

UNIT 4 VOCABULARY berate maudlin estrange regress euphoric relinquish impetuous ubiquitous infallible zenith

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. berate [verb]

- Nick's mother often berates him. And when she isn't angrily finding fault with him, she ignores him.
- Goldie can accept reasonable criticism, but she was upset when her boss berated her loudly in front of everyone else in the office.

_____ **berate** means a. to disappoint b. to neglect c. to scold

2. estrange [verb]

- My cousin's recent moodiness has estranged some of his old friends.
- After his divorce, Shawn didn't want to estrange his children, so he called and visited them often.

_____ **estrange** means a. to frighten b. to drive away c. to dislike

3. euphoric [adjective]

- I was euphoric when I received my grades. To my amazement and joy, they were all A's and B's.
- Joanne is euphoric, and it's easy to see why she's in such high spirits. She has the lead role in the campus production of *Hello, Dolly*.

_____ **euphoric** means a. very happy b. boastful c. sentimental

4. impetuous [adjective]

- Whenever I make an impetuous purchase, I end up being dissatisfied: the shoes aren't comfortable, the shirt is the wrong color, the jacket costs too. From now on, I intend to think more carefully before I buy.
- Children tend to be impetuous and often don't think about the consequences of their actions. For instance, they'll throw snowballs at passing cars without worrying about causing an accident.

_____ **impetuous** means a. impulsive b. considerate c. imaginative

5. infallible [adjective]

- Computers aren't infallible. If you put the wrong data into a computer, you'll get wrong answers.
- A sign over my sister's desk reads, "I'm infallible. I never make mistakes."

_____ **infallible** means a. perfect b. imperfect c. everywhere

6. maudlin [adjective]

- The verses in greeting cards are often far too sentimental. I prefer humor to such maudlin messages.
- The authors of maudlin soap operas must feel that they haven't done their job unless viewers are crying by the end of each show.

_____ **maudlin** means a. short b. comical c. overly emotional

7. regress [verb]

- When his baby sister was born, seven-year-old Jeremy regressed for a while and began sucking his thumb again.
- Adolescents under stress sometimes regress to childish ways: dependency, temper tantrums, and silliness.

_____ **regress** means a. to go backward b. to reach a high point c. to act hastily

8. relinquish [verb]

- No beer is allowed in the "family area" of the stadium, so fans must relinquish their six-packs at the gate before they take their seats.
- Donna had to relinquish her share in the beach house because she couldn't afford it anymore.

_____ **relinquish** means a. to buy b. to yield c. to enjoy

9. ubiquitous [adjective]

- Mites are ubiquitous. They live on top of Mt. Everest, in the depths of the ocean, at the South Pole, and even around the roots of your hairs.
- We postponed our plan to drive home on Sunday because a dense fog was ubiquitous. It covered the entire island.

_____ **ubiquitous** means a. scarce b. newly discovered c. found everywhere

10. **zenith** [noun]

- Florence reached the zenith of her career when she became president of Ace Products.
- At age 50, my uncle is afraid that he has already passed the zenith of his life; but at age 52, my father thinks the best is yet to come.

_____ **zenith** means a. an end b. an earlier condition c. the highest point

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. _____ to make unsympathetic or unfriendly; alienate
12. _____ tearfully sentimental; overemotional
13. _____ to surrender (something); give (something) up
14. _____ done or acting in a hurry, with little thought; impulsive
15. _____ to criticize or scold harshly
16. _____ existing or seeming to exist everywhere at the same time
17. _____ the highest point or condition; peak
18. _____ not capable of error or failure; unable to make a mistake
19. _____ overjoyed; having an intense feeling of well-being
20. _____ to return to an earlier, generally worse, condition or behavior

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

21-22. If people were _____, we could _____ our erasers, our correction tape or fluid, and the “delete” key.

23-24. I’m trying to be less _____, but I still sometimes act on impulse. later, in retrospect, I always _____ myself for not using better judgment.

25-26. Since my father died, reminders of him seem _____. I know I’m being _____, but everywhere I look I see something that makes me cry.

27-28. Patrick _____ (e)d his wife when he wasted their money on gambling and ostentatious clothes. Since their separation, their young daughter has _____ (e)d to infantile behavior.

29-30. Our neighborhood basketball team reached its zenith when it won the citywide championship. The local businesses that had subsidized the team were delighted, and the players themselves were _____.

FINAL CHECK – My Brother’s Mental Illness: 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.

My brother Gary is mentally ill. At first my parents thought it was their fault, but now we know that his illness has much more to do with his body chemistry than with anything they did.

Gary’s illness involves extreme mood swings. For weeks, he’ll be (31) _____, feeling that the world is great and that he’s at the (32) _____ of life. He may even view himself as (33) _____ and get angry if anyone suggests he has made a mistake. Sometimes, too, he becomes a(n) (34) _____ shopper, spending thousands of dollars on whatever appeals to him. When we ask him to (35) _____ the expensive things he’s bought so that we can return them, he refuses, saying he wants to “live like a king.” At such times, Gary has to go to the hospital.

Gary’s “highs,” however, are nothing compared with his “lows.” At first, he is simply (36) _____. He may sit in the living room all evening, talking and crying about his former girlfriends, our dead grandmother, or childhood hurts. Misfortune and horror, he says, are (37) _____ in his life – there’s nowhere he can go to avoid them. Within days, he is very despondent and so overcome with lethargy that he can’t even get out of bed. Shutting out everyone around him, he (38) _____ s his family and friends. Then he (39) _____ (e)s himself for all the faults he feels he has. Finally, he tries to kill himself. Again, he must go to the hospital.

When Gary takes his medicine, he does very well. He is charming, bright, and full of life. But when he feels good, he soon stops taking his medicine and begins to (40) _____. Then we know he is headed to another severe mood swing.

I love my brother dearly, but living with him is like living on a roller coaster. For all of our sakes, I wish we could help him more.