

Tier I

1-2

Name _____

Speak Vocabulary

Ten Words in Context

- abstinence
- interim
- drone
- morph
- flounder
- obscene
- inconspicuous
- predator
- indoctrination
- thespian

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. abstinence (n)

- Nikki's **abstinence** from high-carb foods led to a dramatic weight loss.
- **Abstinence** from smoking for just a few weeks results in healthier lungs.

_____ *abstinence* means

- a. self-denial
- b. craving for
- c. act of pretending

2. drone (v)

- Todd stopped listening after his mother **drone(d)** on for 20 minutes about the importance of eating fiber while he was away at college.
- Classes liked Dr. P's literature courses because he mixed things up a bit: he didn't **drone** about only dead, white, male authors.

_____ *drone* means

- a. to speak in a dull, monotonous tone
- b. to speak animatedly
- c. a male worker bee

3. flounder (v)

- Jenny had no training; thus, she was **flounder(ing)** in her new job.
- Wearing Dad's size 12 boots, I **flounder(ed)** to the curb to get the mail.

_____ *flounder* means

- a. to stagger or struggle
- b. to fish
- c. to trip

4. inconspicuous (adj)

- Though he tried to remain **inconspicuous**, Jay's neon-orange sweatshirt was a dead give-away.
- The dents from the hail storm in our car's hood are **inconspicuous** in the dark, but they show up all too well in the sun.

_____ *inconspicuous* means

- a. hateful
- b. visible
- c. not noticeable

5. indoctrination (n)

- Political **indoctrination** is still common in some countries today; I am thankful to live in America where we are free to think and speak our own beliefs.
- In WWII, Hitler's **indoctrination** of the masses resulted in millions of people believing that Jews were "bad."

_____ *indoctrination* means

- a. brainwashing
- b. learning
- c. teaching

6. interim (n)

- Because we are on a six-week marking period at the high school, we don't send out **interim** grade reports—just end-of-the-marking period grades.

- Since the old manager has left and a new one has not been appointed yet, I will be filling in for the **interim**.

_____ *interim* means

- a. temporary b. beginning c. intervening or middle period

7. morph (v)

- Mrs. Mitchell's class watched excitedly over the weeks as the caterpillar **morph(ed)** into a Monarch butterfly.
- As evening grows into night, Ed **morph(s)** into a sleepy, snoring lump on the couch.

_____ *morph* means

- a. to grow smaller b. to transform c. to grow sleepy

8. obscene (adj)

- Rated "R" movies usually contain **obscene** material.
- It is impolite to use **obscene** language at any time but especially in the presence of one's elders.

_____ *obscene* means

- a. visible b. offensive c. gruesome

9. predator (n)

- We watched in shock as the **predator** stalked and then killed its prey.
- Sometimes the **predator** goes for days without eating before finding a meal.

_____ *predator* means

- a. one who starves b. food c. hunter

10. thespian (n)

- Theda Bara was a famous **thespian** from the silent film era.
- If you aspire to be a **thespian**, you should enroll in some acting courses.

_____ *thespian* means

- a. reporter b. director c. actor

Matching Words with Definitions

Following are definitions of the ten words. Clearly write or print each word next to its definition. The sentences on the previous pages will help you decide on the meaning of each word.

11. _____ teaching of a doctrine or principle, esp. with a biased point of view
12. _____ one that victimizes, plunders, or destroys, esp. for one's own gain
13. _____ in or from the intervening period
14. _____ to struggle or stagger helplessly or clumsily
15. _____ the fact or practice of restraining oneself from something
16. _____ offensive or disgusting by accepted standards of morality and decency
17. _____ to change smoothly from one image or form to the next by small,

gradual steps

18. _____

not noticeable or prominent

19. _____

of or relating to drama and the theater

20. _____

to speak tediously in a dull, monotonous tone

Sentence Check 1

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

Check your spelling!

abstinence

drone

flounder

inconspicuous

indoctrination

interim

morph

obscene

predator

thespian

21. I will not tolerate ___ language in my classroom.

22. Due to having four different teachers in the first five months of the year, the students ___ (ed) on their final exam.

23. Many of us hope that the ___ principal gets hired permanently.

24. The graduation speaker ___(d) on for 35 minutes about the importance of a diploma.

25. JJ Abrams destroyed Justin’s dreams of being a ___ when he told him the only business he had being on stage was cleaning it.

26. Ty’s ___ from television is a farce: He replaced TV with video games!

27. Trying to be ___, Henry donned a gray sweatshirt and dark jeans.

28. Being new to the family, I received quite a(n) ___ at the family BBQ: I was “educated” on everything from politics to child-rearing.

29. Every Halloween, thousands of children ___ into various creatures and characters so they can go door-to-door for candy.

30. The neighbors’ cat, who was chasing a chipmunk, went from ___ to prey when he encountered our bull mastiff.

DO NOT COPY

- 33-34. Some students tried to resist the ___ being taught through lecture upon lecture in Nazi Germany, but it was difficult since one lesson after another ___(ed) on about Hitler’s regime.
- 35-36 After a lifetime of cursing, Landrey’s ___ from using ___ language is admirable: He has made it almost three months without any “four-letter” words.
- 37-38 Elise and Collette were terrified to see their beloved kitty ___ into a vicious ___ as it hunted down a bunny and then left it on the doorstep.
- 39-40 A group of ___ (s) will perform two shows for our school next Tuesday; in the ___, students will learn about both plays and their authors.

Final Check

First, read the following passage from beginning to end. Then fill in each blank with a word from the box on page 3.

Check your spelling!

Having spent most of his life in the theater, James was a true (41.) _____. But when his last show finally closed after a 22-year run, he indulged himself in something different: a safari in Northern Africa. He sought (42.) _____ from everything he had been used to—a change in every single aspect of his life. However, when he saw his first lion hunt down and kill a gazelle, he didn’t feel comfortable with the (43.) _____-prey relationship: It seemed slightly (44.) _____ to him that a beautiful creature could be so violent. And listening to the tour guide (45.) _____ about the “circle of life” became more like (46.) _____. Didn’t anyone else question the “right or wrong” of this hunt-or-be-hunted thing? James tried to remain (47.) _____ among the “man-ly men” in his group as one day (48.) _____ (ed) into the next, and before he knew it, three weeks had passed in the Sahara Desert. James was surprised to find that he was no longer (49.) _____ (ing) with his old, passive beliefs. It was time to go home, and in the (50.) _____ since he had arrived, he had changed. He realized that it *was* predator vs. prey in nature, and that was okay, although he was also happy to head back to his apartment in NYC.