

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

1. To stall or act evasively in order to gain time is to:
 - (A) elaborate
 - (B) temporize
 - (C) accrue
 - (D) recapitulate
2. A position that is capable of being held or defended can be described as:
 - (A) tenable
 - (B) covert
 - (C) indefensible
 - (D) nebulous
3. Which of the following might be another word for *exploration*?
 - (A) reconnaissance
 - (B) hiatus
 - (C) inception
 - (D) reprisal
4. If power or control over something has been claimed or taken without right, it has been:
 - (A) abdicated
 - (B) renounced
 - (C) thwarted
 - (D) arrogated

Being on our school's debate team has done wonders for me. When I look back at myself, I can see that I used to be quite ineffective when I wanted to persuade someone to take action or to share my opinion. I would go on and on and *belabor* my point until the other person stopped listening and only pretended to pay attention. That's because he or she actually thought that I was mindlessly spewing *banal* comments or engaging in tedious *carping*. Now my speaking skills are vastly improved. I can be both brief and *coherent*, bringing up only ideas that are *germane* to my argument, along with reasons and examples to *substantiate* it. In short, I feel that preparing for debates has been like a workout program for my mind.

5. To *belabor* (line 3) a point is to:
 - (A) avoid it
 - (B) memorize it
 - (C) overwork it
 - (D) question it
6. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *banal* (line 4)?
 - (A) trite
 - (B) fresh
 - (C) hackneyed
 - (D) insipid
7. In line 5, *carping* means:
 - (A) criticism
 - (B) moralizing
 - (C) instruction
 - (D) apology
8. Which of the following words could be used to replace *coherent* (line 5)?
 - (A) comprehensible
 - (B) disjointed
 - (C) muddled
 - (D) persuasive
9. If ideas are *germane* (line 6) to an argument, they are:
 - (A) foreign
 - (B) inappropriate
 - (C) relevant
 - (D) extraneous
10. To *substantiate* an argument (line 6) is to:
 - (A) validate it
 - (B) disprove it
 - (C) present it
 - (D) refute it

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1. Another word for *eulogy* might be:
Ⓐ castigation
Ⓑ inquiry
Ⓒ encomium
Ⓓ retort
2. As glue dries, it:
Ⓐ liquefies
Ⓑ dribbles
Ⓒ condenses
Ⓓ congeals
3. Which of the following words would you use to describe a remark that causes bitterness and resentment?
Ⓐ superfluous
Ⓑ magnanimous
Ⓒ invidious
Ⓓ enigmatic
4. Which of the following would you not use to describe someone who talks a great deal?
Ⓐ taciturn
Ⓑ garrulous
Ⓒ verbose
Ⓓ loquacious
5. To show generosity in giving is to show:
Ⓐ reluctance
Ⓑ largesse
Ⓒ stinginess
Ⓓ anonymity
6. Which of the following words is the opposite of *yielding*?
Ⓐ ineffectual
Ⓑ intuitive
Ⓒ intransigent
Ⓓ amenable

Today I read a very interesting and useful magazine article. It was called "Ten Ways to Declutter Your Living and Working Space in Just Ten Days," and it seemed to be written especially for me. I have always been an *acquisitive* person. Whether I am at a discount department store, a supermarket, or even the library, I always end up getting and bringing home far too many items. Several people like me were profiled in the article, and the photos and descriptions of their decluttered spaces have given me some excellent models to *emulate*. I only hope that now that I am inspired to suppress my *insatiable* desire for material things and *eschew* the habits that led to my having too many belongings in too small a space, I will be able to keep my surroundings neat and clutter-free for a long time to come.

7. If someone is *acquisitive* (line 3), he or she is concerned with:
Ⓐ justice
Ⓑ history
Ⓒ gossip
Ⓓ material goods
8. To *emulate* (line 5) is to try to:
Ⓐ match
Ⓑ surpass
Ⓒ contact
Ⓓ discredit
9. An *insatiable* (line 6) desire cannot be:
Ⓐ expressed
Ⓑ perceived
Ⓒ satisfied
Ⓓ condoned
10. Which of the following could not be used to replace *eschew* (line 6)?
Ⓐ shun
Ⓑ avoid
Ⓒ forgo
Ⓓ adopt

