



challenge
dependent
fertile
peculiar
preference

principal
solitary
suitable
surplus
transform

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 challenge**
(chäl'ənĵ)
- *noun*
- ___ *Challenge* means
- Ginny enjoys rock climbing. It's a difficult **challenge**, but she feels very proud after making a climb.
 - When the babysitter arrived, he stared at the four active little boys he was expected to watch. "This will be quite a **challenge**," he sighed.
- A. reason. B. something boring. C. something requiring effort.
- 2 dependent**
(dĭ-pĕn'dənt)
- *adjective*
- ___ *Dependent* means
- Some animals can take care of themselves as soon as they are born, but human babies are **dependent** upon their parents for years.
 - Tyrone's father said to him, "You are still much too **dependent** on me. It's about time you got a job and supported yourself."
- A. relying. B. leading. C. puzzling.
- 3 fertile**
(fĭr'tĭl)
- *adjective*
- ___ *Fertile* means
- Because its soil is so **fertile**, Iowa has many farms.
 - Our pet hamsters were so **fertile** that we ended up selling many baby hamsters back to the pet store.
- A. common. B. large. C. able to produce.
- 4 peculiar**
(pĭ-kyōōl'yər)
- *adjective*
- ___ *Peculiar* means
- Jack didn't know why people were giving him **peculiar** looks until he realized there was a food stain on his shirt.
 - My brother thinks my chip-and-dip sandwiches are **peculiar**, but I don't think they're as strange as the peanut-butter-and-tuna sandwiches he eats.
- A. attractive. B. unusual. C. innocent.
- 5 preference**
(prĕf'ər-əns)
- *noun*
- ___ *Preference* means
- There are Chinese, Italian, and Indian restaurants nearby. What's your **preference** for dinner tonight?
 - What is your color **preference** for the living room? Do you like cool blues and greens, or warm oranges and yellows?
- A. choice. B. skill. C. effect.
- 6 principal**
(prĭn'sə-pəl)
- *adjective*
- ___ *Principal* means
- The **principal** cause of most success is hard work, not luck or talent.
 - The queen of England has no real power. The **principal** leader of England is the prime minister.
- A. most recent. B. false. C. chief.

7 solitary
(sɒl'ɪ-tɛr'ē)
- adjective

___ *Solitary* means

- After taking a **solitary** vacation in a cabin for two weeks, Ned was ready to return to the company of other people.
 - In the mood to be by herself, Melba looked forward to spending the evening in such **solitary** activities as reading and taking a long bubble bath.
- A. friendly. B. proper. C. done alone.

8 suitable
(sūō'tə-bəl)
- adjective

___ *Suitable* means

- Sharon asked her mother if her blue dress was **suitable** for a funeral, or if she had to wear black.
 - Because the prices and food are so good, the team decided that the Red Lion Inn would be **suitable** for its annual banquet.
- A. right. B. too expensive. C. important.

9 surplus
(sūr'pləs)
- adjective

___ *Surplus* means

- More and more restaurants are donating their **surplus** food to homeless people.
- The Barkleys had more kitchen supplies than they needed, so they gave their **surplus** pots and pans to their son, who had just gotten his own apartment.

A. strange. B. extra. C. main.

10 transform
(trāns-fōrm')
- verb

___ *Transform* means

- My sister plans to **transform** this messy attic into an attractive office.
- The magician seemed to **transform** a chicken's egg into an egg the size of a basketball.

A. to accept. B. to repeat. C. to change.

Matching Words with Definitions

Following are definitions of the ten words. **Print** each word next to its definition. If you look closely at each word in context, you will be able to figure out its meaning.

1. _____ Producing or able to produce much fruit, large crops, or many children
2. _____ Most important; main; leading
3. _____ Relying on others for aid or support
4. _____ Extra; more than what is used or needed
5. _____ Odd; strange
6. _____ A test of one's abilities; anything that calls for a special effort
7. _____ Happening or done alone
8. _____ To change in form or appearance
9. _____ Right for a certain purpose; proper; fitting
10. _____ A choice; first choice; something preferred

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.



Check 1

Using the answer lines, complete each item below with the correct word from the box.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| A. challenge | B. dependent | C. fertile | D. peculiar | E. preference |
| F. principal | G. solitary | H. suitable | I. surplus | J. transform |

- _____ 1. Just one can of spinach ___s Popeye from a weakling into a hero.
- _____ 2. If land is always planted with the same crop, it will become less _____. Changing crops from one year to the next keeps the soil rich.
- _____ 3. Although Al's ___ is for a daytime job, he will work at night if necessary.
- _____ 4. An Army-Navy Store in our town sells ___ military products such as survival gear, tents, and boots. It offers great bargains on items the Army or Navy doesn't need.
- _____ 5. I can't imagine what that ___ odor is from. It's like a mixture of burning tires and freshly cut grass.
- _____ 6. A man lived by himself in a cave most of his life. He had a ___ life.
- _____ 7. I know you have reasons for quitting your job. What's the ___ reason?
- _____ 8. Juggling two balls is easy enough, but juggling three or more is a greater ____.
- _____ 9. My neighbors are looking for ___ homes for the eight puppies their collie gave birth to. They want homes where the pups will be well cared for.
- _____ 10. Sometimes Estela felt like giving up, but she knew she couldn't because she had three young children and an elderly mother who were ___ on her.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 239. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the remaining practices, for which answers are not given.



