

UNIT 3 VOCABULARY juxtapose embellish lethargy subsidize ambiguous squander inane inadvertent dissident sporadic

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. ambiguous [adjective]

- The portrait known as the “Mona Lisa” is famous for the woman’s **ambiguous** expression. Is she smiling or not?
- Lee left an **ambiguous** message on my answering machine: “Meet me at twelve o’clock.” I couldn’t tell whether he meant noon or midnight.

_____ **ambiguous** means a. unclear b. unintentional c. unpleasant

2. dissident [noun]

- Some **dissidents** in the Catholic church favor female priests, marriage for priests, and birth control.
- In a dictatorships, **dissidents** are not tolerated. People who speak out against the government may be imprisoned or even executed.

_____ **dissident** means a. a rebel b. a dishonest person c. a foolish person

3. embellish [verb]

- Lauren **embellished** the door of her locker with postcards from her friends and photos of her cats.
- The cover of the biology textbook was **embellished** with a pattern of colorful seashells.

_____ **embellish** means a. to hide b. to decorate c. to damage

4. inadvertent [adjective]

- Alexander Fleming’s discovery of penicillin was **inadvertent**. He forgot to cover a dish of bacteria, and some mold got into it. The next day, Fleming found that the mold had killed the bacteria.
- The final draft of Nancy’s paper was shorter than the previous version, but this was **inadvertent**. She had accidentally deleted an entire page without realizing it.

_____ **inadvertent** means a. not required b. not finished c. not intended

5. inane [adjective]

- The conversation at the party was **inane**, consisting mainly of foolish comments about whose clothes were the most “awesome.”
- Television programming is often so **inane** that TV has been described as “bubble gum for the mind.”

_____ **inane** means a. silly b. interesting c. shocking

6. juxtapose [verb]

- The photograph dramatically **juxtaposed** white birch trees and a dark gray sky.
- Dottie spread her new dress out on her bed and then **juxtaposed** it with all her scarves and jackets to see which combination would look best.

_____ **juxtapose** means a. to cover up b. to put side by side c. to replace

7. lethargy [noun]

- Although Wendy seemed to recover from the flu, one symptom persisted—**lethargy**. She felt exhausted for weeks.
- With the hot weather, **lethargy** descended upon the class. The students had trouble staying awake, and even the instructor gazed dreamily out the window.

_____ **lethargy** means a. inactivity b. hopelessness c. foolishness

8. sporadic [adjective]

- It rained continuously until noon. After that, there were only **sporadic** showers.
- Dave makes **sporadic** attempts to give up smoking, but his occasional efforts have been halfhearted.

_____ **sporadic** means a. steady b. irregular c. long

9. squander [verb]

- I thought my little sister would **squander** her entire allowance on M&Ms, but instead of wasting her money, she put it in her piggy bank.
- Vince **squanders** both his time and his money playing game after game in video arcades.

_____ **squander** means a. to earn b. to count c. to spend carelessly

10. subsidize [verb]

- During college, many students are **subsidized** by their parents, while others rely on grants or loans.
- Public television is **subsidized** by various grants and by individual and community donations.

_____ **subsidize** means a. to pay for b. to advertise c. to criticize

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. _____ unintentional; accidental.
12. _____ to place close together, especially in order to compare or contrast
13. _____ a person opposed to established ideas or beliefs, especially in politics or religion
14. _____ to decorate; beautify by adding details.
15. _____ a great lack of energy, inactivity due to laziness
16. _____ to support financially; providing a grant or contribution.
17. _____ to spend or use wastefully or thoughtlessly.
18. _____ without sense or meaning, foolish
19. _____ able to be interpreted in more than one way, not clear
20. _____ happening now and then; occasional.

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

- 21-22. "Spring fever" isn't really a detriment to health, but it often includes _____: people just want to sleep. Also, attention to work is interrupted off and on by a _____ need to daydream.
- 23-24. On the cover of the news magazine, two pictures were _____ (e)d: those of a young _____ and the elderly ruler he was opposing.
- 25-26. Local businesses _____ (e)d our club's Christmas party for the homeless, so we were able to afford a special meal as well as decorations to _____ the room.
- 27-28. Why do you want to _____ your money on tickets for that silly movie when all the critics agree that it's _____?
- 29-30. This week's episode of one television serial had a(n) _____ ending: we don't know whether one of the characters survives his heart attack or dies. In retrospect, I don't think this was _____. I believe the producers want to keep us guessing so we'll tune in again next week.

FINAL CHECK – Grandfather at the Art Museum: 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.

Last Saturday, my grandfather and I spent some time in the modern section of the art museum. Our visit was completely (31) _____. We'd come to see a show of nature photographs and wandered into the wrong room. Instead of leaving, Grandfather just stood there, staring at the paintings. His idea of worthwhile art is the soft-focus photography on greeting cards, and here was an exhibit of angry paintings by political (32) _____ s.

In one painting, an empty plate and a plate piled high with food had been (33) _____ (e)d on a table; the tablecloth that was an American flag. Around this painting was a golden frame that had been (34) _____ (e)d with tiny plastic models of hot dogs, apple pies, and other typical American foods. There was nothing (35) _____ about the message—it was crystal-clear. The artist was saying that some people in this country don't have enough to eat. After a few moments of stunned silence, my grandfather jolted the sleepy-looking guard out of his (36) _____ by shouting, "Garbage!" What is this garbage?"

When we learned from the guard that two major corporations had collaborated to (37) _____ this exhibit. Grandfather was outraged. "How dare they (38) _____ their money on this unpatriotic trash while people are starving?" I tried to explain that the painting itself was a protest against starvation, but Grandfather just scoffed at me. "Don't be (39) _____," he said. "Let's get out of here." So we did. On the way home, Grandfather stared out the car window. He was silent except for (40) _____ sputterings of "Garbage!" and "Incredible!"