

## Context & meaning 2

1 Read these sentences carefully, and decide if the definitions in *italics* of the words in bold are correct or incorrect. If they are incorrect, try to give a correct definition. The first one has been done as an example.

1. I'm worried that a lack of suitable qualifications will **hinder** my search for a job.  
*Help someone or something, or make something easier.* Correct / Incorrect  
*Hinder means to stop someone or something from making progress or developing.*
2. Research was going well, but there was a risk that cuts in funding would **jeopardise** the entire project.  
*Risk damaging or destroying something important.* Correct / Incorrect
3. When you **address** a meeting, it is important to speak clearly, confidently and at a good pace.  
*Write a letter to someone.* Correct / Incorrect
4. The villas were basically **flimsy** wooden huts that shook every time there was a bit of wind.  
*Strong and well built or made.* Correct / Incorrect
5. Although several species of turtle can be found in relatively cool seas, warm water provides the **optimal** conditions for breeding.  
*The best or most suitable within a range of possibilities.* Correct / Incorrect
6. It can be very difficult for immigrants to **integrate** into local society, especially if there are marked cultural differences.  
*Meet people or make useful contacts.* Correct / Incorrect
7. From the **outset** of the expedition they knew they were going to have problems, so it was no surprise when only two days later things started to go very wrong.  
*The end of something.* Correct / Incorrect
8. He was a talented young film director whose unique and **innovative** style inspired generations of film students.  
*Difficult to understand.* Correct / Incorrect
9. The building is 200 metres tall and **tapers** gently to a point, giving it the appearance of a thin, glass pyramid.  
*Gradually becomes wider towards one end.* Correct / Incorrect
10. There are one or two similarities between my country and the UK, but on the whole they are so **disparate** that it is difficult to find any common ground.  
*Having many differences.* Correct / Incorrect
11. Most modern furniture is functional but not especially **aesthetic**, especially when compared with some of the beautiful and elegant designs of the past.  
*Cheap but comfortable.* Correct / Incorrect
12. Shops know that they can attract more customers if they have a large **array** of colourful products on display by or near the main entrance.  
*A large group of people or things.* Correct / Incorrect

**2 Now do the same with these.**

1. The track has a **coarse** surface, providing better grip for bicycle tyres and making them less likely to skid on tight corners.  
*Soft and smooth.* Correct / Incorrect
2. The idea of a tunnel under the sea was first **propagated** by engineers in the nineteenth century, but it was almost 200 years before it became a reality.  
*Designed and built.* Correct / Incorrect
3. Everyone was in favour of making the city centre traffic free, but public opinion **shifted** when locals realised that vehicles would need to be diverted through residential areas.  
*Changed or moved.* Correct / Incorrect
4. People like the new system, but because of the costs involved we do not believe it is **viable**, and we need to look for other options.  
*Popular with people.* Correct / Incorrect
5. Some of Shakespeare's plays are often **attributed** to other writers, although more recent research suggests that they were all his own work.  
*Given to someone else as a gift, donation, etc.* Correct / Incorrect
6. Although the inventor had a **patent** for his new product, other companies rapidly began copying and selling it, and he was forced to take legal action against them.  
*An award or prize.* Correct / Incorrect
7. Spiders usually trap their **prey** in webs, but others actively hunt for it.  
*An animal that is caught and eaten by another animal.* Correct / Incorrect
8. Some illnesses are serious enough to require medical treatment, but for minor health problems, a visit to the doctor is usually not **warranted**.  
*To be unable to do something.* Correct / Incorrect
9. We need to come up with a **radical** solution to the problem of crime in our towns and cities, since everything else seems to have failed.  
*New and very different from the usual way.* Correct / Incorrect
10. During the meeting, we made progress on **peripheral** issues, but unfortunately we failed to deal with the issues that had been causing us the most problems.  
*The main or most important part of something.* Correct / Incorrect
11. I hate flying, and nothing could **induce** me to get on an aeroplane.  
*Stop or prevent something.* Correct / Incorrect
12. There were several small problems with the original device, and it needed to be **refined** slightly before it could go on sale.  
*Turned off and then on again.* Correct / Incorrect