Check 2

Using the answer lines, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- _____ 1–2. When I'm not feeling well, my ___ is to have lots of company, but when my husband is sick, he would rather be ____.
- _____ 3–4. In the last year, our neighbors have ___ed their unattractive yard into something beautiful. The ___ change they made was to put in some lovely flowering plants; all of the other changes were small ones.
- _____ 5–6. Ben is happy to live at home, pay no rent, and use his mother's car, but I don't think it's ___ for a grown man to be so ___ on his parents.
- _____ 7–8. Our tomato plants are almost too ____. It is a ___ to use or give away all the tomatoes before they spoil.
- _____ 9–10. We had so many tomatoes that we ended up inventing some ___ recipes to use up the ___ fruit; perhaps the strangest was "Peanut Butter Tomato Pie."



Word Work

A. In the space provided, write the letter of the choice that best completes each item.

- ___ 1. A boy who is too **dependent** on his friends
 A. pays little attention to them.
 B. is too bossy with them.
 C. won't make a decision without asking what they think.
- ___ 2. Someone who enjoys **solitary** work would probably like a job
 A. selling a product that he or she believed in.
 B. working in a one-person office, rarely seeing other people.
 C. meeting people and answering their questions.
- ___ 3. We knew for sure that our dog was **fertile** when she
 A. bit the mailman.
 B. did very well in training class.
 C. had puppies.
- ___ 4. Most people would think it was **peculiar** if a teacher
 A. came into class dressed as Bozo the Clown.
 B. punished a student for cheating.
 C. dropped a piece of chalk on the floor.
- ___ 5. If a friend came to you and sadly said, "My grandfather just died," what would be the most **suitable** response for you to make?
 A. "That's awful. I'm really sorry."
 B. "That's nothing; wait until you hear about my day."
 C. "Can you lend me some money?"

B. In the space provided, write the letter of the word that most closely relates to the situation in each item.

- ___ 6. I like Pepsi more than I like Coca-Cola.
 A. preference B. fertile C. transform
- ___ 7. The weightlifter is going to try to beat her own best record.
 A. dependent B. challenge C. surplus
- ___ 8. Cream is the main ingredient in butter.
 A. challenge B. dependent C. principal
- ___ 9. These pieces of cloth were left over after I made myself a shirt.
 A. surplus B. fertile C. preference
- ___ 10. Cinderella's fairy godmother will change her rags into a beautiful gown, a pumpkin into a carriage, and mice into horses.
 A. solitary B. principal C. transform



Final Check

Read the passages carefully. Then fill in each blank with the word that best fits the context.

A. Johnny Appleseed

A. fertile B. peculiar C. solitary D. surplus E. transform

John Chapman, who is known to the world as Johnny Appleseed, must have been a strange sight. His (1)_____ clothing included cloth sacks for shirts and a tin pot for a hat.

In western Pennsylvania, where Johnny lived, many people grew apples. But there weren't any apples in the lands further west, which were just then being cleared and settled. So Johnny wandered among his neighbors, asking them for their (2)_____ apple seeds. During his lifetime, Johnny walked thousands of miles, making many long trips from his home to the valleys of Ohio and Indiana. Everywhere he went, he scattered seeds. Many of those seeds fell on (3)_____ ground and grew into strong trees.

Johnny often wandered through areas where Native Americans fought with the white settlers. Since Johnny was a loner, his travels were always (4)_____. He carried no weapon, yet he was never harmed. The Indians believed that the Great Spirit especially loved people like Johnny, who was not like other people. In his own quiet way he (5)_____ed the American wilderness, filling it with thousands of flowering, fruit-filled trees.

B. The Lovable Leech?

F. challenge G. dependent H. preference I. principal J. suitable

As highly developed as we human beings like to think we are, the fact is that we are still (6)_____ upon many lower forms of life. The (7)_____ way that this is true, of course, is that we use meat for food and skins for clothing. But there are other ways, sometimes strange ways, that we rely on other creatures. Take, for example, the leech. It would be a (8)_____ for anyone to really like a leech. It is a disgusting-looking worm that lives in freshwater ponds and streams. As many people have discovered when they've gone swimming, a leech's (9)_____ for dinner is human blood. It loves to attach itself to a swimmer's foot and sink in its teeth—as many as three hundred of them. The bite does not cause any pain. But the leech can suck out eight times its own weight in blood. "How disgusting," you are probably thinking. But listen to this. In recent years, doctors have found that leeches are the most (10)_____ way to remove extra blood from a person after an injury, especially around the eyes. Yes, leeches are honored guests in many modern hospitals.

Scores Check 2 _____% Word Work _____% Word Parts _____% Final Check _____%

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