

UNIT 8 VOCABULARY attrition oblivious circumvent reticent cohesive robust grievous sanction inundate vociferous

**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. **attrition** [noun]

- Sports teams are constantly looking for new talent to replace players lost through **attrition**—those who retire, quit because of injuries, and so on.
- Colleges try not to have a high rate of **attrition**. They want students to stay until graduation rather than drop out early.

\_\_\_\_\_ **attrition** means                      a. an increase in numbers                      b. a natural loss of individuals                      c. ill health

2. **circumvent** [verb]

- If we take this roundabout route, we can **circumvent** the rush-hour traffic and get home early.
- I had to swerve to the right to **circumvent** a huge pothole.

\_\_\_\_\_ **circumvent** means                      a. to avoid                      b. to meet head-on                      c. to make smaller

3. **cohesive** [adjective]

- For a **cohesive** pie dough, one that doesn't fall apart, be sure to add enough liquid.
- A family needs to be **cohesive**—to stay together even when stresses and strains threaten to tear it apart.

\_\_\_\_\_ **cohesive** means                      a. connected                      b. popular                      c. large

4. **grievous** [adjective]

- The death of a beloved pet is a **grievous** loss for a child.
- The assassination of a great leader, such as Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr., often does **grievous** harm to a society.

\_\_\_\_\_ **grievous** means                      a. preventable                      b. unavoidable                      c. terrible

5. **inundate** [verb]

- During the heavy rains, the river overflowed and **inundated** the fields, destroying all the crops.
- After his brief announcement, the President was **inundated** with questions from reporters.

\_\_\_\_\_ **inundate** means                      a. to flood                      b. to strengthen                      c. to go around

6. **oblivious** [adjective]

- The driver continued into the intersection, apparently **oblivious** to the fact that the light had turned red.
- It's easy to spot lovers. They are the ones who, **oblivious** to everyone else present, see only each other.

\_\_\_\_\_ **oblivious** means                      a. angry about                      b. not noticing                      c. overwhelmed by

7. **reticent** [adjective]

- Paul is very **reticent** about his first marriage; he never talks about his former wife or what led to their divorce.
- It's odd that many people who love to gossip about someone else are so **reticent** about their own lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ **reticent** means                      a. dishonest                      b. quiet                      c. unaware

8. **robust** [adjective]

- Once an energetic, **robust** man, Mr. Rand has been considerably weakened by illness.
- A number of weight lifters who were previously **robust** have ruined their health and vigor by taking steroids.

\_\_\_\_\_ **robust** means                      a. very noisy                      b. sickly                      c. strong and well

9. **sanction** [verb]

- By greeting the dictator with extreme courtesy and fanfare, the legislature seemed to **sanction** his policies.
- Many people whose children attend religious schools would like the government to **sanction** the use of public funds to help pay for their education.

\_\_\_\_\_ **sanction** means                      a. to grant approval of                      b. to criticize severely                      c. to remember

**10. vociferous [adjective]**

- When male loons sense that their territory is being invaded, they give **vociferous** cries of challenge.
- The principal became angry and **vociferous**, shouting at students who tried to sneak out of the fire drill.

\_\_\_\_\_ **vociferous** means                      a. distant                      b. mild                      c. loud

**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 authorize, allow, or approve
12. \_\_\_\_\_ to cover, as by flooding; overwhelm with a large number or amount
13. \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid by going around or as if by going around; to escape from, prevent, or stop through cleverness
14. \_\_\_\_\_ quiet or uncommunicative; reluctant to speak out
15. \_\_\_\_\_ healthy and strong; vigorous
16. \_\_\_\_\_ sticking or holding together; unified
17. \_\_\_\_\_ noisy; expressing feelings loudly and intensely
18. \_\_\_\_\_ a gradual natural decrease in number; becoming fewer in number
19. \_\_\_\_\_ causing grief or pain; very serious or severe
20. \_\_\_\_\_ unaware; failing to notice

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

- 21-22. Craig is \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d with bills, but he keeps on squandering money. He's \_\_\_\_\_ to his financial problems.
- 23-24. The company doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ the policy of laying off workers. It believes that the optimum way to reduce the staff is by \_\_\_\_\_; employees who quit or retire simply aren't replaced.
- 25-26. Child abuse is a \_\_\_\_\_ crime, but children are often \_\_\_\_\_ about it. Their silence may prevent them from collaborating with the police or the courts to bring the abusers to justice.
- 27-28. Although my brother was \_\_\_\_\_ enough to meet the army's standards for enlisting, his eyesight was too poor. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ this problem by memorizing the eye chart.
- 29-30. The teacher of the Cooking for Health class was \_\_\_\_\_ about avoiding egg yolks. "You don't need yolks for a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ batter!" he shouted. "The whites will hold it together."

**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.

Illegal killings of gorillas are reducing their numbers far faster than would be expected from normal (31) \_\_\_\_\_. Here is the story of one gorilla family.

Carrying spears and knives, hunters entered an African game preserve, where it was unlawful to kill or capture wildlife. When they spotted a young gorilla, they closed in. Ten adult gorillas, members of a(n) (32) \_\_\_\_\_ family group, attempted to shield the infant. The men quickly killed all the adults. As if (33) \_\_\_\_\_ to the infant's screams, the men strapped his hands and feet to bamboo poles with wire, then carried him down the mountain on which he'd been born.

After several weeks, Dian Fossey, an American studying gorillas in the wild, learned that the young gorilla had been taken to park officials. She found him in a cage so small that he had no room to stand or turn. He was clearly frightened and nearly dead—thirsty, starving, and with infected wounds at his ankles and wrists. Fossey could hardly believe that the officials could (34) \_\_\_\_\_ such reprehensible cruelty.

When she demanded an explanation from the park's chief official, he seemed (35) \_\_\_\_\_ about the animal. Finally, however, he admitted that he had made an illegal deal with a German zoo. In return for a new car, he had arranged for the gorilla's capture. Fossey was (36) \_\_\_\_\_ in insisting that the infant be released into her care. The official agreed on the condition that the infant be shipped to the zoo as soon as his health returned.

For several months, Fossey cared for the infant, now named Coco, who would cling to her for comfort. When he became more (37) \_\_\_\_\_, he began to romp and explore. In an effort to (38) \_\_\_\_\_ the agreement to send Coco to the zoo, Fossey (39) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d government officials with letters, begging them to step in and arrange for him to be returned to the wild. In the end, though, the little gorilla was taken away from her—a(n) (40) \_\_\_\_\_ hardship for both of them. Gorillas can live into their fifties, but Coco died in the zoo at the age of twelve.