

CHAPTER  
9<sup>H</sup>

<b>austere</b>	<b>metamorphosis</b>
<b>esoteric</b>	<b>notorious</b>
<b>facsimile</b>	<b>perfunctory</b>
<b>grotesque</b>	<b>provocative</b>
<b>mesmerize</b>	<b>travesty</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Eng. 11-H, per. \_\_\_\_\_

**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 **austere**  
(ô-stîr')  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Austere* means
- Ms. Stone's appearance was **austere**. She wore plain, quiet clothing with no jewelry, and she never used makeup.
  - The walls in Alan's den are white and nearly bare, and his white furniture has simple lines. This **austere** decor gives the room a pleasantly calm mood.
- a. very ugly.                      b. very plain.                      c. very youthful.
- 2 **esoteric**  
(ěs'ə-těr'ĭk)  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Esoteric* means
- The instruction manuals that come with computer software often use such **esoteric** terms that they seem to be written in a foreign language.
  - The poetry of Ezra Pound, filled with references to ancient Greek culture, is too **esoteric** for most readers.
- a. difficult to understand.                      b. shallow.                      c. unfavorable.
- 3 **facsimile**  
(făk-sĭm'ə-lē)  
-noun  
\_\_\_ *Facsimile* means
- When a **facsimile** of an old Sears-Roebuck catalog was published recently, it became a bestseller. People enjoyed seeing what was for sale a century ago.
  - The word *fax* is short for **facsimile**. With a fax machine, you can send a precise image of a document across the country electronically in seconds.
- a. an original.                      b. a distorted version.                      c. an accurate copy.
- 4 **grotesque**  
(grō-těsk')  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Grotesque* means
- Most people found the movie character E.T. adorable, but I thought the little alien was **grotesque**, with its weird combination of babyish features and old, wrinkled skin.
  - The clown made **grotesque** faces, squinting his eyes, pulling down the corners of his mouth, and sticking out his tongue.
- a. strange-looking.                      b. hard to understand.                      c. charming.
- 5 **mesmerize**  
(měz'mə-rĭz')  
-verb  
\_\_\_ *Mesmerize* means
- The intense eyes of the woman in the photograph **mesmerized** me. I couldn't take my eyes off the picture.
  - When driving at night, you can become **mesmerized** by the lines on the road or by other cars' headlights or taillights. To avoid a hypnotic state, keep your eyes moving from front to side to rearview mirror.
- a. to amuse.                      b. to fascinate.                      c. to distort.
- 6 **metamorphosis**  
(mět'ə-môr'fě-sĭs)  
-noun  
\_\_\_ *Metamorphosis* means
- A caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly is a well-known example of **metamorphosis**.
  - In Franz Kafka's famous story "The **Metamorphosis**," a man wakes up on his thirtieth birthday to discover that he has turned into an enormous insect.
- a. a change in form.                      b. a disaster.                      c. a scientific theory.

- 7 **notorious**  
(nō-tôr'ē-əs)  
-adjective
- \_\_\_ *Notorious* means
- Batman and Robin matched wits with the Joker and the Penguin, who were **notorious** for their evil deeds.
  - The local diner is **notorious** for bitter coffee, soggy vegetables, limp salads, and mystery meat.
- a. regarded negatively.    b. regarded with curiosity.    c. ignored.
- 8 **perfunctory**  
(pər-fŭnk'tə-rē)  
-adjective
- \_\_\_ *Perfunctory* means
- The doctor's examination was **perfunctory**. He seemed to be just going through the motions without taking any interest in the patient.
  - Most of the candidates were passionate on the subject of nuclear weapons, but one spoke in a very **perfunctory** way, apparently bored with the topic.
- a. uninterested.    b. enthusiastic.    c. exaggerated.
- 9 **provocative**  
(prō-vŏk'ə-tĭv)  
-adjective
- \_\_\_ *Provocative* means
- "A good essay is **provocative**," said our English instructor. "It gets the reader interested and attentive starting with the very first paragraph."
  - To arouse the viewers' curiosity, the television ad began with a **provocative** image: a spaceship landing on a baseball field, at home plate.
- a. predictable.    b. difficult to understand.    c. attention-getting.
- 10 **travesty**  
(trāv'ĭs-tē)  
-noun
- \_\_\_ *Travesty* means
- The fraternity skit, a **travesty** of college life, exaggerated and ridiculed many campus activities.
  - The musical-comedy version of *Hamlet* was a **travesty**. The critics and audience agreed that it made a mockery of Shakespeare's profound tragedy.
- a. a joking, disrespectful imitation.    b. an exact copy.    c. a simple version.

