

intermittent
in tər mit' nt

adj. Not continuous; happening at intervals.
[Showers were *intermittent* throughout the day, although the forecast had promised sunshine.]

maxim
maks' im

n. A general truth or rule of conduct; a short saying.
[Remember the *maxim* "Haste makes waste" and slow down!]

obligatory
ə blig' ə tōr ē

adj. Required or demanded.
[Physical education is *obligatory* unless you have a medical excuse for gym class.]

plumb
plum

v. 1. To measure the depth of water.
[The lake was too deep for us to *plumb*.]
2. To reach the deepest part of.
[The bathyscaphe is a vessel designed to *plumb* the oceans of the world.]
3. To understand by examining closely; to solve.
[Her latest book of poems is a valiant attempt to *plumb* the human soul.]
adj. Straight up and down; vertical.
[The bricklayer keeps checking to make sure that the wall being built is *plumb*.]

vagabond
vag' ə bānd

n. A person who wanders from place to place.
[He spent a few years as a *vagabond* before settling in a city and getting a job in a factory.]
adj. [The *vagabond* life of traveling musicians suited the members of the band.]

visage
viz' ij

n. A face, especially one that expresses feelings.
[The smiling *visage* of a young girl looked out from the portrait.]

wheedle
hwēd' əl

v. 1. To coax by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.
[He tried to *wheedle* his father into lending him the new sports car.]
2. To gain by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.
[The agent *wheedled* several thousand dollars from the couple for a life insurance policy that was practically worthless.]

1A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences in each group below. If a sentence correctly uses the word in boldface, write C on the line of the corresponding number below the group. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in boldface is used correctly.

- 1. To **emancipate** someone is to release that person.
- 2. An **obligatory** assignment is one that causes great hardship.
- 3. An **impetus** sets something into action.
- 4. To **plumb** a mystery is to understand it by thinking about it carefully.
- 5. A **vagabond** is a person who lacks the necessities of life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- 6. To **wheedle** something from someone is to obtain it by cajoling that person into giving it.
- 7. To **extol** someone is to show very high regard for that person.
- 8. An **intermittent** noise is one that keeps stopping and starting.
- 9. A person's **visage** is that person's feelings about herself.
- 10. **Destitution** is the state of having all that one could ask for.

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

- 11. To **bewail** something is to complain about it.
- 12. A **detractor** is someone to whom another person is attracted.
- 13. If something is **insuperable**, its parts cannot be separated from the whole.
- 14. A **maxim** is the larger of two amounts.
- 15. **Flamboyance** is lack of restraint in one's dress or behavior.

11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

1B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in boldface fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

1. **vagabond**

- (a) As actors in a traveling company, we led a _____ life.
- (b) A true _____ becomes restless after two weeks in one place.
- (c) I cashed in my _____ when I ran short of money.

1C Synonyms, Antonyms, Analogies

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---|---|
| 1. OBLIGATORY | VOLUNTARY | | |
| FRUGAL | FLAMBOYANT | S | A |
| 2. DETRACT | ALTER | | |
| WHEEDLE | COAX | S | A |
| 3. INSUPERABLE | UNEVEN | | |
| CONTINUOUS | INTERMITTENT | S | A |
| 4. PLUMB | DETRACT | | |
| ENHANCE | ATTEMPT | S | A |
| 5. EMANCIPATION | IMPETUS | | |
| MAXIM | ENSLAVEMENT | S | A |

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

6. DESTITUTE : WEALTH ::
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| (a) thirsty : hunger | (c) ill : health |
| (b) large : size | (d) blue : color |
7. DIFFICULT : INSUPERABLE ::
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| (a) harmful : deadly | (c) empty : full |
| (b) poor : rich | (d) funny : amusing |
8. PLUMB : LEVEL ::
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) deep : shallow | (c) front : back |
| (b) firm : wobbly | (d) vertical : horizontal |
9. BEWAIL : MISFORTUNE ::
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) ignore : ignorance | (c) rejoice : victory |
| (b) mourn : loss | (d) extol : fear |

10. SCARLET : FLAMBOYANT ::

- (a) silver : sterling
- (b) gray : dull

- (c) white : snowy
- (d) blue : azure

1D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered boldface vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. wheedle

- (a) Fido stands by the door when he wants to be taken for a walk.
- (b) If you don't help me, I'll tell Mom who broke the window.
- (c) C'mon. You're my favorite aunt; please lend me the money!

2. destitution

- (a) Because of the financial catastrophe, the family had to rely temporarily on welfare benefits from the government.
- (b) The pain is in my lower back, doctor.
- (c) I can't believe you spent fifty dollars on comic books!

3. impetus

- (a) On the spur of the moment, I decided to join my sister in Maine.
- (b) I began to take music lessons after inheriting my grandfather's violin.
- (c) I worked all night in order to meet the nine o'clock deadline.

