



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'inj)  
– 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**  
(di-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**  
(fūr'tl)  
– 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**  
(sŏl'ī-tēr'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 humans.
  - 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**  
(sŏŏ'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**  
(sŭr'plŭs)  
– 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**  
(trăns-fŏrm')  
– 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Producing or able to produce much fruit, large crops, or many children
- \_\_\_\_\_ Most important; main; leading
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relying on others for aid or support
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extra; more than what is used or needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Odd; strange
- \_\_\_\_\_ A test of one's abilities; anything that calls for a special effort
- \_\_\_\_\_ Happening or done alone
- \_\_\_\_\_ To change in form or appearance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Right for a certain purpose; proper; fitting
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 line, complete each item below with the correct word from the box.

A. <b>challenge</b>	B. <b>dependent</b>	C. <b>fertile</b>	D. <b>peculiar</b>	E. <b>preference</b>
F. <b>principal</b>	G. <b>solitary</b>	H. <b>suitable</b>	I. <b>surplus</b>	J. <b>transform</b>

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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. Max and Helen had more clothes than they needed, so they donated their \_\_\_ clothes to a thrift store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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. His was a \_\_\_ life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I know you have reasons for quitting your job. What's the \_\_\_ reason?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Baby-sitting with a lot of children isn't easy—it's a \_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 questions 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 any decisions without them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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

## ➤ Word Parts

**A.** The prefix *trans-* can mean “across” or “change to.”

**Examples:** *transport* — to take from one place across to another

*translate* — to change from one language to another

On each answer line, write the word from the box that best completes the item.

A. **transatlantic**

B. **transform**

C. **translate**

D. **transplant**

E. **transportation**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Trina’s job is to \_\_\_ business letters from Spanish into English.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. You can \_\_\_ a room simply by painting it a different color.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The doctor \_\_\_ed one of Mark’s kidneys into his sister.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Since my grandmother doesn’t drive and there is no public \_\_\_ in her area, she depends on Dad to take her shopping.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The ship will cross the Atlantic Ocean next week. The ship’s \_\_\_ trip begins in New York City and ends in England.

**B.** The prefix *sur-* means “over,” “upon,” “beyond,” or “additional.”

**Examples:** *surpass* — to go beyond

*surtax* — an additional tax

On each answer line, write the word from the box that best completes the item.

F. **surcharge**

G. **surface**

H. **surpass**

I. **surplus**

J. **surtax**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I like to protect and shine the \_\_\_s of my wooden tables with wax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Our garden produced so much zucchini that we gave big bagfuls of \_\_\_ squash to all our neighbors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. In addition to the usual taxes, people who earn more than a certain amount will have to pay a \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The drive to raise money for the children’s hospital was so successful that the money raised \_\_\_ed the goal that was set.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Because we brought so much luggage on our trip, we had to pay the airline a \_\_\_.

## ➤ *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 \_\_\_\_\_%

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