

## Understanding Vocabulary Words in Context Exercise

Try to determine the meanings of the following italicized vocabulary words, based on the context clues in the sentences. Skill level: easy.

1. Pablo always showed *animosity* toward his teachers by throwing spitballs and mouthing off, but his sister Mary was kind and sweet.
2. The little girl was showing signs of *ocular* problems - she squinted to read the blackboard and complained of headaches after working on the computer for too long.
3. The crowd rewarded the singer with *plaudits*, or extreme praise, by clapping and cheering during a standing ovation.
4. Elena's *repudiation* of Jerry's bad table manners was obvious to everyone at dinner as she dropped her napkin and left the table.
5. From the far past to the present day, the moon has been thought to cause *lunacy*. Some studies have shown that this momentary insanity does have some association to the moon's phases.
6. The old man's hair was *sparse* rather than thick and full like it was when he was young.
7. Janie was as *devout* as the Pope himself.
8. My sister Kimmy shows a great *abhorrence* for crowds, whereas my little brother Michael loves to be the center of attention.
9. When you *admonish* someone, you point out his or her errors; an example would be scolding a child for misbehaving.
10. The sorcerer's *minions*, or devoted followers, were willing to perform any sorcery he could conjure.
11. Ninety-seven pairs is a *superfluous* number of shoes.
12. The spy was hung at the gallows of his homeland for his *perfidious* deeds.
13. "Busy as a bee" and "quiet as a mouse" are *hackneyed* phrases - they're used all the time.
14. Amelia was as *pretentious* as a princess when she arrived to the party. She tossed her coat to the hostess and grabbed a drink out of a nearby guest's hand.
15. We always listen to my great-aunt because she is *venerable*, but we ignore my niece's advice because she's only six.

## Understanding Vocabulary Words in Context Answers

1. hatred; extreme dislike

- 2.related to the eye
- 3.extreme praise (the definition was right in the sentence)
- 4.denial; refutation; negation
- 5.insanity; madness; psychosis
- 6.thin; spare; light; meager
- 7.pious; religious; sincere
- 8.hatred; loathing; disgust
- 9.reprove; caution; reprimand
- 10.crony; underling; follower
- 11.extra; surplus; redundant
- 12.disloyal; treacherous; deceitful
- 13.trite; clichéd; worn out
- 14.showy; pompous; exaggerated
- 15.respected; esteemed; revered