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1. A good-luck charm might be called a(n):
 - (A) presentiment
 - (B) talisman
 - (C) quandary
 - (D) epitome
2. Which of the following might be another word for *profanation*?
 - (A) deference
 - (B) largesse
 - (C) lamentation
 - (D) sacrilege
3. Which of the following words would you use to refer to a situation resembling a whirlpool in violence and destruction?
 - (A) encomium
 - (B) panacea
 - (C) maelstrom
 - (D) vanguard
4. To move in waves or a wavelike motion is to:
 - (A) undulate
 - (B) arrogate
 - (C) emulate
 - (D) temporize

Everyone has had, at one time or another, problems with a product he or she has bought or a monthly service that he or she receives. When the time comes to speak with a customer service representative about that problem, experts have several suggestions that can help. The main point to remember is that the most effective approach is to be factual and goal-oriented. In other words, no matter how annoying or frustrating the problem has been, the caller should avoid negative emotions. Instead of *accosting* the person who answers the phone with an avalanche of *animadversions*, the caller should behave with courtesy and *propriety*. While it is not necessary to be apologetic or *suppliant*, it is not in one's interest to be either clearly annoyed or *histrionic*. On the contrary, problems that are presented calmly and matter-of-factly are the ones that are likely to be addressed promptly rather than automatically disputed or *summarily* dismissed.

5. In line 5, *accosting* means:
 - (A) paying
 - (B) avoiding
 - (C) confronting
 - (D) flattering
6. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *animadversions* (line 6)?
 - (A) praise
 - (B) reproof
 - (C) criticism
 - (D) disapproval
7. When you behave with *propriety* (line 6), you act in a way that is:
 - (A) outrageous
 - (B) unseemly
 - (C) bewildering
 - (D) correct
8. Someone who is being *suppliant* (line 7) would come across as:
 - (A) humble
 - (B) arrogant
 - (C) artistic
 - (D) curious
9. In line 8, *histrionic* means:
 - (A) sensitive
 - (B) melodramatic
 - (C) subdued
 - (D) accurate
10. If a problem is *summarily* (line 9) dismissed, it is dealt with:
 - (A) peremptorily
 - (B) eventually
 - (C) gradually
 - (D) informally

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1. Water that is salty and unpleasant to drink can be described as:
(A) choppy
(B) fresh
(C) brackish
(D) frothy
2. Another word for *nearsighted* is:
(A) clairvoyant
(B) invidious
(C) myopic
(D) intransigent
3. If motives are not hidden, they can be described as:
(A) germane
(B) overt
(C) suspicious
(D) relevant
4. A time that is happy and peaceful might be described as:
(A) banal
(B) stagnant
(C) turbulent
(D) halcyon
5. The opposite of *soothing* is:
(A) coherent
(B) insatiable
(C) incendiary
(D) tranquil
6. Which of following might be used to describe a word that people find derogatory and belittling?
(A) pejorative
(B) comparative
(C) acquisitive
(D) ameliorative

I had never been an *avid* chess fan, and, to tell the truth, I actually knew very little about the game until last weekend. That's when my cousin Ricardo offered to show me how to play. After reviewing the basic moves that can be made with the different pieces, he explained that in a chess game, there are three stages, which are known as the opening, the middle game, and the end game. Next, he showed me some possible ways to begin the game, including a number of classic *gambits*, such as the Queen's Gambit and the Danish Gambit. When I said that sacrificing a piece in order to gain a later advantage seemed very complicated and *devious*, he suggested we simply try to play. It isn't hard to guess what happened then. Ricardo proceeded with *celerity* to capture most of my pieces and soon defeated me with a quiet declaration of "checkmate." On the bright side, however, he promised me that the more I play, the more I will understand the game.

7. An *avid* (line 1) fan is most likely to feel:
(A) eager
(B) disappointed
(C) ambivalent
(D) indifferent
8. *Gambits* (line 5) could also be called:
(A) victories
(B) ploys
(C) ties
(D) tournaments
9. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *devious* (line 6)?
(A) shifty
(B) tricky
(C) straightforward
(D) roundabout
10. In line 7, *celerity* is used to show that Ricardo played in what manner?
(A) slyly
(B) ineptly
(C) quickly
(D) quietly

