

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.

#### It's a Man's World

How *paradoxical* that the world's greatest chefs have all been men! Cooking would clearly seem to be a field that lies exclusively within women's *realm*, yet the *annals* of cookery are replete with masculine names; Brillat Savarin, Ritz, Diat, Larousse. To *compound* the puzzle, there has rarely been a *tinge* of rumor of scandal casting doubts on the masculinity of these heroes of cuisine.

#### Definitions

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Paradox ____  | a. A trace, smattering, or slight degree   |
| 2. Realm ____    | b. A statement which at first seems to be absurd or self-contradictory but which may in fact turn out to be true |
| 3. Annals ____   | c. To increase or add to   |
| 4. Compound ____ | d. Historical records  |
| 5. Tinge ____    | e. Special field of something or someone; kingdom  |

#### Fill in the Blank

6. His gloom was now \_\_\_\_\_ by the failing mark on his geometry test.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of sports are replete with the names of great athletes.
8. One of the great \_\_\_\_\_ of American life is that though minority groups have suffered injustices, nowhere in the world have so many varied groups lived together so harmoniously.
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ of garlic is all that's necessary in most recipes.
10. The cruel king would not allow the prince to enter his \_\_\_\_\_, restricting him to the forest which abounded with wild animals.

#### How Not to Get Your Own Way

It is difficult to change someone's opinion by *badgering* him. The child who begs his mother to "get off his back" when she *implores* him for some assistance with the household *drudgery*, may very well plead *interminably* for some special privilege when he wants something for himself. How paradoxical that neither is able to *perceive* that no one likes being nagged.

#### Definitions

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 11. badger ____       | a. unpleasant, dull, or hard work       |
| 12. implore ____      | b. unending                             |
| 13. drudgery ____     | c. to plead urgently for aid or mercy   |
| 14. interminable ____ | d. to understand, know, become aware of |
| 15. perceive ____     | e. to pester, nag, annoy persistently   |

#### Fill in the Blank

16. She does her homework on Fridays to save herself from the \_\_\_\_\_ of having to do it during the weekend.
17. The teacher continually \_\_\_\_\_ the pupil for the missing assignments.
18. The eminent scientist \_\_\_\_\_ difficulties in putting the invention into practice.

19. The sick child's mother \_\_\_\_\_ the doctor to come immediately.
20. I listened to the boring lecture for what seemed an \_\_\_\_\_ fifty minutes.

To the Point

Calvin Coolidge, our thirtieth president, was named "Silent Cal" by reporters because of the *laconic* speech. One Sunday, after Mr. Coolidge had listened to an interminable sermon, a *throng* of newsmen gathered around him. An *intrepid* reporter *accosted* the Chief Executive: "Mr. President, we know that the sermon was on the topic of sin. What did the minister say?" "He was against it," the *reticent* Coolidge replied.

Definitions

- |                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 21. laconic ____  | a. expressing much in few words |
| 22. throng ____   | b. brave                        |
| 23. intrepid ____ | c. to approach and speak to     |
| 24. accost ____   | d. crowd                        |
| 25. reticent ____ | e. silent                       |

Fill in the Blank

26. His speech was usually rambling, but this time I found it brief and \_\_\_\_\_.
27. If a surly panhandler should \_\_\_\_\_ you, keep on walking.
28. Even under repeated questioning, the witness remained \_\_\_\_\_.
29. A howling \_\_\_\_\_ of teenage girls surrounded the rap artists.
30. The corporal received the Silver Star for his \_\_\_\_\_ deeds in combat.

If I Had the Wings of an Angel

Casting a *furtive* glance over his shoulder, the *felon* slipped out the main prison gate to be swallowed up in the British fog. A *plethora* of escapes from supposedly secure prisons embarrassed the *hapless* wardens. To compound their problems, the officials were badgered by *irate* citizens who accused the guards of accepting bribes from convicts whose motto was: "Stone walls do not a prison make, not iron bars a cage."

Definitions

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 31. furtive ____  | a. angry, incensed                  |
| 32. felon ____    | b. a person guilty of a major crime |
| 33. plethora ____ | c. unfortunate                      |
| 34. hapless ____  | d. excess                           |
| 35. irate ____    | e. secret, stealthy                 |

Fill in the Blank

36. The \_\_\_\_\_ contest winner was unable to locate the lucky sentences.
37. My uncle was \_\_\_\_\_ when the drunk driver swerved in front of us.
38. In a \_\_\_\_\_ manner she removed her shoes and tiptoed up to her room.
39. When a teacher asked why the homework had not been done, he was greeted by a \_\_\_\_\_ of incredible alibis.
40. Since the boss learned that Bob associated with the known \_\_\_\_\_, he fired him.