

charisma
contemporary
contend
conversely
extrovert

poignant
prevalent
proponent
quest
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-rīz'mə)

-noun

— Charisma means

- 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.

A. feelings. B. personal appeal. C. luck.

2 **contemporary**

(kən-tē'm'pə-rēr'ē)

-adjective

— Contemporary means

- 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.

A. common. B. old-fashioned. C. today's.

3 **contend**

(kən-tēnd')

-verb

— Contend means

- 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?

A. to wish. B. to deny. C. to declare.

4 **conversely**

(kən-vūrs'lē)

-adverb

— Conversely means

- 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.

A. in contrast. B. in a modern way. C. similarly.

5 **extrovert**

(ĕk'strə-vūrt')

-noun

— Extrovert means

- 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**.

A. a supporter of causes. B. a timid person. C. a sociable person.

6 **poignant**

(poin'yənt)

-adjective

— Poignant means

- 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."

A. affecting the emotions. B. correct. C. lively.

7 prevalent
(prĕv'ə-lənt)
-adjective

— *Prevalent* means

- 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.
- A. favorable. B. found frequently. C. unlikely.

8 proponent
(prō-pō'nənt)
-noun

— *Proponent* means

- 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.
- A. a recipient. B. an opponent. C. a supporter.

9 quest
(kwĕst)
-noun

— *Quest* means

- 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.
- A. a hunt. B. a question. C. a design.

10 traumatic
(trō-măt'ĭk)
-adjective

— *Traumatic* means

- 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.
- 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.

Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

A. charisma
F. poignant

B. contemporary
G. prevalent

C. contend
H. proponent

D. conversely
I. quest

E. extrovert
J. traumatic

- _____ 1. I study best in the morning. ____, my sister concentrates better at night.
- _____ 2. Nancy is a(n) ____ by nature, but since she's become depressed, she has avoided other people.
- _____ 3. At the airport, I was very moved by the ____ reunion of family members who had been separated for years.
- _____ 4. Underage drinking was so ____ in the fraternity house that college officials ordered the house closed for a year.
- _____ 5. "This woman ____s that she was here before you," said the supermarket checkout clerk. "Is it her turn now?"
- _____ 6. Felipe is a(n) ____ of exercising for good health. He even encourages his young children to swim or cycle every day.
- _____ 7. Certain movie stars may not be great actors, but they have a(n) ____ that makes people want to see their films.
- _____ 8. Abby didn't like the apartment with the old-fashioned bathtub and radiators. She preferred a more ____ place.
- _____ 9. Repeating third grade was ____ for my brother. It still pains him to think about it, even though he's a successful businessman now.
- _____ 10. During the past three hundred years, several people have gone on a(n) ____ for Noah's ark. Some have looked for it in northeastern Turkey, on Mount Ararat, sixteen thousand feet above sea level.

NOTE: Now check your answers to these items by turning to page 178. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the next two practices, for which answers are not given.

Sentence Check 2

Using the answer lines provided, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

- _____ 1-2. Many people are surprised to learn how ____ poverty is in ____ America. Today, millions live below the poverty line, and the number seems to escalate° daily.
- _____ 3-4. Judy and Martin Reed exemplify° the old saying "Opposites attract." A(n) ____, Judy chooses work that brings her into constant contact with others. ____, Martin prefers jobs in which he mainly works alone.

- _____ 5-6. Ever since the _____ experience of finding her twelve-year-old son dead from a drug overdose, Sophie has been a strong _____ of mandatory° drug education in the public schools. If drug education isn't required, she says, schools may cut corners and omit it.
- _____ 7-8. My mother _____s that *Romeo and Juliet* is the most _____ story ever written, but my sister claims Erich Segal's *Love Story* is more moving.
- _____ 9-10. Mahatma Gandhi's _____ and vision inspired millions of fellow Indians to join him enthusiastically in the _____ for peaceful solutions to national problems. Gandhi incorporated° nonviolence and political activism into a highly effective method for social change: passive resistance.

Final Check: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

(1) _____ young people may be able to list the many accomplishments of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They may know that he was a civil rights leader who aspired° to achieve racial harmony and was a(n) (2) _____ of peaceful but direct action. They may know that he fought the discrimination against blacks that was so (3) _____ in our country in the 1950s and 1960s. They may also know that he received a great deal of acclaim° for his work. For example, in 1964 he won the Nobel Peace Prize. They may even (4) _____ that he is the most important social reformer in the history of our nation.

But can the young really know the (5) _____, the powerful personal magnetism of this man? He was a perfect blend of quiet, considerate thinker and bold, outspoken (6) _____. When Dr. King spoke, people listened. He had such a forceful yet (7) _____ way of speaking that those who heard him felt his message deep within. For most, this meant a stronger belief in and respect for the man and his ideals. (8) _____, for bigots, it meant hatred and fear of what he stood for.

Dr. King's (9) _____ for equal rights for all was clear when he said, "I have a dream that this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'" He gave his time, his leadership, and, in the end, his life. His murder was a (10) _____ event in the lives of many Americans, who never fully recovered from that awful day. But because of Martin Luther King, Americans live with greater dignity. And many have taken up his fight against the inequities° of racism.



Scores Sentence Check 2 _____% Final Check _____%

Enter your scores above and in the Vocabulary Performance Chart on the inside back cover of the book.