## Matching Words with Definitions

Following are definitions of the ten words. Clearly write or 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.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ To hypnotize or fascinate; hold spellbound
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A great or complete change; transformation
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A crude, exaggerated, or ridiculous representation; mockery
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Done only as a routine, with little care or interest; performed with no interest or enthusiasm
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Known widely but unfavorably; having a bad reputation
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Tending to arouse interest or curiosity
7. \_\_\_\_\_ An exact copy or reproduction
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Intended for or understood by only a certain group; beyond the understanding of most people
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Without decoration or luxury; severely simple
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Distorted or strikingly inconsistent in shape, appearance, or manner

**CAUTION:** Do not go any further until you are sure the above answers are correct. Then you can use the definitions to help you in the following practices. Your goal is eventually to know the words well enough so that you don't need to check the definitions at all.

## ➤ Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. austere	b. esoteric	c. facsimile	d. grotesque	e. mesmerize
f. metamorphosis	g. notorious	h. perfunctory	i. provocative	j. travesty

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The trial was a \_\_\_ of justice because several of the jurors had been bribed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. King Henry VIII of England was \_\_\_ not only for getting married six times, but also for ordering two of his wives executed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. To capture readers' attention, an author sometimes begins an article with a(n) \_\_\_ question, such as, "Which do you think is more dangerous, climbing stairs or parachuting out of an airplane?"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In some modern paintings, human figures are distorted into such \_\_\_ shapes that it's hard to recognize facial features and body parts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Lining the music school's hallway are framed \_\_\_s of handwritten pages of music by great composers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Legal documents are usually worded in such \_\_\_ language that most people need a lawyer to translate the "legalese" into plain English.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. As I stood looking at the grandfather clock, I became \_\_\_(e)d by the shiny pendulum that swung back and forth, back and forth, back and forth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Usually the therapist showed great interest in her patients, but today she was too worried about her own family to give more than \_\_\_ responses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. My sister's dormitory room is rather \_\_\_, with cement-block walls and bare floors, but she's made it less stark by hanging colorful posters and adding bright bedspreads and cushions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The magician David Copperfield does a trick called "\_\_\_." One person is chained and locked in a box. When the box is opened, that person is gone and someone else is chained there instead.

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 130. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the next two practices, for which answers are not given.

## ➤ Sentence Check 2

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1–2. The political cartoon showed the judge as a(n) \_\_\_ figure, with a huge belly and a gaping mouth. To me it's unfair— a \_\_\_ of journalistic ethics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3–4. The cat burglar in the film, \_\_\_ for stealing expensive jewelry, committed all his robberies wearing a(n) \_\_\_ outfit: a black T-shirt, plain black pants, black shoes, and black gloves.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6. The novel has a(n) \_\_\_ opening scene, in which a young woman and her parrot sneak out of a house on a ladder. The novel goes on to \_\_\_\_\_ the reader with one spellbinding episode after another.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. Former principals had made only \_\_\_ efforts to rid the school of drugs, but the new principal attacked the problem head-on. As a result, the school has undergone a \_\_\_ from “hooked” to “clean.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. At the jewelers’ convention, \_\_\_s of several famous gems were on display. I enjoyed seeing them, but I didn’t understand the accompanying \_\_\_ explanation of the technical methods used to produce the copies.

➤ **Final Check: A Costume Party**

Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

On the afternoon of a friend’s New Year’s Eve costume party, I made only a(n) (1)\_\_\_\_\_ effort to put a costume together. Unenthusiastic about spending much time on this, I wanted to do something as simple as possible, even if the effect would be rather (2)\_\_\_\_\_. I decided on a ghost costume—just a plain sheet with eyeholes cut out. Since all my sheets are green, I had to be the ghost of a frog.

The party began for me with a rather (3)\_\_\_\_\_ encounter: the door was opened by Julia Roberts, clutching her Best Actress Oscar—or at least a very good (4)\_\_\_\_\_ of it. Then, when I went inside, the first men I saw were two (5)\_\_\_\_\_ pirates, Blackbeard and Captain Hook. I listened in on their conversation, expecting to be (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (e)d by fascinating tales of cut-throat adventures; instead I heard only the (7)\_\_\_\_\_ language of two math majors.