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1. A person who is clearly agitated after receiving bad news might be described as:
 - (A) dissolute
 - (B) collected
 - (C) stoic
 - (D) distraught
2. Another word for *encomium* might be:
 - (A) eulogy
 - (B) invective
 - (C) panacea
 - (D) frugality
3. Which of the following words would you use to describe someone's thinking if it is lacking in clarity and precision?
 - (A) lucid
 - (B) limpid
 - (C) murky
 - (D) muted
4. Which of the following is the opposite of *competent*?
 - (A) feckless
 - (B) capable
 - (C) insipid
 - (D) reckless
5. If a body has been removed from a grave, it has been:
 - (A) embalmed
 - (B) exhumed
 - (C) interred
 - (D) reburied
6. A community that is based on a visionary view of an ideal world can be described as:
 - (A) utopian
 - (B) remote
 - (C) mythical
 - (D) extinct

Shakespeare's villains have long fascinated actors, critics, and audiences; and Iago, the scheming army officer in *Othello*, is arguably the most fascinating of all these *nefarious* figures. Throughout the tragedy, Iago's actions are unquestionably compelling and dramatic. He sets in motion a series of events that cause the title character to *decry* the unfaithfulness of Desdemona, his wife, and then to smother her to death. Perhaps even more riveting than Iago's deeds, however, is his outwardly normal demeanor. He is able to *dissemble* and manipulate others while giving the appearance of being so-called honest man. Thanks to his skill at hiding his feelings of resentment and his devious intentions, others give *credence* to his reports and follow his suggestions.

7. Which of the following words could be used to replace *nefarious* (line 2)?
 - (A) meritorious
 - (B) scrupulous
 - (C) complex
 - (D) wicked
8. To *decry* (line 4) is to:
 - (A) praise
 - (B) mourn
 - (C) denounce
 - (D) discover
9. In line 5, the use of *dissemble* helps to convey Iago's:
 - (A) fame
 - (B) courage
 - (C) loyalty
 - (D) dishonesty
10. When you give *credence* (line 7) to something, you:
 - (A) believe it
 - (B) deny it
 - (C) embellish it
 - (D) publicize it

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1. Another word for *kinship* might be:
 - (A) propriety
 - (B) platitude
 - (C) quintessence
 - (D) propinquity
2. Which of the following would you use to describe behavior that is not in character?
 - (A) incendiary
 - (B) unwonted
 - (C) unwarranted
 - (D) overt
3. To romp or prance around exuberantly is to:
 - (A) congeal
 - (B) cavort
 - (C) slumber
 - (D) temporize
4. If the language in a speech is very wordy and pompous, it might be referred to as:
 - (A) symbolism
 - (B) foreshadowing
 - (C) verbiage
 - (D) invective

I have never had a *substantive* knowledge of cooking and so have always relied on cookbooks when I need to make any kind of dish. My brother Jeffrey, on the other hand, is a natural cook. Recently, he encouraged me to try his more intuitive approach and make something for dinner without the help of a recipe. I accepted the challenge and decided to make soup out of the vegetables that were in the refrigerator. After two hours of peeling, chopping, and cooking, however, I did not end up with the tasty and *piquant* soup I had been striving for. Instead, I had made a muddy-looking mixture that was *verdant* in color and *viscous* in consistency. Jeffrey said it looked like a *primordial* swamp! Even my parents, who are generally very supportive of my efforts to try out new ways of doing things, could not *evince* any approval for my culinary creation.

5. If someone's knowledge of a subject is *substantive* (line 1), it can be said to be:
 - (A) solid
 - (B) shaky
 - (C) flimsy
 - (D) overrated
6. Which of the following words could be used to replace *piquant* (line 5)?
 - (A) steaming
 - (B) pungent
 - (C) bland
 - (D) watery
7. In line 6, *verdant* means:
 - (A) brown
 - (B) reddish
 - (C) green
 - (D) clear
8. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *viscous* (line 6)?
 - (A) thin
 - (B) gluey
 - (C) sticky
 - (D) gooey
9. In line 7, *primordial* means:
 - (A) ancient
 - (B) huge
 - (C) green
 - (D) dangerous
10. To *evince* one's approval (line 8) is to:
 - (A) show it
 - (B) mask it
 - (C) deserve it
 - (D) withhold it

