

acknowledge
alternative
anecdote
appropriate
avert

candid
compel
comply
concise
drastic

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 acknowledge
(äk-nŏl'ij)
-verb

- Tamara **acknowledges** that texting during class is a bad idea, but she does it anyway.
- Even after most of the votes had been counted, Senator Rice refused to **acknowledge** that he had lost.

— *Acknowledge* means A. to deny. B. to admit. C. to remember.

2 alternative
(ŏl-tür'nə-tív)
-noun

- The teacher stated the **alternatives** to Tim—either retake the test or get a D for the course.
- When her dog began to suffer from cancer, Wanda felt she had no **alternative**. He would have to be put to sleep.

— *Alternative* means A. a choice. B. a command. C. an assignment.

3 anecdote
(än'ik-dŏt')
-noun

- Dad told the children an **anecdote** about getting his tie caught in a file cabinet at work just as the boss walked in.
- I once heard an **anecdote** about a stagehand's revenge on a bossy actor. The stagehand put wheels on a table used in the play, so when the actor leaped onto the table during the most dramatic scene, he rolled off the stage.

— *Anecdote* means A. an error. B. a short, interesting story. C. an article.

4 appropriate
(ə-prŏ'prē-īt)
-adjective

- Chuck has little sense of what is socially **appropriate**. For example, he wore jeans and running shoes to his sister's wedding.
- Although it is **appropriate** for a man to take his hat off in church, in a synagogue it is proper for a man to cover his head.

— *Appropriate* means A. illegal. B. fun. C. proper.

5 avert
(ə-vürt')
-verb

- Renata **averted** an unpleasant meeting with her ex-boyfriend by leaving the store before he saw her.
- To **avert** an accident, Larry turned the steering wheel sharply to the right—and ran into a stop sign.

— *Avert* means A. to begin. B. to prevent. C. to report.

6 candid
(kän'dīd)
-adjective

- I'll give you my **candid** opinion, but you may not like what you hear.
- My heart always sinks when Robbie invites me to his house for dinner. He's a wonderful person, but to be **candid**, he's a terrible cook.

— *Candid* means A. honest. B. friendly. C. careful.

7 compel
(kəm-pēl')
-verb

— *Compel* means

- My history teacher would often **compel** us to do useless work, such as memorizing the date each state entered the union.
 - If the law did not **compel** people to pay taxes, no one would pay them.
- A. to help. B. to forbid. C. to force.

8 comply
(kəm-plī')
-verb

— *Comply* means

- If someone with an iron pipe demands your wallet, it is safer to **comply** than to resist.
 - "My wife is so used to being the boss at work," Martin said, "that she is annoyed when I don't **comply** with her every request at home."
- A. to argue. B. to do as asked. C. to hear.

9 concise
(kŏn-sīs')
-adjective

— *Concise* means

- Because candidates in the debate had limited time to speak, they gave **concise** answers to voters' questions.
 - Unlike many politicians, our mayor is **concise**—his speeches are short and to the point.
- A. wordy. B. correct. C. clear and brief.

10 drastic
(drās'tik)
-adjective

— *Drastic* means

- The company's new president took **drastic** steps, closing two factories and laying off three hundred employees.
 - The most common punishment in schools is detention. If that does not work, then schools resort to something more **drastic**.
- A. unimportant. B. extreme. C. easy.

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.

- _____ To do as commanded or asked
- _____ Proper; suitable to the situation
- _____ A choice
- _____ Extreme; harsh or intense
- _____ To admit or confess
- _____ To force
- _____ Very honest; truthful
- _____ An entertaining short story about an event
- _____ Saying much in a few clear words; brief
- _____ To prevent; avoid

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. acknowledge | B. alternative | C. anecdote | D. appropriate | E. avert |
| F. candid | G. compel | H. comply | I. concise | J. drastic |

- _____ 1. In a traditional wedding, the person performing the ceremony is often wordy, while the bride and groom are very ____, saying just "I do."
- _____ 2. When he saw no way to ____ the plane crash, the pilot parachuted to safety.
- _____ 3. People often take ____ steps in anger and later regret their extreme actions.
- _____ 4. The drummer told interesting ____s about famous rock singers he had played with.
- _____ 5. Because Frank seems so ____, everyone believes him even when he tells a lie.
- _____ 6. In most American schools, it is not ____ for students to call their teachers by their first names.
- _____ 7. When the real murderer confessed, the police had to ____ that the wrong man had been jailed.
- _____ 8. To earn money for college, Lonnie felt he had to either join the army or get a job. He didn't like either ____.
- _____ 9. A couple of older boys tried to ____ some first-graders to hand over their lunch money.
- _____ 10. Any player who does not ____ with the rules will be dropped from the team.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 177. 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 poor economic situation leaves me no ____, " said the company president. "It ____s me to lay off some of our workers."
- _____ 3-4. In colonial America, it was thought ____ for a wife to ____ with all her husband's commands.
- _____ 5-6. "I ____ that you have a perfect right to do whatever you like with your hair," said the teenage girl's mother. "But, to be ____, I don't find green curls attractive."

_____ 7-8. The sale sign was huge but _____. It said only, "____ Price Cuts."

_____ 9-10. Our business instructor told an ____ about a company that ____ (e)d failure by giving each worker a small share of the profits.



Final Check: Taking Exams

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.

There are four test-taking methods to consider when faced with exams. The first is to impress your teachers with very clever answers. For example, you might respond to any question beginning with the word "Why" with a simple, (1)_____ reply: "Why not?" This is not recommended, however, unless you know that your instructor has a remarkable sense of humor. A second method is to avoid answering the questions at all. You might try writing something like, "Should teachers (2)_____ students to take tests? Doesn't this go against our great American tradition of freedom? Besides, anyone who wants answers to these questions can find the information on the internet." This method should not be used unless you are in (3)_____ need, as it involves a great deal of risk. It is (4)_____ only if you have shown yourself to be very brilliant throughout the course and you are the teacher's pet. Otherwise, you can expect your teacher to fail you. A third way of dealing with a test is to be (5)_____ and admit helplessness. According to one (6)_____, a student openly (7)_____ (e)d ignorance by writing, "Only God knows the answer to this question." Unfortunately, the instructor's response was, "God gets an A. You get an F." The fact is, none of these three methods works very well. If you truly want to (8)_____ failure, you have no (9)_____—you must (10)_____ with school rules. The fourth method is the only sure-fire one for dealing with exams: *study hard and learn the material.*



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Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%