Giving up any hope of understanding their remarks, I looked around for my own friends. But their (8)\_\_\_\_\_ from ordinary people to famous or odd people was so complete that I couldn’t recognize anyone. Most of the costumes were in good taste. One, though, struck me as a (9)\_\_\_\_\_: a person dressed as Abraham Lincoln—a President I venerate° for his character and leadership—was wearing a bull’s-eye target, in crude mockery of President Lincoln’s assassination. Another person looked frighteningly (10)\_\_\_\_\_, with a mouth twisted to one side and three eyes, all of different sizes.

In the course of the evening, I also met Cleopatra, Shakespeare, and Snoopy, among others. I may never again spend time at a gathering replete° with so many celebrities.

Scores	Sentence Check 2	%	Final Check	%
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.

curtail	indispensable
devastate	intermittent
digress	rigor
incentive	squander
incorporate	succumb

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ten Words in Context** Eng. II, per. \_\_\_\_\_

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 **curtail**  
(kər-tāl')  
-verb  
\_\_\_ *Curtail* means
- Upon hearing reports of a tornado, the principal **curtailed** the school day so students could go home early.
  - I need to **curtail** my volunteer activities so that I can spend more time earning money to pay back a loan.
- a. to combine.                      b. to shorten.                      c. to extend.
- 2 **devastate**  
(dēv'əs-tāt')  
-verb  
\_\_\_ *Devastate* means
- Learning that their son had been arrested for armed robbery **devastated** the Huttons. They couldn't believe he'd do such a terrible thing.
  - Vera is so fond of Andy. She'll be **devastated** to hear he has cancer.
- a. to thrill.                      b. to annoy.                      c. to upset greatly.
- 3 **digress**  
(dī-grēs')  
-verb  
\_\_\_ *Digress* means
- Professor Rubin never **digresses** during a lecture. Even his jokes relate to the day's topic.
  - I tried to teach my three-year-old niece our phone number, but we **digressed** to a discussion of whether Winnie the Pooh has a telephone.
- a. to listen carefully.              b. to go off the subject.              c. to get up.
- 4 **incentive**  
(in'sēn'tiv)  
-noun  
\_\_\_ *Incentive* means
- The insurance company offers an **incentive**—a free vacation—to encourage its representatives to make more sales.
  - The thought of myself in a bathing suit next summer provides me with an adequate **incentive** to exercise.
- a. encouragement.                      b. liberty.                      c. change.
- 5 **incorporate**  
(in-kôr'pər-āt')  
-verb  
\_\_\_ *Incorporate* means
- Jerry **incorporated** all of his favorite desserts into one: a chocolate-covered banana-cream pecan pie.
  - Since the number of young children has gone down in my neighborhood, the two elementary schools have been **incorporated** into one.
- a. to give up.                      b. to join together.                      c. to raise.
- 6 **indispensable**  
(in-dī-spēn'sə-bəl)  
-adjective  
\_\_\_ *Indispensable* means
- Because there's no bus or train service nearby, a car is **indispensable** in my neighborhood.
  - When you're broke, you find that many things you thought were **indispensable** aren't actually necessary after all.
- a. free.                      b. needed.                      c. expensive.

- 7 **intermittent**  
(in'tər-mīt'ənt)  
*-adjective*
- You have to work steadily with your dog to train him well. **Intermittent** practice won't work.
  - Dora realized that her weight loss on a diet would be **intermittent**, so she didn't give up when the losses stopped. She knew they would start again.
- \_\_\_ *Intermittent* means      a. irregular.                      b. too much.                      c. steady.
- 8 **rigor**  
(rīg'ər)  
*-noun*
- New Marines must go through the **rigors** of boot camp, such as completing an obstacle course and running several miles a day.
  - The **rigor** of working at two part-time jobs while going to school proved too much for Joseph. Exhausted, he dropped both jobs.
- \_\_\_ *Rigor* means                      a. a gamble.                      b. an expense.                      c. a hardship.
- 9 **squander**  
(skwɒn'dər)  
*-verb*
- It's sad to see such a wonderful artist **squander** her talent designing labels for baked-bean cans.
  - The company lunchroom now closes promptly at one o'clock so that workers can't **squander** time on long lunch breaks.
- \_\_\_ *Squander* means                      a. to share.                      b. to misuse.                      c. to upset.
- 10 **succumb**  
(sə-kūm'  
*-verb*
- Leah **succumbed** to her daughter's begging and bought her a pet lizard for her birthday.
  - Once the suspect was arrested, he quickly **succumbed** and confessed to stealing the car stereo.
- \_\_\_ *Succumb* means                      a. to yield.                      b. to delay.                      c. to anger.