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

1. If a question or an issue has to do with money, it can be described as:
 - (A) primordial
 - (B) pejorative
 - (C) predatory
 - (D) pecuniary
2. Which of the following is the opposite of *courageous*?
 - (A) stouthearted
 - (B) brackish
 - (C) pusillanimous
 - (D) myopic
3. Which of the following is another word for *stronghold*?
 - (A) bastion
 - (B) courtyard
 - (C) dungeon
 - (D) talisman
4. A scheme to outwit or deceive an opponent can be called a(n):
 - (A) maelstrom
 - (B) animadversion
 - (C) stratagem
 - (D) sacrilege

Lucille Ball is well known as a *consummate* comedienne who, in a weekly television show that ran during the 1950s, regularly engaged in *frenetic* activity and cooked up *ludicrous* schemes. In one episode of her half-hour comedy, titled *I Love Lucy*, she frantically tried to keep up while working on an assembly line at a chocolate factory; in another, she posed as a Martian as part of a publicity stunt; in yet another, she was *incarcerated* in a New York City jail after being locked out of her apartment and mistaken for a notorious burglar. No matter how much trouble she managed to get into or how great the *disarray* she brought about, however, the show's episodes always ended with the restoration of social order and domestic *concord*. Today, viewers around the world still enjoy Lucille Ball's comic genius. At the same time, historians are recognizing her as true show business pioneer who explored the role of women in the workplace and the family while in real life becoming the first woman to run a major television production studio.

5. In line 1, *consummate* means:
 - (A) famous
 - (B) masterful
 - (C) underrated
 - (D) subtle
6. Which of the following words could be used to replace *frenetic* (line 2)?
 - (A) classic
 - (B) useful
 - (C) frenzied
 - (D) graceful
7. *Ludicrous* (line 2) schemes are:
 - (A) brilliant
 - (B) disastrous
 - (C) poignant
 - (D) ridiculous
8. To be *incarcerated* (line 4) is to be:
 - (A) imprisoned
 - (B) recognized
 - (C) interrogated
 - (D) set free
9. In line 6, *disarray* means:
 - (A) confusion
 - (B) injury
 - (C) controversy
 - (D) improvement
10. In line 7, *concord* is used to indicate that a state of what is restored?
 - (A) crisis
 - (B) harmony
 - (C) inactivity
 - (D) disagreement

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1. Which of the following words would you use to refer to floating wreckage?
Ⓐ maelstrom
Ⓑ flotsam
Ⓒ largesse
Ⓓ verbiage
2. To gather bit by bit is to:
Ⓐ glean
Ⓑ dwindle
Ⓒ accost
Ⓓ belabor
3. Members of Congress who currently hold office might be referred to as:
Ⓐ governors
Ⓑ nominees
Ⓒ appointees
Ⓓ incumbents
4. To vex or irritate severely is to:
Ⓐ nettle
Ⓑ arrogate
Ⓒ eschew
Ⓓ pacify
5. A sharply funny satire might be described as:
Ⓐ banal
Ⓑ bland
Ⓒ murky
Ⓓ mordant
6. Which of following words is the opposite of *grim*?
Ⓐ grave
Ⓑ jocular
Ⓒ solemn
Ⓓ feckless

Once the long weekend had arrived, I looked forward to spending most of it on the sofa, catching up on both my reading and my sleep. I had barely had a chance to settle down and become comfortably *recumbent*, however, when my older sister came by with a tennis racket. "You can't spend all day like that. Your muscles will *atrophy*," she told me while shaking the racket at me for emphasis. Then she insisted that I get up and accompany her to the park. Needless to say, I did not share her view of the *exigency* of my current condition. Still, I recognized that joining her would be less trouble than *grousing* and trying to resist. I envisioned that I could bike to the park with her, challenge her to a match, quickly win three sets, and then return to the sofa. As a result, I did as she suggested.

7. In line 2, *recumbent* means:
Ⓐ supine
Ⓑ asleep
Ⓒ numb
Ⓓ seated
8. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *atrophy* (line 4)?
Ⓐ cramp
Ⓑ wither
Ⓒ deteriorate
Ⓓ degenerate
9. Which of the following words could be used to replace *exigency* (line 5)?
Ⓐ comfort
Ⓑ urgency
Ⓒ dullness
Ⓓ hopelessness
10. In line 6, *grousing* means:
Ⓐ sleeping
Ⓑ exercising
Ⓒ complaining
Ⓓ agreeing

