

affinity	**proximity**
fledgling	**sagacious**
hackneyed	**supplant**
incessant	**unassailable**
opulence	**voluminous**

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 affinity
/əˈfɪnətɪ/
-noun

- It is hard for someone with an **affinity** for warm weather to be happy living in Alaska.
- My cat has an **affinity** for small, dark hiding places — I've often found her asleep in my dresser drawer, under the footstool, and inside my suitcase.

__ *Affinity* means a. a preference. b. a fear. c. ignorance.

2 fledgling
/ˈfledʒlɪŋ/
-adjective

- The short-story class is full of **fledgling** writers. They're all enthusiastic, but since they're beginners, they're shy about sharing their work.
- Myra and her sisters are excited about their **fledgling** catering service, which was booked for three parties during its first week of business.

__ *Fledgling* means a. old. b. new. c. different.

3 hackneyed
/ˈhæknɪd/
-adjective

- The **hackneyed** phrase "Have a nice day!" is heard so often that it has become almost meaningless.
- The worst part of our family reunions is hearing my uncle's **hackneyed** jokes — the ones he's been telling since about 1950.

__ *Hackneyed* means a. worn-out. b. insulting. c. funny.

4 incessant
/ɪnˈsesənt/
-adjective

- Mrs. Raglan finally insisted that her husband see a doctor about his **incessant** snoring — it didn't bother him, but she wasn't getting any sleep.
- The children nearly drove their parents crazy on the long car trip with their **incessant** demands: "Are we there yet? Is it much further? How much longer?"

__ *Incessant* means a. silent. b. wise. c. nonstop.

5 opulence
/ˈɒpjʊləns/
-noun

- The **opulence** of the magnificent, luxurious resort was in stark contrast to the poverty of the little fishing village at its gates.
- The writer Thoreau had no liking for **opulence**. He wrote in his journal, "That man is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest."

__ *Opulence* means a. closeness. b. riches. c. permanence.

6 proximity
/prɒkˈsɪmətɪ/
-noun

- The **proximity** of the railroad tracks worries neighborhood parents when their children play outside.
- I don't drive a car, so when I was apartment hunting, I had to consider the **proximity** of public transportation.

__ *Proximity* means a. similarity. b. contrast. c. nearness.

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7 sagacious
/səˈgeɪʃəs/
-adjective

- The Bible tells the story of King Solomon, who was so **sagacious** that he knew what to do when two women came to him, both claiming to be the mother of the same child.
- Often when you are faced with a difficult situation, the **sagacious** thing is to do nothing right away, but wait to see what happens.

__ *Sagacious* means a. silly. b. intelligent. c. strong.

8 supplant
/səˈplɑːnt/
-verb

- Acme Company fired its entire accounting staff today. It intends to **supplant** these employees with part-time workers.
- An idealistic young revolutionary overthrew the dictator and set up a democratic government. But he too was soon **supplanted** when a military strongman seized power.

__ *Supplant* means a. to replace. b. to restore. c. to support.

9 unassailable
/ˌʌnəˈseɪləbl/
-adjective

- The Evanses' claim that their house is the oldest in town is **unassailable**. They have a deed dated 1804, and a copy was filed in the county courthouse that same year.
- "My opponent may try to attack me," said the candidate, "but my record is **unassailable**. On every issue, I've voted for the benefit of this city."

__ *Unassailable* means a. untrue. b. undeniable. c. unimportant.

10 voluminous
/vəˈljuːmɪnəs/
-adjective

- Denise chose a wedding dress in a "Southern belle" style, with a long, **voluminous** skirt. Now she's worried she'll trip over all those yards of material.
- In the weeks before Christmas, each issue of our newspaper is **voluminous**, swollen enormously by all the ads. After the holidays, the paper shrinks back to its normal size.

