

# Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 30 Using Context Clues

As we progress from infancy toward old age, we continually experience change. Who we are is constantly refined and redefined. That's why the passage from youth to maturity may be less a matter of age than a journey from unknowing into awareness, or from innocence into experience. The words in this lesson will help you to express different facets of the search for identity.

### Word List

**accentuate**

**nonchalant**

**pensive**

**perseverance**

**affront**

**obnoxious**

**perception**

**stupor**

**animated**

**passive**

### EXERCISE A Context Clues

Write the vocabulary word that best matches each clue below.

1. If someone intentionally insults you, he or she would be guilty of committing this. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A person who is lively and spirited. \_\_\_\_\_
3. This kind of person might be found daydreaming about tomorrow's problems. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A person might be in this state if he or she gets bad news or a terrible shock. \_\_\_\_\_
5. This person accepts things without objection or resistance. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Someone who is coolly unconcerned about appearance could be described with this adjective. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The person who has this never gives up, regardless of how difficult things may be. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A person who emphasizes the good points of something does this to the positive. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Few people want to spend time with someone like this who talks loudly and says offensive things. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Everyone has highly individual reactions to experiences due to this, brought to each person through his or her senses. \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE B Usage

If the boldfaced word is correctly used in the sentence, write *correct* above it. If not, draw a line through it and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

1. Noel enjoys the **obnoxious** prank of calling people on the telephone and hanging up when they answer.
2. The survivors of the bus accident stood around in a **perception**, their eyes dazed and empty.



## Vocabulary Power *continued*

3. Although they tend to look sad and depressed, **passive** people are just wistful; sometimes they get so lost in their thoughts that they neither see nor hear others.
4. Miss Peabody viewed the use of slang and idioms as a personal **affront** to her dignity.
5. Ryan pretends to be **nonchalant** about his scholarship to Yale Drama School, but he is really totally ecstatic.
6. Nadia's **perception** and patience make her the perfect person to input the records into the computer; she will barely take a break until she completes her task.
7. "But that's just your **stupor**, Ed," said Jill impatiently. "You may not understand the entire story about the Chinese farmers because you were raised in a different country and social class."
8. Some would say that **passive** people are easy to get along with, while others see them as easy to control.
9. An **animated** smile spread across Del's face and his eyes sparkled with good humor and excitement.
10. The speaker **accentuated** the first syllables of all his words, creating a strange verbal rhythm.

### **EXERCISE C** Synonyms

Circle the letter of the word that means most nearly the same as the boldfaced word.

1. **perseverance**
  - a. power
  - b. laziness
  - c. normality
  - d. persistence
2. **nonchalant**
  - a. unconcerned
  - b. noisy
  - c. uncomfortable
  - d. tempted
3. **affront**
  - a. surprise
  - b. management
  - c. insult
  - d. torrent
4. **pensive**
  - a. thoughtful
  - b. nauseous
  - c. angry
  - d. guilty
5. **stupor**
  - a. crisis
  - b. daze
  - c. outcome
  - d. habit
6. **obnoxious**
  - a. harmful
  - b. efficient
  - c. objectionable
  - d. willful
7. **accentuate**
  - a. evaluate
  - b. criticize
  - c. emphasize
  - d. legislate
8. **animated**
  - a. lively
  - b. uncertain
  - c. excellent
  - d. prescribed
9. **perception**
  - a. agreement
  - b. dilemma
  - c. inclination
  - d. awareness
10. **passive**
  - a. sickly
  - b. inactive
  - c. vibrant
  - d. disdainful