

Directions: Part of being a good reader is being able to determine the meaning to words you don't know. Use the context clues around the following words to determine their meanings.

Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde?

Under the *pretext* of being a surgeon he gained entry to the hospital. When interviewed by the director, he had to *fabricate* a tale of his medical experience, but he was so *adroit* at lying that he got away with it. It was not until the phony "doctor" began to *gesticulate* wildly with his scalpel, that a *vigilant* nurse was able to detect his fraud. In the annals of medical history there have been a number of such cases.

Definitions

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. pretext ____ | a. to lie; to construct |
| 2. fabricate ____ | b. skillful |
| 3. adroit ____ | c. an excuse |
| 4. gesticulate ____ | d. watchful |
| 5. vigilant ____ | e. move the arms energetically |

Fill in the Blank

6. Because the teacher was extremely _____, no one could cheat on a test.
7. My nephew is quite _____ at making model airplanes.
8. Most fishermen can _____ a story about the size of the one that away.
9. Her _____ of being tired did not fool us for an instant.
10. I often marvel as I watch the traffic officer _____ at the onrushing traffic.

You've Got to be a Football Expert

As an *avid* football fan, I try to see every game the Jets play. Whenever I can *cajole* my father into accompanying me, try to do so. He has only a *rudimentary* knowledge of the game, and since I am steeped in it, I enjoy explaining its intricate details to him. It certainly does *enhance* your appreciation of football when you are aware of every *nuance* of the sport.

Definitions

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| 11. avid ____ | a. eager |
| 12. cajole ____ | b. slight variation in meaning, tone, etc. |
| 13. rudimentary ____ | c. coax |
| 14. enhance ____ | d. intensify, heighten |
| 15. nuance ____ | e. elementary |

Fill in the Blank

16. Since my grasp of algebra is _____, I cannot solve the problem.
17. The parakeet refused to be _____ into entering her cage.
18. It will _____ your enjoyment of an opera if you know what the plot is about in advance.
19. In reading the satires of Jonathon Swift, one must be vigilant in order to catch each _____.
20. Bill Clinton is an _____ reader of mystery stories.

The Pep Talk

"If there's one thing I *loathe*," the coach said, "it's a quitter." He had good reason to *reprimand* us at half-time, because the scoreboard revealed that we were losing, 45-20. Our *lackluster* performance indicated to him that we had forgotten the rudimentary aspects of basketball. His *caustic* remarks fired us up, however, and we dashed out, determined to *wrest* control of the game from our rivals.

Definitions

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 21. loathe ____ | a. dull |
| 22. reprimand ____ | b. to hate |
| 23. lackluster ____ | c. sarcastic, biting |
| 24. caustic ____ | d. take by force |
| 25. wrest ____ | e. to show sharp disapproval |

Fill in the Blank

26. With the help of his brothers he was able to _____ the leadership of the company from his partner.
27. Speaking in a monotone, the politician was booed for his _____ address.
28. In a _____ article, the drama critic slaughtered the hapless actors.
29. I _____ spinach, but I love other green vegetables.
30. When Ed arrived late, he knew that the grocer would _____ him.

The Handcuff is Quicker Than the Eye

Slippery Eddie, the *infamous* pickpocket, was back at work, and every detective had to be especially vigilant. Eddie's technique was to *jostle* a victim toward a confederate who would then slip the man's wallet out of his back pocket while Eddie was stammering an apology to the confused *dupe*. Within a week the *incipient* crime wave came to an end when Slippery Eddie *inadvertently* chose the chief of police for his victim. Although Eddie loathes Sing Sing, it's his permanent address now.

Definitions

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|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 31. infamous ____ | a. having a bad reputation |
| 32. jostle ____ | b. Just beginning to exist |
| 33. dupe ____ | c. to shove hard |
| 34. incipient ____ | d. a person easily tricked |
| 35. inadvertent ____ | e. heedless, not attentive |

Fill in the Blank

36. By telling the truth, we stopped the _____ rumor from spreading.
37. The bombing of Pearl Harbor was referred to as an _____ deed.
38. The wealthy _____ consented to buy the often sold Brooklyn Bridge.
39. When he attempted to _____ the old lady, she struck him with her umbrella.
40. Through an _____ error, the guided missile sped out of control.