4. extol

- (a) Ah! There's nothing like fall in New England!
- (b) Maintaining a good diet and getting more exercise has made me feel really good.
- (c) The Rangers are formidable rivals this season.

5. detract

- (a) My father said I'd be doing myself a favor if I shaved off my beard.
- (b) He looked very well-groomed except for his muddy shoes.
- (c) I apologized for expressing my impatience with her slowness.

6. insuperable

- (a) There is no finer rose anywhere than the wild prairie rose.
- (b) No one has yet succeeded in rowing alone across the Pacific.
- (c) With five minutes to go, we were losing the basketball game by fifty points.

7. visage

- (a) My shoe size is 7½ narrow.
- (b) I could tell at once that my answer had made her happy.
- (c) From this spot, you can see for miles in all directions.

8. **obligatory**

- (a) If you want to be on the committee, be at the next meeting.
- (b) Guests at White House state dinners must wear formal attire.
- (c) He finally had to admit that we were hopelessly lost.

9. **bewail**

- (a) Democracy doesn't work well with such a poor voter turnout.
- (b) From our cabin, we could hear the eerie howling of the wolves.
- (c) We'd all be better off if television had never been invented.

10. **maxim**

- (a) Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
- (b) Can you lend me five dollars until Friday?
- (c) Money burns a hole in his pocket.

1E Narrative *Read the narrative below; then complete the exercise that follows it.*

FACES IN THE MOUNTAIN

Visitors to South Dakota find that a trip to Mount Rushmore is almost **obligatory**, for there they can see one of America's most awe-inspiring monuments. Carved into a granite mountainside, the colossal heads of four United States presidents are visible for a distance of sixty miles. Side by side, the **visages** of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt range from fifty to seventy feet in height. They are the work of the remarkable American sculptor and dramatic personality Gutzon Borglum.

Born in Idaho in 1867, Borglum led an artist's **vagabond** life in America and Europe for twenty years before settling in New York City in 1901. There, he soon achieved an international reputation as a sculptor. The idea that "Small is beautiful" would not have applied to Borglum; his view was that "Bigger is better." In fact, it's said that he complained, "There is not a monument in this country bigger than a snuff box."

The **impetus** for the Mount Rushmore project came in 1926, when the state historian of South Dakota, knowing Borglum's views, invited him to create a monumental work of art for the Black Hills mountain region. Borglum accepted the challenge immediately, but the project he proposed did not meet with universal approval. Many felt that the carvings would **detract** from the area's natural beauty. Cora Johnson, a South Dakota journalist, expressed such feelings when she wrote: "Man makes statues, but God made the mountains. Leave them alone." Borglum, however, was not one to heed this advice.

The question of which national figures to honor caused much debate. Sioux chief Red Cloud, who had fought against white encroachment on Native American lands, was one of the names proposed. Another was Susan B. Anthony, who had **bewailed** nineteenth-century women's lack of the right to vote in political elections, and led the struggle to **emancipate** them from this deprivation. The final decision, however, was left to Borglum. Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln were obvious choices, but Borglum had a personal reason for his fourth selection, a man of enormous energy who **extolled** physical fitness and vigorous activity. In his own life, Borglum strove to **emulate** his hero, so Theodore Roosevelt became the fourth figure honored at Mount Rushmore.

Money to pay for the project was a problem from the beginning, and work proceeded **intermittently**, especially after 1930, when the country was in the grip of the Great Depression. During those years, Borglum made frequent visits to the nation's capital seeking financial assistance. Loath to stoop to **wheedling**, the sculptor managed to convince a reluctant Congress to provide funding to go on with the project. Nor was lack of funds the only problem Borglum had to grapple with. Because of the hard granite rock, the difficulties of carving out the faces had at first seemed **insuperable**, but Borglum solved the problem by exploding small charges of dynamite to remove pieces of rock. Under his supervision, workers in harnesses suspended from the mountaintop drilled, chipped, and chiseled away at the rock. So skillful was Borglum that his eye for precise measurement enabled him to tell if a line was **plumb** to a quarter of an inch.

During his lifetime, Borglum had earned enormous sums from the sale of his works. However, he did not embrace Benjamin Franklin's **maxim** "A penny saved is a penny earned." Instead, he lived a **flamboyant** lifestyle. His daughter, Mary Ellis, recalls: "He loved flashy cars and hired chauffeurs to drive them." So careless was he about money that he died **destitute** on March 6, 1941. It was left to his son Lincoln, who had assisted him throughout, to complete the Mount Rushmore memorial eight months later.

Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. Whenever a vocabulary word does not appear in the question, try to use one (or a form of one) in your answer. In a few cases, both question and answer may contain vocabulary words.

1. Why might the original detractors of the Mount Rushmore project have a different view of it today?

2. Why would it be incorrect to refer to the Mount Rushmore sculptures as statues?
