CHAPTER 17

congenial	prone
flippant	rapport
impasse	rationale
perception	relentless
prompt	reprisal

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 congenial
(kən-jēn′yəl)
-adjective

- I was nervous being at a party where I didn't know anyone, but the other guests were so **congenial** that I soon felt at ease.
- Beware of friendships that begin in Internet chat rooms. People who seem **congenial** online may be anything but pleasant in real life.

__ *Congenial* means A. persistent. B. intelligent. C. friendly.

2 flippant
(flĭp′ənt)
-adjective

- "Don't give me a **flippant** answer," George's father told him. "Your financial situation is a serious matter."
- When a teenage boy is asked to clean his room, he's likely to give a **flippant** response such as "Why should I? I just cleaned it last month."

__ *Flippant* means A. rude. B. serious. C. incorrect.

3 impasse
(ĭm′păs)
-noun

- The jurors had reached an **impasse**. They couldn't agree on a verdict—some thought the defendant was the murderer, but others were sure he was innocent.
- If you think you've reached an **impasse** when trying to solve a problem, take a break. The solution may occur to you while you're doing something else.

__ *Impasse* means A. a deadlock. B. a relationship. C. an opportunity.

4 perception
(pər-sĕp′shən)
-noun

- Brenda's **perceptions** of others are usually accurate. She is a good judge of character.
- "Our **perceptions** of our problem differ," Tonya explained. "Sam thinks money is the main issue, but I believe it's a question of who controls the purse strings."

__ *Perception* means A. a memory. B. a view. C. a desire.

5 prompt
(prŏmpt)
-verb

- To **prompt** her son Byron to get a job, Mrs. Davis pinned the want ads to his pillow.
- Fast-food clerks **prompt** customers to spend more money by asking such questions as "Would you like cookies or apple pie with that?"

__ *Prompt* means A. to allow. B. to agree with. C. to encourage.

6 prone
(prōn)
-adjective

- Mr. Walker is **prone** to sleep problems, so he limits his intake of caffeine.
- **Prone** to fits of laughter during class, Chris controls himself by chewing on his pen.

__ *Prone* means A. tending. B. immune. C. attracted.

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7 rapport
(răp-pŏr′)
-noun

- In high school, I had such good **rapport** with my gym teacher that our close relationship continues to this day.
- If no **rapport** develops between you and your therapist after a month or two, start looking for a counselor who makes you feel comfortable.

___ *Rapport* means A. a report. B. a personal connection. C. a financial situation.

8 rationale
(răsh′ə-năl′)
-noun

- Danielle's **rationale** for majoring in business was simple. She said, "I want to make a lot of money."
- The **rationale** for not lowering the drinking age to 18 is that self-control and good judgment are still being developed at that age.

___ *Rationale* means A. a situation. B. an explanation. C. a question.

9 relentless
(rĭ-lĕnt′lĭs)
-adjective

- The dog's **relentless** barking got on my nerves. He barked the entire two hours his owners were out.
- In a large city, the noise of crowds and heavy traffic is so **relentless** that it can be difficult to find peace and quiet.

___ *Relentless* means A. occasional. B. exciting. C. nonstop.

10 reprisal
(rĭ-prī′zəl)
-noun

- In **reprisal** for being fired, a troubled man shot several people at the factory where he used to work.
- Fear of **reprisal** may keep children from telling parents or teachers about a bully who has threatened them.

___ *Reprisal* means A. disrespect. B. revenge. C. delay.

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. _____ Insight or understanding gained through observation; impression
2. _____ Having a tendency; inclined (to do something)
3. _____ Persistent; continuous
4. _____ The underlying reasons for something; logical basis
5. _____ Disrespectful and not serious enough
6. _____ Agreeable or pleasant in character; friendly; sociable
7. _____ To urge into action; motivate
8. _____ The paying back of one injury or bad deed with another
9. _____ A situation with no way out; dead end
10. _____ Relationship, especially one that is close, trusting, or sympathetic

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.

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Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

A. congenial	B. flippant	C. impasse	D. perception	E. prompt
F. prone	G. rapport	H. rationale	I. relentless	J. reprisal

_____ 1. Raquel is ___ to accidents, so her car insurance rates are quite high.

_____ 2. You will get along better in life if you are ___ to other people, rather than unpleasant.

_____ 3. My brother hides his lack of confidence by being ___. He rarely treats anything seriously.

_____ 4. It took his best friend's heart attack to ___ my dad to start exercising and eating right.

_____ 5. There was instant ___ between Duke and Otis. They talked as if they'd known each other for years.

_____ 6. At the movie's turning point, the bad guys reached a(n) ___. On one side of them was the police; on the other was a steep cliff.

_____ 7. During April and May, the rain was so ___ that we thought we might have to start building an ark.

_____ 8. Floyd's ___ of human nature is strongly colored by some bad experiences. He thinks everyone is basically selfish.

_____ 9. When Lacey and John divorced, she tried to get over half his income. In ___, he tried not to give her any of his income at all.

_____ 10. The ___ behind encouraging pregnant women to gain about twenty-five pounds is that low weight gain can lead to dangerously low birth weights.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 178. 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. Because Wade is so ___ and easy to talk to, we established a warm ___ the first day we met.

_____ _____ 3–4. Although the company president explained the ___ behind the pay cuts, his announcement ___(e)d an employee protest. However, once it was learned that the president was also taking a big pay cut, the employees' dissent° died down.

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_____ 5–6. The waitresses in our local diner are ___ to be funny and not always polite. If a customer says, "I'm ready to order now," he may get a ___ response such as, "And I'm ready to retire, but you don't hear me making a big deal about it."

_____ 7–8. My ___ of the situation is that talks between the factory management and union officials reached a(n) ___ because neither side would compromise on salary increases and health benefits. In such situations, flexibility is a prerequisite° to progress.

_____ 9–10. Alma could put up with occasional kidding, but her brother's teasing was often ___, going on for weeks at a time. Sick of it all, she finally planned a(n) ___ that would embarrass him in front of his friends.

Final Check: *Relating to Parents*

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.



How do you respond when your parents deny you permission to do something? For example, if you want to travel and work around the country for the summer, but your parents say you're too young, do you become irate° and angrily demand that they stop curtailing° your rights? Do you plan a(n) (1)_____, vowing to sabotage° their summer plans because they've ruined yours? Or do you explain the (2)_____ behind your request, so that your parents will understand your reasoning?

The way you behave when you and your parents reach a(n) (3)_____ on an issue can have a big effect on how they view you. Sure, you could retort°, "Fine. I'll go buy a leash so you can really run my life." But if you are consistently (4)_____ like that, you'll just strengthen their (5)_____ of you as being too immature to be on your own. Also, if you are (6)_____ in your begging, asking them three hundred times a day, "But *why* won't you let me travel alone?" you might elicit° this response: "You may do some traveling alone right now—go directly to your room."

Instead, approach your parents in a (7)_____ way and try to develop a strong, friendly (8)_____ with them. An amiable°, respectful relationship will make them more (9)_____ to see things your way. Even if you can't (10)_____ them to change their minds about this summer's plans, your chances of getting their support will be better the next time you want to try something new.

Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

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

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