CHAPTER 16

charisma	poignant
contemporary	prevalent
contend	proponent
conversely	quest
extrovert	traumatic

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 charisma
(kə-rĭz′mə)
-noun

- Kamal has such **charisma** that when he ran for class president, almost every person in the tenth grade voted for him. His classmates couldn't resist Kamal's magnetic personality.
- Great Britain's Princess Diana obviously had great **charisma**. She continues to have numerous loyal fans—long after her death.

__ *Charisma* means A. feelings. B. personal appeal. C. luck.

2 contemporary
(kən-tĕm′pə-rĕr′ē)
-adjective

- Beth likes **contemporary** furniture, but her husband prefers antiques.
- My grandfather says that compared to kids in his day, **contemporary** youngsters are soft and lazy.

__ *Contemporary* means A. common. B. old-fashioned. C. today's.

3 contend
(kən-tĕnd′)
-verb

- The defense attorney **contended** that his client was insane and therefore could not be held responsible for the murder.
- Scientists **contend** that no two snowflakes are identical, but how could they possibly prove it?

__ *Contend* means A. to wish. B. to deny. C. to declare.

4 conversely
(kən-vûrs′lē)
-adverb

- Ron, who is basically bored by food, eats in order to live. **Conversely**, Nate loves food so much that he seems to live in order to eat.
- Mary drives her children to school whenever it rains. **Conversely**, Thea makes her kids walk because she thinks a little rain never hurt anyone.

__ *Conversely* means A. in contrast. B. in a modern way. C. similarly.

5 extrovert
(ĕk′strə-vûrt′)
-noun

- Surprisingly, not all performers are **extroverts**. Offstage, many are quiet and shy.
- Ms. Stein hired Roberto to greet and chat with her clients because he's such an **extrovert**.

__ *Extrovert* means A. a supporter of causes. B. a timid person. C. a sociable person.

6 poignant
(poin′yənt)
-adjective

- The service honoring American soldiers missing in action was touching. A speech by a friend of one of the soldiers was particularly **poignant**.
- I cried when I read a **poignant** story about a dying girl who gave away all of her dolls to "poor children."

__ *Poignant* means A. affecting the emotions. B. correct. C. lively.

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7 prevalent
(prĕv'ə-lənt)
-adjective

- Unemployment was **prevalent** during America's Great Depression. By 1932, over twelve million people were out of work.
- Television sets are more **prevalent** in the United States than bathtubs. Over half of American homes have three or more TVs. Far fewer homes have more than one bathtub.

___ *Prevalent* means A. favorable. B. found frequently. C. unlikely.

8 proponent
(prō-pō'nənt)
-noun

- I voted for Senator Williams, a **proponent** of improved services for the elderly, because I feel that many older people need greater assistance.
- Although Elaine quit work to take care of her children, she is a **proponent** of employer-supported day care.

___ *Proponent* means A. a recipient. B. an opponent. C. a supporter.

9 quest
(kwĕst)
-noun

- During Carlo's **quest** for the perfect pizza, he sampled the cheese pizza at twenty-seven different restaurants.
- Ponce de Leon's **quest** was for the Fountain of Youth; what he found instead was Florida.

___ *Quest* means A. a hunt. B. a question. C. a design.

10 traumatic
(trô-măt'ĭk)
-adjective

- Divorce can be less **traumatic** for children if their fears and feelings are taken into account as the divorce takes place.
- My cousin has had nightmares ever since his **traumatic** experience of being trapped in a coal mine.

___ *Traumatic* means A. familiar. B. reasonable. C. extremely upsetting.

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. _____ In an opposite manner; in an altogether different way
2. _____ The quality of a leader which captures great popular devotion; personal magnetism; charm
3. _____ A search; pursuit
4. _____ Widespread; common
5. _____ To state to be so; claim; affirm
6. _____ Modern; up-to-date
7. _____ Someone who supports a cause
8. _____ Emotionally moving; touching
9. _____ Causing painful emotions, with possible long-lasting psychological effects
10. _____ An outgoing, sociable person

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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