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1. Another word for *shame* is:
 - (A) disarray
 - (B) ignominy
 - (C) acclaim
 - (D) anonymity
2. If you found the plot of a novel unexciting and humdrum, you might describe it as:
 - (A) coherent
 - (B) mordant
 - (C) mundane
 - (D) ludicrous
3. A fabrication of the mind is known as a:
 - (A) factoid
 - (B) fraction
 - (C) flotsam
 - (D) figment
4. To set apart as holy or sacred is to:
 - (A) hallow
 - (B) evince
 - (C) profane
 - (D) atrophy
5. Another word for *quirk* might be:
 - (A) idiosyncrasy
 - (B) gambit
 - (C) inkling
 - (D) reconnaissance
6. Reasoning that seems plausible but is actually unsound can be referred to as:
 - (A) aversion
 - (B) sophistry
 - (C) skepticism
 - (D) credence

In art history, the term *impressionism* usually refers to the work of a group of French painters who were active in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Among the most prominent of these artists are Claude Monet, Edouard Manet, and Pierre Auguste Renoir. Unlike the realists who preceded them, the impressionists did not *delineate* the elements of the landscape or the features of the people they painted with almost photographic *acuity*. Instead, they sought to capture the appearance of a scene in a fleeting moment, especially by conveying the quality of light that they observed in it. In their works, which range from depictions of delicate pink-infused mornings to *sumptuous* multicolored sunsets, viewers can experience the *nuances* that manifest themselves as a day goes by.

7. To *delineate* (line 4) the elements of a landscape is to:
 - (A) represent them pictorially
 - (B) underline them
 - (C) memorize them
 - (D) deliberately distort them
8. In line 5, *acuity* means:
 - (A) drabness
 - (B) modernity
 - (C) familiarity
 - (D) sharpness
9. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *sumptuous* (line 7)?
 - (A) stark
 - (B) splendid
 - (C) rich
 - (D) magnificent
10. In line 7, *nuances* means:
 - (A) temperatures
 - (B) clouds
 - (C) variations
 - (D) pleasures

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

1. If someone's status or identity is not proven, it can be said to be merely:
Ⓐ authenticated
Ⓑ corroborated
Ⓒ emulated
Ⓓ reputed
2. Which of the following is the opposite of *accessible*?
Ⓐ esoteric
Ⓑ intelligible
Ⓒ popular
Ⓓ taciturn
3. Respect that has been earned over the course of a lifetime can be said to have been:
Ⓐ squandered
Ⓑ garnered
Ⓒ substantiated
Ⓓ dissipated
4. Another word for *dictum* is:
Ⓐ verbiage
Ⓑ carping
Ⓒ bastion
Ⓓ fiat

As anyone who has seen a few horror movies knows, a vampire is a corpselike being that has an *overweening* desire to drink human blood. Driven by this unwholesome *penchant*, the *depraved* creature seeks out an unsuspecting human being and then sinks its fangs into his or her throat. After the attack, the victim is *enervated* due to the loss of blood. If the attacks are repeated, he or she eventually becomes a vampire and must seek out new victims. Although certain details vary, stories based on the vampire legend are traditional in many parts of the world. Eastern Europe is a particularly *fecund* source of vampire tales, and Bram Stoker, the author of *Dracula*, based his famous 19th-century vampire novel on stories that originated there. Today, the frightful figure is in no danger of dying out. In fact, thanks to a profusion of vampire-themed books, movies, and television shows, the supernatural being has become *ubiquitous*.

5. In line 1, *overweening* means:
Ⓐ mature
Ⓑ secret
Ⓒ weak
Ⓓ excessive
6. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *penchant* (line 2)?
Ⓐ proclivity
Ⓑ inclination
Ⓒ aversion
Ⓓ predilection
7. A *depraved* (line 2) creature is:
Ⓐ poor
Ⓑ virtuous
Ⓒ degenerate
Ⓓ fictitious
8. If someone is *enervated* (line 4), he or she is:
Ⓐ invigorated
Ⓑ weakened
Ⓒ terrified
Ⓓ annoyed
9. In line 6, *fecund* serves to indicate that:
Ⓐ vampire tales are unheard-of in Eastern Europe
Ⓑ few vampire tales come from Eastern Europe
Ⓒ many vampire tales come from Eastern Europe
Ⓓ vampire tales originated in Eastern Europe
10. In line 9, *ubiquitous* means:
Ⓐ famous
Ⓑ rare
Ⓒ despised
Ⓓ pervasive