__ *Voluminous* means a. valuable. b. cut short. c. large.

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. _____ New and untried; inexperienced; newly hatched
2. _____ Luxury
3. _____ Closeness
4. _____ Overused; stale; trite
5. _____ Impossible to deny
6. _____ Big; bulky
7. _____ To take the place of
8. _____ A natural attraction or liking
9. _____ Wise; sensible
10. _____ Constant; without stopping

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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➢ *Sentence Check 1*

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

a. **affinity**	b. **fledgling**	c. **hackneyed**	d. **incessant**	e. **opulence**
f. **proximity**	g. **sagacious**	h. **supplant**	i. **unassailable**	j. **voluminous**

_____ 1. Irene knew her roommate's family was wealthy, but nothing had prepared her for the ___ of their home — it was like a palace.

_____ 2. During the 1960s, the Beatles held an ___ position as the world's most popular rock group. They sold more records and won more fame than any other band.

_____ 3. In her ___ tote bag, my mother carries money, credit cards, photos, makeup, a mirror, running shoes, and an amazing quantity of other stuff.

_____ 4. It would not be ___ to go out today without an umbrella — look at those black clouds!

_____ 5. Crows have a(n) ___ for bright, shiny things, so they sometimes pick up bits of mirrors, metal, or jewelry and carry them back to their nests.

_____ 6. "You'll always be my best friend," Christy told Carole when Carole moved away. "I may have other friends, but no one will ever ___ you in my heart."

_____ 7. Mr. Engelhardt finally told his daughter to stop jogging in place in her upstairs bedroom; the ___ pounding noise was giving him a headache.

_____ 8. While visiting Hollywood, Sayda was excited by the ___ of movie stars. "You could be standing right beside one and never know it!" she said.

_____ 9. I get my hair done cheaply by going to a beauty school, where ___ hairdressers do cuts and coloring for half of what more experienced beauticians charge.

_____ 10. Allie has decided to stop saying the ___ word "Hello!" when she answers the phone. Instead, she says "Greetings!"

➢ *Sentence Check 2*

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

_____ 1–2. The instructor told me, "You have an unfortunate ___ for ___ phrases. To improve your writing, you'll need to get over your fondness for stale, worn-out expressions."
_____

_____ 3–4. Though only a(n) ___ politician, our new young senator made very ___ decisions during her first year in office. Her wisdom suggests that she has a promising future.
_____

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_____ 5–6. The luxury hotel stands in close ___ to a shabby, run-down housing project, and the ___ of the one is a striking contrast to the poverty of the other.

_____ 7–8. The report on child abuse was ___ — over a thousand pages — and filled with ___ evidence that child abuse is a widespread problem today.

_____ 9–10. After receiving ___ complaints for weeks that its telephone operators were rude and careless, the mail-order company decided to ___ them with a computerized ordering system.

➤ *Final Check:* Blue Jeans

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.

"An American classic" is a(n) (1)_____ phrase, overused to describe everything from meatloaf to the latest hairstyle. But at least one thing has a(n) (2)_____ right to be called an American classic. Blue jeans were born in the United States during the great California gold rush of 1849. They were created by Levi Strauss, a German who sold dry-goods to the cowboys and gold miners of San Francisco. Strauss realized that the (3)_____ of all those workingmen created an opportunity for him. He considered what all those miners and cowboys would be likely to buy, and he was (4)_____ enough to realize that they needed tough, inexpensive pants. He founded the Levi Strauss Company to manufacture what he called "waist trousers." At first, the (5)_____ company did make a few mistakes. For instance, it placed a copper rivet at the jeans' crotch, where the main seams came together. When cowboys wearing the jeans sat around the campfire, that copper rivet heated up, making getting back into the saddle a painful experience. But such mistakes were few, and Levi Strauss's pants became so popular that they soon (6)_____(e)d almost every other kind of pants among the workingmen of the West. Strauss was able to retire and live in (7)_____. Since then, the general public has developed such a(n) (8)_____ for blue jeans that they have never gone out of style. However, they have been constantly changed by the (9)_____, never-ending tides of fashion. During the 1950s, teenagers wore them straight and tight. In the 1960s, the look was (10)_____ bell-bottoms that swept the ground. Since then jeans have been tie-dyed, acid-washed, ripped, cut off, and made of every imaginable material. Still, they all have a common ancestor: the tough "waist trousers" invented by Strauss a century and a half ago.

Scores	Sentence Check 1 _____%	Sentence Check 2 _____%
	Final Check _____%	

Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.

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