



absolve
adamant
amiable
amoral
animosity

antagonist
eccentric
encounter
epitome
malign

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 **absolve**
(ăb-zŏlv')
-verb

___ *Absolve* means

- Having insufficient evidence of his guilt, the jury had to **absolve** Mr. Melman of the murder.
 - Accused of taking bribes, the mayor said, "In the end, I'll clear my name and be **absolved** of any wrongdoing."
- a. to accuse. b. to clear of guilt. c. to inform.

2 **adamant**
(ăd'ə-mənt)
-adjective

___ *Adamant* means

- Ron is **adamant** about not changing plans. He insists we still camp out even though the weather report now says it will be cold and rainy.
 - **Adamant** in his support of gun control, Senator Keen won't give in to pressure from powerful opponents.
- a. firm. b. uncertain. c. flexible.

3 **amiable**
(ā'mē-ə-bəl)
-adjective

___ *Amiable* means

- My **amiable** dog greets both strangers and old friends with a happy yip and energetic tail-wagging.
 - At first, our history teacher doesn't seem very friendly, but once you get to know her, she shows her **amiable** side.
- a. intelligent. b. uncaring. c. good-natured.

4 **amoral**
(ā-mŏr'əl)
-adjective

___ *Amoral* means

- Jerry is almost totally **amoral**. He cares only about making money and having fun and couldn't care less about right or wrong.
 - A former president of Uganda, Idi Amin, was truly **amoral**. He jailed, tortured, and killed innocent opponents without the slightest feeling of guilt.
- a. cowardly. b. lazy. c. lacking ethical principles.

5 **animosity**
(ăn'ə-mŏs'ə-tē)
-noun

___ *Animosity* means

- I was shocked when Sandy said she hated Lionel. I'd never realized she felt such **animosity** toward him.
 - Ill will between the two families goes back so many generations that nobody remembers what originally caused the **animosity**.
- a. strong dislike. b. admiration. c. great fear.

6 **antagonist**
(ăn-tăg'ə-nĭst)
-noun

___ *Antagonist* means

- At the divorce hearing, the husband and wife were such bitter **antagonists** that it was hard to believe they had once loved each other.
 - In the ring, the two boxers were **antagonists**, but in their private lives they were good friends.
- a. a supporter. b. an enemy. c. an example.

- 7 **eccentric**
(ĭk-sĕn'trĭk)
-adjective
- ___ *Eccentric* means
- Bruce is quite **eccentric**. For example, he lives in a circular house and rides to work on a motorcycle, in a three-piece suit.
 - Florence Nightingale, the famous nursing reformer, had the **eccentric** habit of carrying a pet owl around in one of her pockets.
- a. ordinary. b. odd. c. careful.
- 8 **encounter**
(ĕn-koun'tər)
-noun
- ___ *Encounter* means
- My **encounter** with Matt in a Los Angeles supermarket surprised me, since I thought he still lived in Chicago.
 - I dislike returning to my small hometown, where I am likely to have **encounters** with people who knew me as a troubled kid.
- a. a thought. b. a dinner. c. a meeting.
- 9 **epitome**
(ĭ-pĭt'ə-mĕ)
-noun
- ___ *Epitome* means
- To many, the **epitome** of cuteness is a furry, round-eyed puppy.
 - The great ballplayer and civil rights leader Jackie Robinson was the **epitome** of both physical and moral strength.
- a. a perfect model. b. an opposite. c. a main cause.
- 10 **malign**
(mə-lĭn')
-verb
- ___ *Malign* means
- That vicious Hollywood reporter often **maligns** movie stars, forever damaging their public images.
 - Stacy refuses to **malign** her ex-husband, even though he was the one who insisted on the divorce.
- a. to praise. b. to recognize. c. to speak ill of.

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.

- _____ Not giving in; stubborn
- _____ Lacking a moral sense; without principles
- _____ Differing from what is customary; odd
- _____ To find innocent or blameless
- _____ A brief or an unexpected meeting
- _____ A perfect or typical example of a general quality or type
- _____ An opponent; one who opposes or competes
- _____ Bitter hostility
- _____ To make evil and often untrue statements about; speak evil of
- _____ Good-natured; friendly and pleasant

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. absolve	b. adamant	c. amiable	d. amoral	e. animosity
f. antagonist	g. eccentric	h. encounter	i. epitome	j. malign

- _____ 1. Lilly was ___ in her belief that Sam was a genius at business. Even after his first two undertakings failed, she still had faith in him.
- _____ 2. My brothers had planned to meet in the restaurant, but their ___ took place in the parking lot.
- _____ 3. I'm tired of hearing the two candidates for governor ___ each other with stupid insults.
- _____ 4. Because he doesn't want to lose a sale, Mac remains polite and ___ even when he's annoyed with a customer.
- _____ 5. Some criminals are truly ___—they don't see that some actions are right and that others are wrong.
- _____ 6. The ___ of refreshment is drinking an ice-cold lemonade on a sizzling hot day.
- _____ 7. Jed was ___(e)d of stealing money from the company, but the damage the accusation did to his reputation remained.
- _____ 8. The owners of the department store were always competing with each other. They acted more like ___s than partners.
- _____ 9. I avoid serious discussions with my sister because she shows great ___ toward me if I don't share her opinion.
- _____ 10. Today it's not odd for females to learn carpentry, but when my mother went to high school, girls who took wood shop were considered ___.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these questions 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 ___ millionaire dressed so shabbily that every ___ with him convinced us that he was poor.
- _____ 3–4. Hector feels such ___ toward his sister that he never says a single kind thing about her; he only ___s her.

- _____ 5–6. Since the congresswoman was ___ in opposing the nuclear power plant, the plant’s owners regarded her as their toughest ____.
- _____ 7–8. Wayne is so ___ that he doesn’t even have the desire to be ___(e)d of guilt for all the times he has lied, cheated, and stolen.
- _____ 9–10. With his friendly air, good-natured laugh and generosity, Santa Claus is the ___ of the ___ grandfather.

► **Final Check: Joseph Palmer**

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.

In 1830, a Massachusetts farmer named Joseph Palmer moved to the city, only to find that people continually reacted to him with anger and hatred. Why? Palmer certainly wasn’t a(n) (1)_____ man—no, he had a strong sense of right and wrong. He was a friendly and (2)_____ person as well. And on the whole, Palmer was the (3)_____ of a normal citizen, living a typical life with his family. Yet his neighbors crossed to the other side of the street to avoid an (4)_____ with him. Children insulted Palmer and sometimes threw stones at him. Grown men hurled rocks through the windows of his house. Even the local minister (5)_____ (e)d Palmer, telling the congregation that Palmer admired only himself.

One day, four men carrying scissors and a razor attacked Palmer and threw him to the ground. Pulling out a pocketknife, Palmer fought back, slashing at their legs. His (6)_____s fled. Afterward, Palmer was the one arrested and jailed. While in jail he was attacked two more times. Both times, he fought his way free. After a year—although his accusers still wouldn’t (7)_____ him of guilt—he was released.

Palmer had won. The cause of all the (8)_____ and abuse had been his long, flowing beard. Palmer, (9)_____ to the end, had refused to shave.

Thirty years after Palmer’s difficulties, it was no longer (10)_____ to wear whiskers. Among the many who wore beards then was the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

Scores	Sentence Check 2 _____ %	Final Check _____ %
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.