

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.) **anecdote** [noun]

- Mrs. Ojeda told us an **anecdote** about her great-uncle, who stayed in France after World War II and became a painter.
- Sarah used an **anecdote** as a hook for her essay about *The Scarlet Ibis*.

_____ **anecdote** means a. story b. lie c. truth

2.) **malevolent** [adj.]

- Montresor, in *The Cask of Amontillado*, is a **malevolent** character. He buries his enemy alive in the catacombs.
- Brother acted in a **malevolent** way towards Doodle at the end of the story, *The Scarlet Ibis*, when he abandons Doodle during the storm.

_____ **malevolent** means a. benevolent b. friendly c. malicious

3.) **precocious** [adj.]

- When the three year-old started reading the newspaper one morning at breakfast, the parents knew they had a **precocious** child.
- Mozart was a **precocious** child; he learned how to play the piano between three and five years of age.

_____ **precocious** means a. intelligent b. stupid c. unintelligent

4.) **plethora** [noun]

- It’s a Friday, but we have a **plethora** of homework. You would think the teachers would leave us alone because we’ve already worked in class Monday through Friday, but no.
- The prosecution presented a **plethora** of evidence against the accused, so the jury had no choice but to convict.

_____ **plethora** means a. lack b. plenty c. need

5.) **gesticulate** [verb]

- Some people are so very lively and animated that they **gesticulate** a lot whenever they talk.
- For ASL, we **gesticulate** a lot.

_____ **gesticulate** means a. motion b. laugh c. doubt

6.) **discern** [verb]

- The teacher has to **discern** if the students are genuine when they have an excuse as to why their homework is not done or if they are lying.
- When confronted with peer pressure, students need to **discern** which activities are good for them to get involved in and which are bad.

_____ **discern** means a. confuse b. detect c. miss

- _____ : a short narrative of an interesting, amusing, or biographical incident
- _____ : wishing evil to others; hostile, marked by desire to cause pain or distress to another.
- _____ : exceptionally early in development
- _____ : over-fullness; superabundance; a lot
- _____ : use gestures (movement of limbs) instead of or to reinforce speech
- _____ : to detect or recognize; make out

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

1. Maybe it was nerves, or maybe it was just a habit, but the way the speaker _____ throughout the entire speech began to make me nervous.
2. Vampires are thought to be _____ creatures, but in the book series I’m reading right now, so far it looks like some species can be quite harmless to humans.
3. Although she never spoke a word, I could _____ from the silent treatment my best friend was giving me that I had offended her.
4. “Don’t these teachers understand?” When they give us a _____ of homework night after night, causing us to forfeit precious sleep, they shouldn’t be surprised when we doze off during class.”
5. Vera’s abilities to concoct a story so quickly—something others of her age never would have been able to do—demonstrates that she was a _____ child.
6. Mr. Nuttel wrote to his sister about his encounter with Vera and her crazy aunt, relating to his sister the frightening _____ about the uncles and their fateful hunting trip.

FINAL CHECK – Great-uncle Arthur 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.

1. Our teacher told us a(n) _____ about her great-uncle, Arthur, who stayed in France after World War II and became a painter.
2. Arthur had been a(n) _____ child. His parents noticed that they had a smart, little son when he started drawing beautiful pictures at the age of three, which surpassed the drawings of his seven older siblings.

