

UNIT 1 VOCABULARY detriment dexterous discretion facetious gregarious optimum ostentatious scrupulous sensory vicarious

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. detriment [noun]

- Loni's purple hair may be a **detriment** when she goes for a job interview.
- Smoking is a **detriment** to your health. It's estimated that each cigarette smoked will reduce your life by one and a half minutes.

_____ **detriment** means a. an aid b. a discovery c. a disadvantage

2. dexterous [adjective]

- The juggler was so **dexterous** that he managed to keep five balls in motion at once.
- Although he has arthritis in his hands, Phil is very **dexterous**. For example, he builds model airplanes.

_____ **dexterous** means a. skilled b. educated c. awkward

3. discretion [noun]

- Ali wasn't using much **discretion** when she passed a police car at eighty miles an hour.
- Small children haven't yet developed **discretion**. They ask embarrassing questions like "When will you be dead, Grandpa?"

_____ **discretion** means a. skill b. good sense c. courage

4. facetious [adjective]

- Professor Segura has a **facetious** sign on his office door: "I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?"
- My boss always says, "You don't have to be crazy to work here, but it helps." I hope she's just being **facetious**.

_____ **facetious** means a. serious b. dishonest c. funny

5. gregarious [adjective]

- Melissa is so **gregarious** that she wants to be with other people even when she's studying.
- My **gregarious** brother loves parties, but my sister is shy and prefers to be alone.

_____ **gregarious** means a. attractive b. outgoing c. humorous

6. optimum [adjective]

- The road was so icy that the **optimum** driving speed was only about ten miles an hour.
- For the weary traveler, **optimum** hotel accommodations include a quiet room, a comfortable bed, and efficient room service.

_____ **optimum** means a. ideal b. hopeful c. questionable

7. ostentatious [adjective]

- My show-off aunt has some **ostentatious** jewelry, such as a gold bracelet that's so heavy she can hardly lift her arm.
- To impress customers, the manager's office is **ostentatious**, with fancy furniture and a thick rug. The rest of the department looks cheap.

_____ **ostentatious** means a. humble b. showy c. clean

8. scrupulous [adjective]

- The judge was **scrupulous** about never accepting a bribe or allowing a personal threat to influence his decisions.
- The senator promised to run a **scrupulous** campaign, but her ads were filled with lies about her opponent's personal life.

_____ **scrupulous** means a. ethical b. economical c. unjust

9. sensory [adjective]

- Since our **sensory** experiences are interrelated, what we taste is greatly influenced by what we smell.
- A person in a flotation tank has almost no **sensory** stimulation. The tank is dark, and the person floats in water at body temperature, unable to hear or see and scarcely able to feel anything.

_____ **sensory** means a. of the senses b. social c. intellectual

10. vicarious [adjective]

- I don't like to take risks myself, but I love the **vicarious** thrill of watching death-defying adventures in a movie.
- If you can't afford to travel, reading guidebooks can give you a **vicarious** experience of traveling in foreign countries.

_____ **vicarious** means a. thorough b. indirect c. skillful

MATCHING WORDS WITH DEFINITIONS: Following are definitions of the ten words. Clearly 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.

11. _____ best possible; most favorable; most desirable
12. _____ careful about moral standards; conscientious
13. _____ experienced through the imagination; not experienced directly
14. _____ good judgment or tact in actions or speaking
15. _____ having to do with seeing; hearing; feeling; tasting; or smelling
16. _____ humorous; playfully joking
17. _____ meant to impress others; flashy
18. _____ skillful in using the hands or body
19. _____ sociable; enjoying and seeking the company of others
20. _____ something that causes damage, harm, or loss

SENTENCE CHECK 2: Using the answer lines provided, complete each item below with **two** words from the box. Use each word once.

21-22. "You have to use _____ in choosing your friends," my father said. "If your associates are dishonest, people will think that you yourself may not be _____ ."

23-24. Seth is being _____ when he says he's as _____ a dancer as Fred Astaire. That's his way of making fun of his own clumsiness.

25-26. When you take vitamins, be sure to take only the recommended dose. Anything more than this _____ amount can be a dangerous _____ to your health.

27-28. My neighbors give a lot of parties, but not because they're _____. They just want to impress their guests with their _____ home and furnishings.

29-30. Our cousin in Nigeria writes great letters, filled with _____ details that give us a(n) _____ acquaintance with the sights and sounds of an African village.

FINAL CHECK – Apartment Problems: Read the following selection carefully. Fill in each blank with the correct vocabulary word. Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank. Use each word once.

Although I'm ordinarily a(n) (31) _____ person, I'm tempted to move into a cave, far from other people—and landlords. Okay, I admit that I didn't use enough (32) _____ in choosing apartments to rent. But does every one of them have to be a(n) (33) _____ to my health, mental stability, and checkbook?

When I moved into my first apartment, I discovered that the previous tenant had already subleased the place to a very large family—of cockroaches. Although I kept trying, I was never (34) _____ enough to swat any of them; they were able to dodge all my blows. In time, they became so bold that they paraded across the kitchen floor in the daytime in a(n) (35) _____ manner meant to impress upon me how useless it was to try to stop them. As soon as I could, I moved out.

My second apartment was a(n) (36) _____ nightmare—the filth was hard on the eyes and the nose. The place even assaulted the ears, as the walls were as thin as cardboard. My neighbors played music until all hours. Since I was too poor to buy a stereo, I became a dedicated listener. I even attended some of the neighbors' parties, in a(n) (37) _____ way—with my ear to the wall. When my landlord found out, he tried to charge me seven dollars a day for entertainment, and he wasn't being (38) _____—he meant it. I moved again, hoping to find a decent, (39) _____ landlord.

I rented my last apartment because it was supposedly located in an area of (40) _____ safety, considering the rent I can afford. A week after I moved in, I came home to find the locks broken and my belongings all over the floor. On the dresser was an angry note: "What gives you the right to live in such a nice neighborhood and not have anything worth stealing?"

Maybe I should have stayed with the cockroaches. At least they were honest.