous thinking about it. Mr. Brill was a tall, (1) _____ man who resembled the skeleton at the back of the room. His meanness was (2) _____. For his most difficult questions, he would call on the shyest kids, those most vulnerable° to the pain of embarrassment. And when they nervously (3) _____(e)d their answers, he would (4) _____, as if their poor performance were a personal victory for him. The discomfort of some of his victims was almost tangible°, nearly as solid as the wooden pointer which he sometimes loudly slammed across his desk just to shock us. He seemed to (5) _____ situations just to make us miserable. For example, if our fingernails were not (6) _____, we were sent out of class. As if we needed clean hands to dissect a frog! One time I worked extremely hard on a paper for class, but he accused me of (7) _____. He said I must have copied it because I was too dumb to write anything that good. Without a (8) _____, he gave me an F, which ruined my average and discouraged me for the rest of the year. All of us students would imagine ways to get even with him, but we were too afraid to (9) _____. Why a teacher like that was allowed to continue teaching was an enigma° to us, one I still have not figured out. In all the years since, I’ve never met a person who was such a (10) _____ on the teaching profession.



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

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