Context Clues

Directions: Context clues are hints in the writing that help you figure out what a word means. Each example below has hints within the passage or sentence to help you figure out the meaning of the word. Read each question CAREFULLY and select the correct answer.

1.No matter where you go, the Internet is following you. Almost every portable device is being made with an Internet connection. Most new TVs and many other appliances come with Internet connections as well. The Internet is truly **ubiquitous**.

If something is ubiquitous, _____.

a. it is fuzzy and will bite you
b. it is everywhere
c. it costs too much money
d. it causes rashes

2. Speaking rudely to the judges was **rash** behavior. You really hurt your chances of winning!
   In the above context, what does "rash" mean?

a. an itchy skin condition
b. funny
c. trying to hide or disguise a piece of cheese
d. with little thought or consideration

3. Some people are always **bashing** the president just like others bashed the one before him. Wouldn't you think that everyone could find something to praise him for, at least once in a while?
   What does "bashing" mean in the above selection?

a. hitting hard with a heavy tool
b. going to too many expensive parties
c. speaking or writing harshly about
d. voting for a different candidate

4. Wherever he goes, the **esteemed** Dr. Sanchez is applauded for his life saving research.
   What does "esteemed" mean?
   a. held over boiling water
   b. very old
   c. unable to chew gum
   d. greatly admired

5. I believe that if you lower taxes so that people can keep more of the money they earn, it will be an **incentive** for them to work harder.

What is the meaning of "incentive"? _____.

a. a reason to do something
b. a small amount of money
c. a tax
d. a good job

6. Most of America's Founding Fathers did not believe in women's **suffrage**. Only men could vote in the United states until 1920.
   What is "suffrage" ?
   a. something that causes physical pain
   b. an early flag
   c. skirts that did not cover ankles
   d. the right to vote

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Some people are sure that the new health care law will mean better care for everyone. Others argue that the law will mean less care and longer waiting lines for those who need to see doctors. It's a **controversy** that will not go away soon.

   A controversy is something that people _____.

a. have strong disagreements over
b. blow their noses into
c. need to pay for a visit to a doctor
d. eat with sweet candy

8. Removing seeds from cotton plants was a slow job until Eli Whitney invented the **cotton gin**. What is a cotton gin?

   a. a drink
   b. a book
   c. a machine
   d. a cloth

9. In the early 1600s, a dangerous trip across the Atlantic Ocean was a **daunting** idea. The Europeans, who would someday be known as the Pilgrims, must have been a very determined and brave group of settlers. A daunting task is one that would _____ someone.

   a. tickle
   b. amuse
   c. lose or misplace
   d. frighten or intimidate

10. The **original** Pilgrims called themselves the "Saints" and referred to others who joined with them for the voyage as the "Strangers."

    In this context, "original" means _____.

   a. one of a kind
   b. first
   c. humorous
   c. musical

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