



Name _____

Pt. 1 _____

Pt. 2 _____

curtail
devastate
digress
incentive
incorporateindispensable
intermittent
rigor
squander
succumb

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 **curtail**
(kər-tāl')
-verb

___ *Curtail* means

- Upon hearing reports of a huge snowstorm, the principal **curtailed** the school day so students could go home early.
- I need to **curtail** my volunteer activities so that I can spend more time earning money to pay back a loan.

A. to combine. B. to shorten. C. to extend.

2 **devastate**
(dēv'əs-tāt')
-verb

___ *Devastate* means

- Learning that their son had been arrested for armed robbery **devastated** the Huttons. They couldn't believe he'd do such a terrible thing.
- Vera is so fond of Andy. She'll be **devastated** to hear he has cancer.

A. to thrill. B. to annoy. C. to upset greatly.

3 **digress**
(dī-grēs')
-verb

___ *Digress* means

- Professor Rubin never **digresses** during a lecture. Even his jokes relate to the day's topic.
- I tried to teach my three-year-old niece our phone number, but we **digressed** to a discussion of whether Winnie the Pooh has a telephone.

A. to listen carefully. B. to go off the subject. C. to get up.

4 **incentive**
(ĭn-sĕn'tĭv)
-noun

___ *Incentive* means

- The insurance company offers an **incentive**—a free vacation—to encourage its representatives to make more sales.
- The thought of myself in a bathing suit next summer provides me with an adequate **incentive** to exercise.

A. encouragement. B. liberty. C. change.

5 **incorporate**
(ĭn-kōr'pər-āt')
-verb

___ *Incorporate* means

- Jerry **incorporated** all of his favorite desserts into one: a chocolate-covered banana-cream pecan pie.
- Since the number of young children has gone down in my neighborhood, the two elementary schools have been **incorporated** into one.

A. to give up. B. to join together. C. to raise.

6 **indispensable**
(ĭn-dĭ-spĕn'sə-bəl)
-adjective

___ *Indispensable* means

- Because there's no bus or train service nearby, a car is **indispensable** in my neighborhood.
- When you're broke, you find that many things you thought were **indispensable** aren't actually necessary after all.

A. free. B. needed. C. expensive.

7 intermittent
(in'tər-mīt'ənt)
-adjective

___ *Intermittent* means

- ☛ You have to work steadily with your dog to train him well. **Intermittent** practice won't work.
 - ☛ Dora realized that her weight loss on a diet would be **intermittent**, so she didn't give up when the losses stopped. She knew they would start again.
- A. irregular. B. too much. C. steady.

8 rigor
(rīg'ər)
-noun

___ *Rigor* means

- ☛ New Marines must go through the **rigors** of boot camp, such as completing an obstacle course and running several miles a day.
 - ☛ The **rigor** of working at two part-time jobs while going to school proved too much for Jamal. Exhausted, he quit both jobs.
- A. a gamble. B. an expense. C. a hardship.

9 squander
(skwŏn'dər)
-verb

___ *Squander* means

- ☛ It's sad to see such a wonderful artist **squander** her talent designing labels for baked-bean cans.
 - ☛ The company lunchroom now closes promptly at one o'clock so that workers can't **squander** time on long lunch breaks.
- A. to share. B. to misuse. C. to upset.

10 succumb
(sə-kŭm')
-verb

___ *Succumb* means

- ☛ Leah **succumbed** to her daughter's begging and bought her a pet lizard for her birthday.
 - ☛ Once the suspect was arrested, he quickly **succumbed** and confessed to stealing the car stereo.
- A. to yield. B. to delay. C. to anger.

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. _____ To waste; spend or use foolishly
2. _____ To cut short or reduce
3. _____ Something that moves one to take action or work harder; a motivation
4. _____ To turn aside, or stray, especially from the main topic in speaking or writing
5. _____ Great hardship or difficulty; harshness; severity
6. _____ To upset deeply; overwhelm
7. _____ To give in; stop resisting
8. _____ Necessary
9. _____ To unite into a single whole; combine
10. _____ Starting and stopping from time to time; off-and-on

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. curtail | B. devastate | C. digress | D. incentive | E. incorporate |
| F. indispensable | G. intermittent | H. rigor | I. squander | J. succumb |

1. _____ rain kept interrupting the ballgame.
2. The sight of her bandaged husband in an oxygen tent ___(e)d Claire.
3. Someone has managed to ___ a tomato and a potato into one plant.
4. A home computer, a telephone, and a fax machine are ___ tools for many self-employed people.
5. Airlines offer "frequent flier miles" toward free trips as a(n) ___ to get people to fly often.
6. Many teenagers don't foresee the ___s of parenthood, such as staying up all night with a sick child.
7. By examining her last two months of spending, Coretta discovered that she had ___(e)d money on too many expensive meals.
8. The man on the street corner offered to sell me a watch, but he quickly ___(e)d his sales pitch when he saw a police officer approaching.
9. Because our history teacher loved to talk, we often could get him to ___ from the lesson by asking him a question about sports or politics.
10. Carl tried hard to ignore the double-fudge chocolate cake on the menu, but he finally ___(e)d and ordered a slice.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 130. 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. Duane feels he ___(e)d too many years in inactivity, so now he welcomes the ___s of an exercise program.
- 3-4. The company decided to ___ the construction of its new plant until the architects could decide on how to ___ an employee gym into the new building.
- 5-6. My aunt has only ___ success in quitting smoking. Every few months she ___s to temptation, and then she has to quit all over again.

_____ 7-8. As Leo explained a failed business deal that had once ___(e)d him, he ___(e)d into the even more interesting tale of his romance with Molly, his business partner.

_____ 9-10. The infomercial offered free samples, ninety-day trials, and every other ___ possible to get me to buy the “miracle medicine that would change my life.” However, I found the sales pitch highly implausible°. I simply could not believe that this product was ___ to my well-being.

Final Check: Learning to Study

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.

Linda never had to work very hard to make good grades in high school. But in college, where the (1) _____s of course work were greater, she soon learned that her casual high-school study habits would no longer suffice°. Linda was also learning how easy it was to (2) _____ time on surfing the Web and partying. She didn't realize how badly she was doing until she saw her midterm grades, which (3) _____(e)d her. She knew she had to make some changes right away and began to ponder° what they should be. As a(n) (4) _____ to work harder, she tried studying with her friend Denise. But that didn't work; their conversation would (5) _____ from European history to personal topics, such as dates or favorite songs.



Linda decided she'd have to go it alone. She began to skip parties during the week and also to (6) _____ the time she spent text-messaging or exchanging e-mails with friends. She discovered that a good place to study was (7) _____ to her new study habits. She found the library's silent third floor a sanctuary°, a place with no temptations to which she could (8) _____. She also became more methodical° in her study habits, keeping an assignment book, writing due dates on a calendar, and setting up a study schedule. At first, Linda's performance fluctuated°, and so the improvement in her grades was (9) _____—A's and B's alternated with C's and D's. But little by little, she learned to (10) _____ a social life with serious study and earn grades she was proud of.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%