

UNIT 9 VOCABULARY **bolster** **relegate** **depreciate** **replete** **indiscriminate** **sedentary** **inquisitive** **tenet** **nebulous** **terse**

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. **bolster** [verb]

- The front porch was sagging, so we had to **bolster** it with cinder blocks until it could be repaired.
- When Lisa was in the hospital, visits from friends **bolstered** her spirits.

_____ **bolster** means a. to reach b. to replace c. to support

2. **depreciate** [verb]

- As soon as you drive a new car off the lot, it **depreciates**; it's immediately worth less than you paid for it.
- The property **depreciated** when the city built a sewage plant nearby.

_____ **depreciate** means a. to become better b. to become less valuable c. to become definite

3. **indiscriminate** [adjective]

- Some people end up hopelessly in debt because of **indiscriminate** spending, so be selective about what and how much you buy.
- I confess to an **indiscriminate** love of chocolate. I don't distinguish between plain old and fancy imported chocolates—I adore them all.

_____ **indiscriminate** means a. healthy b. unenthusiastic c. unselective

4. **inquisitive** [adjective]

- **Inquisitive** students usually do better than those who are less curious and less eager to learn.
- Small children are naturally **inquisitive**. They wonder about the world around them, and they are constantly asking "Why?"

_____ **inquisitive** means a. hard-working b. particular c. questioning

5. **nebulous** [adjective]

- When I ask Leonard what he wants for his birthday, he never gives me any specific ideas. He just gives me a **nebulous** answer like "Oh, something interesting."
- "Don't give **nebulous** answers on the exam," said the history instructor. "Be specific."

_____ **nebulous** means a. indefinite b. long c. specific

6. **relegate** [verb]

- At family gatherings, we kids were always **relegated** to the kitchen table while the adults ate in the dining room.
- When we have overnight guests, my parents give them my room and **relegate** me to a cot in the attic.

_____ **relegate** means a. to send b. to punish c. to reward

7. **replete** [adjective]

- The show was **replete** with dazzling effects, including gorgeous scenery, glittering costumes, dramatic lighting, and thrilling music.
- The book of household hints got an excellent review. "It's **replete** with good advice," the critic said, "a real treasure."

_____ **replete** means a. replaced b. filled c. followed

8. **sedentary** [adjective]

- People in **sedentary** occupations, such as bus drivers and writers, need to make a special effort to exercise.
- My lifestyle is so **sedentary** that the longest walk I ever take is from my living room couch to the front seat of my car.

_____ **sedentary** means a. involving much walking b. involving stress c. involving much sitting

9. **tenet** [noun]

- A basic **tenet** of Islam is "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet."
- This world might be a paradise if everyone lived by such **tenets** as "Never cause suffering."

_____ **tenet** means a. a principle b. a ritual c. a prediction

10. **terse** [adjective]

- I was hurt by Roger's **terse** response to my invitation. All he said was "No thanks."
- A British humor magazine once gave this **terse** advice to people about to marry: "Don't."

_____ **terse** means a. dishonest b. unclear c. short

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 fall or decrease in value or price; to lower the value of
12. _____ not chosen carefully; not based on careful selection
13. _____ marked by much sitting; requiring or taking little exercise
14. _____ a belief or principle held to be true by an individual or group
15. _____ brief and clear; effectively concise
16. _____ to hold up, strengthen, or reinforce; support with a rigid object
17. _____ curious; eager to learn
18. _____ plentifully supplied; well-filled
19. _____ vague; unclear
20. _____ to assign to a less important or less satisfying position, place, or condition

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

21-22. My car manual's instructions for changing the spark plugs are so _____ that by the time I figure out exactly how to do it, my car will have _____ (e)d a few thousand dollars more.

23-24. Dad was a construction worker, but as soon as he reached sixty—though he was as robust as ever—his company _____ (e)d him to a(n) _____ desk job.

25-26. The guides at the Leaning Tower of Pisa are inundated with questions from _____ travelers: "Why is it leaning?" "How far is it leaning?" "Is it being _____ (e) d to keep it from falling any further?"

27-28. Folk wisdom is _____ with contradictory sayings and _____ s. It's fun to juxtapose pairs such as "He who hesitates is lost" and "Look before you leap."

29-30. Stan is not exactly a _____ speaker, which is why he's earned the nickname "Motor Mouth." What's more, his conversation is totally _____; he uses no discretion but just says anything that comes to mind.

FINAL CHECK – Our Annual Garage Sale: 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 almost September—time for our annual garage sale. Our unwanted items keep piling up in the basement, which is now so full that we've had to (31) _____ some of the collection to the garage. Though the sale is a lot of work, the sight of all those piles and boxes (32) _____ s our determination to go through with it.

This proliferation of stuff has left us with a huge number of possessions for sale, from tools and spools to baskets and gaskets. This year, for example, we have an old bike that some zealot for exercise might buy, and a soft chair and footstool for a more (33) _____ customer. Our ad states our main (34) _____: "Something for everyone!" Maybe that's a bit (35) _____, but we don't want to be specific. We just want to disseminate the general idea that our sale will be (36) _____ with treasures.

Last year, one customer took a quick look and departed with the (37) _____ comment: "Nothing but junk." However, most people seem to take a completely (38) _____ approach to shopping. They're predisposed to spend their money on anything, including rusty baking pans and broken lamps. Then there are the (39) _____ shoppers who want us to tell them every detail about every item: "How old is it? What did we pay for it? Will it increase or (40) _____ in value?"

Friends have foolishly asked us where in the world we get all this junk to sell year after year—an inane question, because the answer is simple. We shop at garage sales.