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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Context & meaning 2

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS