

UNIT 7 VOCABULARY **equivocate propensity fortuitous reprehensible impeccable sham liaison solace predisposed solicitous**

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. **equivocate** [verb]

- I can't get my boss to tell me whether or not he intends to give me a raise. When I ask him, he **equivocates**, saying, "You've been doing good work, Bob."
- Hank doesn't want to come right out and tell Barb he doesn't love her. If she asks, he **equivocates** by telling her, "You know how I feel."

_____ **equivocate** means a. to be blunt b. to be unclear c. to deny

2. **fortuitous** [adjective]

- The birth of triplets wasn't exactly **fortuitous**. The mother had taken a fertility drug, which often causes multiple births.
- It was strictly **fortuitous** that Vince found his missing class notes. They happened to drop out of his dictionary when it fell to the floor.

_____ **fortuitous** means a. accidental b. predictable c. overdue

3. **impeccable** [adjective]

- My aunt always looks stylish but never overdressed. Her taste in clothes is **impeccable**.
- When she auditioned for the play, Julie gave an **impeccable** performance. She read the lines perfectly.

_____ **impeccable** means a. flawless b. deceptive c. faulty

4. **liaison** [noun]

- The president of the Student Council acts as a **liaison** between the students and the administration.
- Because she is bilingual, Elsa often serves as a **liaison** between the Spanish- and the English-speaking personnel in her office.

_____ **liaison** means a. a follower b. a caregiver c. a link

5. **predisposed** [adjective]

- Terry didn't want to move in the first place, so she was **predisposed** to hate the new apartment.
- As a Mel Gibson fan, I'm predisposed to enjoy any movie he stars in.

_____ **predisposed** means a. unlikely b. likely c. pretending

6. **propensity** [noun]

- Because Ivan has a **propensity** to gain weight, he watches what he eats.
- Cheryl is aware of her **propensity** to blab, so she warns her friends not to tell her anything they wouldn't want repeated.

_____ **propensity** means a. a coincidence b. a readiness c. a concern

7. **reprehensible** [adjective]

- The Riordans never discipline their son. No matter how **reprehensible** his behavior is, they just say "Kids will be kids."
- The company's failure to clean up the oil spill was **reprehensible** and drew harsh criticism.

_____ **reprehensible** means a. shameful b. misleading c. uncertain

8. **sham** [noun]

- Karen's apparent affection for Raul is a **sham**. He's rich, and she cares only about his money.
- When the city inspectors came, the restaurant kitchen was sparkling. However, such cleanliness was a **sham**—the place is usually filthy.

_____ **sham** means a. something false b. something confusing c. something accidental

9. **solace** [noun]

- After a family quarrel, Tamara finds **solace** in the privacy and quiet of her own room.
- When I need **solace** because of some upsetting experience, I find that stroking my cat can be very comforting.

_____ **solace** means a. excitement b. perfection c. relief

10. solicitous [adjective]

- The waiter was overly **solicitous**. He kept interrupting our conversation to ask, "Is everything all right here?"
- **Solicitous** toward her elderly neighbor, Marie calls every day to see how he is feeling and if needs anything.

_____ **solicitous** means a. distant b. attentive c. patient

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. _____ a natural preference or tendency
12. _____ deserving of blame, criticism, or disapproval
13. _____ happening by chance, by accident, or at random; lucky
14. _____ comfort in sorrow or misfortune; consolation
15. _____ a person who serves as a connection between individuals or groups; a go-between
16. _____ to be deliberately vague in order to mislead
17. _____ faultless; perfect
18. _____ showing or expressing concern, care, or attention
19. _____ tending toward or open to something beforehand
20. _____ a pretense or counterfeit; something meant to deceive

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

21-22. When Shirley said she was sick of Len's _____ to flirt with other women, he _____ (e)d by making an ambiguous statement: "I promise you'll never catch me flirting again."

23-24. The woman wasn't permitted to visit her husband, a political prisoner, so it gave her some _____ to have a minister act as a _____ between them.

25-26. Even before I met my father's nurse, I was _____ to like her, because I had heard how _____ she was toward him.

27-28. It was strictly _____ that no one was killed when the chemical plant exploded. The explosion, however, was not a matter of chance, but the result of _____ carelessness on the part of an employer.

29-30. The candidate's lifestyle seemed _____, but it was all a _____. He was a drinker and a womanizer and was mixed up in all kinds of illicit activities involving drugs and bribes.

FINAL CHECK – A Phony Friend: 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.

When my grandfather, Henry Altman, died, he left me with a large sum of money. This was very surprising because he and my father had become estranged years before, after a quarrel, and the old man died before we could meet.

Soon after the news of my inheritance, a young man named Seth showed up to offer me his sympathy. Seth said he had been a friend of my grandfather's and that when the old man had become ill, he'd asked Seth to act as a (31) _____ between himself and the granddaughter he'd never met. "It's too late for Henry," said Seth, "but I think he'd want me to offer you my friendship. In his later years, he regretted his earlier (32) _____ to quarrel with his family."

Believing that Seth had been my grandfather's friend made me (33) _____ (e)d to like him, and it gave me (34) _____ to speak to someone who had known my grandfather. Still, I was puzzled because Seth didn't seem able to give me much information. For example, when I asked some questions about Grandfather's second wife, Seth seemed to (35) _____, saying, "All I can say is that she was quite a woman." On the other hand, Seth appeared genuinely (36) _____ about my welfare, and his manners were (37) _____. I had never met anyone so perfectly polite.

I really didn't know what to make of him until, one day, I had a (38) _____ meeting with an old school friend I hadn't seen in years. When I described Seth, my friend looked startled and said, "I know that guy. He's a phony, a complete (39) _____. He's after the money, and I bet he never even knew your grandfather."

When I checked, my friend's story was corroborated by reports of how Seth had tricked several other women out of their inheritances. The next time he called, I told him I knew about his (40) _____ behavior and would notify the police if he ever tried to contact me again.