WORDS FOR MATURE MINDS
EXERCISES

1

Now we want you to make these ten words your own possession and property. Below, in the column on the right, are the ten dictionary definitions of the words just discussed in this chapter. *They are not given in the order in which they appeared.* Take your pencil and try to fit each word to its proper definition.

1. ..... tearfully sentimental.
2. ..... catering to evil desires.
3. ..... preferring the company of others to solitude.
4. ..... spent; exhausted; barren of energy; worn out by rich or effortless existence.
5. ..... the practice of extreme self-denial.
6. ..... enjoyed by one person through his sympathetic but indirect participation in the experience of another real or fictional person; substitutional.
7. ..... attributing one's actions to rational and creditable motives, without an adequate analysis of the true motives.
8. ..... servilely attentive; fawning.
9. ..... to direct energy from its primitive and destructive aim to one that is culturally or ethically higher.
10. ..... unchaste; lewd; also licentious. Marked by arrogant recklessness of justice, of the feelings of others, or the like; also having no just provocation; wilfully malicious.

2

Keep your pencil ready. This is a work book and a word game book, and we want you to write in it continually. The only way you can gain ownership of new words is by using them.

Now take the following eight words and change them into other parts of speech according to the instructions. Be as sure as you can in each case that the resulting sentence makes sense.

1. Change *vicarious* to an adverb, as, *to travel* .....
2. Change *rationalize* to a noun, as, *You are guilty of* .....
3. Change *gregarious* to a noun, as, *No one doubts the* ..... *of human beings.*
4. Change *obsequious* to an adverb, as, *He obeyed* .....
5. Change *asceticism* to a noun referring to a person, as, *He is an* .....
6. Change *pander* to a noun, as, *He is a* ..... *to the greed of others.*
7. Change *sublimate* to an adjective, as, *His* ..... *passion gives power to his poetry.*
8. Change *wanton* to a noun, as, *The* ..... *of the Oriental is proverbial.*

3

From your work so far with these ten words, you should have a fairly good idea by now of how they may be used in sentences, even if you may have met some of them for the first time. Test yourself. Without referring to the list on the previous page, try to fill in the required word in the sentences that follow. Note that any one of the several forms of each word may be needed. Better use your pencil. The mere physical act of writing a word down will help to fix it in your mind.

1. Marie is too ..... to be happy without friends.
2. The waiter bowed ..... to every wealthy customer who came in the restaurant.
3. His dissipated life has sapped his ambition and health and made him .....
4. The motion picture was so sickeningly ..... that most of the audience left in disgust.
5. Mothers feel a ..... pleasure in their children's accomplishments.
6. Be honest with yourself. Don't try to ..... your bad motives.
7. He lived the life of a (an) .....; for he abhorred self-indulgence and enjoyed solitude.
8. The dishonest politician ..... to the greed and thoughtlessness of the mob.
9. Some say that all great art is a ..... of the primitive instincts.
10. She led a fruitless, ..., uncontrolled life.