

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

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| 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

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| 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

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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

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|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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.