

UNIT 5 VOCABULARY charlatan hoist corroborate illicit disseminate irrevocable diverge precipitate dormant proliferation

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. charlatan [noun]

- My grandmother bought a “magnetic box” from a **charlatan** who assured her that it would cure arthritis. Of course, the box was worthless.
- In the days of the Wild West, **charlatans** sold “snake oil” as a remedy for everything from baldness to insanity.

_____ **charlatan** means a. an investor b. an expert c. a con artist

2. corroborate [verb]

- You claim you were at a soccer game when the crime was committed. Can anyone **corroborate** your story?
- Sid says he saw a flying saucer in the park, but no one else in the area has come forward to **corroborate** his account.

_____ **corroborate** means a. to question b. to confirm c. to understand

3. disseminate [verb]

- Campaign workers went all over the city to **disseminate** pamphlets and flyers about their candidate.
- What would be the best way to **disseminate** information about the next school board meeting? It's important for all parents to attend.

_____ **disseminate** means a. to spread b. to conceal c. to improve

4. diverge [verb]

- The brothers' paths **diverged** greatly. One became a famous lawyer, and the other ended up in jail for armed robbery.
- In a well-known poem, Robert Frost uses a branching path as a symbol of life's decisions: “Two roads **diverged** in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by.”

_____ **diverge** means a. to go in different directions b. to come together c. to disappear

5. dormant [adjective]

- Many insects lay eggs that remain **dormant** all winter and do not hatch until spring, in the warmer weather.
- A visit to Puerto Rico reawakened Anita's **dormant** interest in Spanish, the language of her childhood.

_____ **dormant** means a. not active b. irreversible c. growing

6. hoist [verb]

- Let's go over to the construction site and watch the crane **hoist** the beams into place for the new skyscraper.
- So far, attempts to **hoist** the wreckage of the jetliner from the ocean floor have been unsuccessful.

_____ **hoist** means a. to follow b. to display c. to raise

7. illicit [adjective]

- Gene was introduced to **illicit** activities at a young age, when he was hired as a lookout by a drug dealer.
- Ted's business is **illicit**; he drives an unlicensed passenger van along a route that's supposed to be used only by city buses.

_____ **illicit** means a. fake b. unlawful c. unprofitable

8. irrevocable [adjective]

- Patty would like to break off her engagement to Steven, but she feels that her promise to marry him is **irrevocable**.
- Giving a child up for adoption has become a subject of debate. Should the mother be allowed to change her mind, or should her decision be **irrevocable**?

_____ **irrevocable** means a. not reversible b. mistaken c. not certain

9. precipitate [verb]

- Mark's search for a larger house was **precipitated** by his marriage to a woman with four children.
- The discovery that Elliot had been setting fires **precipitated** his parents' decision to consult with a child psychologist.

_____ **precipitate** means a. to bring on b. to prevent c. to permit

10. proliferation [noun]

- Hanna’s doctors hope that chemotherapy will halt the **proliferation** of cancer cells in her body.
- The **proliferation** of dandelions in my yard is too much for me to handle. They’re growing faster than I can destroy them.

_____ **proliferation** means a. damage b. a shortage c. a rapid increase

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. _____ inactive; alive but not actively growing, as if asleep
12. _____ to spread or scatter widely; distribute
13. _____ not able to be canceled or undone; irreversible
14. _____ a rapid spread or increase
15. _____ to support; strengthen with further evidence; provide proof of
16. _____ to cause to happen quickly, suddenly, or sooner than expected
17. _____ to lift, especially with some mechanical means, like a cable
18. _____ a fake; a person who falsely claims to have some special skill or knowledge
19. _____ to branch off in different directions from the same starting point; to become different
20. _____ illegal

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

- 21-22. The map _____s my belief that just before the lake, the highway _____s into two roads, which go off in opposite directions.
- 23-24. When criminals go to prison, their illegal careers don’t necessarily lay _____. Many of them collaborate to carry on _____ activities in prison, including theft and bribery.
- 25-26. When the movers tried to _____ our piano to a second-floor window, a cable broke, and the piano crashed onto the sidewalk. We know this was inadvertent, but our decision to sure the moving company is _____.
- 27-28. Employees were ordered not to _____ any information about the fire at the factory; the news might scare off stockholders and _____ bankruptcy.
- 29-30. After a retirement community was built in Morristown, there was a _____ of _____s in the area, peddling “miracle” cures for all kinds of ills—some of which were not only useless but actually a detriment to health.

FINAL CHECK – A Get-Rich-Quick-Scam: 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.

It’s said that “there’s a sucker born every minute.” In retrospect, after the events of last summer, I think most of them must live in my hometown, Glenville. I, along with nearly everyone else in town, was taken in by a (31) _____--a swindler who made us believe he could help us get rich quick.

This con artist, whose name was Chester Turner, supposedly came into town to open a real estate office. After buying up lots of cheap land, he hinted to some of the town’s leading citizens that there would soon be an incredible (32) _____ of people wanting to buy land in Glenville. Naturally, those who received this interesting information promptly (33) _____ (e)d it throughout the town, and soon we were all buzzing about it. When people questioned Turner about the value of town land, he would hint that there was oil in Glenville by asking, “What if there were energy lying (34) _____ under the ground in the area, just waiting to spurt out?”

An oil find, we all agreed, would (35) _____ a skyrocketing of land prices. Our suspicions about oil seemed to be (36) _____ (e)d by some “oil company executives” talking in the local diner. According to their waitress, they planned to have cranes (37) _____ the oil derricks any day and then pump out millions of gallons of the precious liquid. Soon people were pounding on Turner’s door, begging him to sell them land in Glenville.

After Turner left town with all our money, there were rumors that he and his “oil men” had been arrested for (38) _____ activities in another state. Although we had all been of one mind when Turner was around, our views now (39) _____ (e)d. Most of us just kissed our money goodbye, though we berated ourselves for trusting Turner. Some people, however, clung to a belief that they could somehow get Turner to give their money back. They couldn’t accept the fact that the loss of their money was (40) _____.