## Matching Words with Definitions

Following are definitions of the ten words. Clearly write or 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ To waste; spend or use foolishly
- \_\_\_\_\_ To cut short or reduce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Something that moves one to take action or work harder; a motivation
- \_\_\_\_\_ To turn aside, or stray, especially from the main topic in speaking or writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Great hardship or difficulty; harshness; severity
- \_\_\_\_\_ To upset deeply; overwhelm
- \_\_\_\_\_ To give in; stop resisting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Necessary
- \_\_\_\_\_ To unite into a single whole; combine
- \_\_\_\_\_ Starting and stopping from time to time; off-and-on

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### ➤ Sentence Check 1

Using the answer line provided, complete each item below with the correct word from the box. Use each word once.

a. curtail	b. devastate	c. digress	d. incentive	e. incorporate
f. indispensable	g. intermittent	h. rigor	i. squander	j. succumb

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \_\_\_ rain kept interrupting the ballgame.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The sight of her bandaged husband in an oxygen tent \_\_\_(e)d Claire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Someone has managed to \_\_\_ a tomato and a potato into one plant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A home computer and a telephone are \_\_\_ tools for many self-employed people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Airlines offer “frequent flyer credits” toward free trips as an \_\_\_ to get people to fly often.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Many teenagers don’t foresee the \_\_\_s of parenthood, such as staying up all night with a sick child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. By examining her last two months of spending, Coretta discovered that she had \_\_\_(e)d money on too many expensive meals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The man on the corner offered to sell me a watch, but he quickly \_\_\_(e)d his sales pitch when he saw a police officer approaching.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Because our history teacher loved to gab, we often could get him to \_\_\_ from the lesson to talk about school athletics or school politics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Carl tried hard to ignore the double-fudge caramel pecan pie on the menu, but he finally \_\_\_(e)d and ordered a slice.

*NOTE:* Now check your answers to these questions by turning to page 130. Going over the answers carefully will help you prepare for the next two practices, for which answers are not given.

### ➤ Sentence Check 2

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1–2. Duane feels he \_\_\_(e)d too many years in inactivity, so now he welcomes the \_\_\_s of an exercise program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3–4. The company decided to \_\_\_ the construction of its new plant until the architects could decide on how to \_\_\_ an employee gym into the new building.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5–6. My aunt has only \_\_\_ success in quitting smoking. Every few months she \_\_\_s to temptation, and then she has to quit all over again.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7-8. As Leo explained a failed business deal that had once \_\_\_\_ (e)d him, he  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d into the even more interesting tale of his romance with Molly,  
 his business partner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10. The vitamin saleswoman offered me free samples, ninety-day trials, and  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 every other \_\_\_\_ she could think of to get me to buy. However, I found  
 her sales pitch highly implausible°. I simply could not believe that her  
 products, and her products alone, were \_\_\_\_ to my well-being.

### ► **Final Check: Learning to Study**

Here is a final opportunity for you to strengthen your knowledge of the ten words. First read the following selection carefully. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box at the top of the previous page. (Context clues will help you figure out which word goes in which blank.) Use each word once.

Linda never had to work very hard to make good grades in high school. But in college, where the (1) \_\_\_\_\_s of course work were greater, she soon learned that her casual high-school study habits would no longer suffice°. Linda was also learning how easy it was to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ time on dates and parties. She didn't realize how badly she was doing until she saw her midterm grades, which (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d her. She knew she had to make some changes right away and began to ponder° what they should be. As a(n) (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to work harder, she tried studying with her friend Denise. But that didn't work; their conversation would (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from European history to personal topics, such as dates or favorite singers.

Linda decided she'd have to go it alone. She began to skip weekday parties and also to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the time she spent talking or exchanging e-mails with friends. She discovered that a good place to study was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to her new study habits. She found the library's silent third floor a sanctuary°, a place with no temptations to which she could (8) \_\_\_\_\_. She also became more methodical° in her study habits, keeping an assignment book, writing due dates on a calendar, and setting up a study schedule. At first, Linda's performance fluctuated°, and so the improvement in her grades was (9) \_\_\_\_\_—A's and B's alternated with C's and D's. But little by little, she learned to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a social life with serious study and get grades she was proud of.

<b>Scores</b>	Sentence Check 2 _____ %	Final Check _____ %
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Enter your scores above and in the vocabulary performance chart on the inside back cover of the book.