Chapter 2 Practice Exercises

Fill in the Blank

Fill in the blank with the word from this chapter that best completes the meaning of the sentence. Answers can be found on page 36.

1. Lake _____ derives its name from its smooth, glassy surface and the soothing mountain air in its environment.

2. A _____ person wishes harm on others.

3. Since Robert was an only child, he was the sole _____ to his father's estate.

4. You should not take action based on the wishes of others. Act on your own _____.

5. The crying baby was _____; no amount of rocking could console her.

6. Alex was a passionate _____ for the rights of animals.

7. If three sides of a triangle are equal, the triangle is _____.

8. Since their teacher was so _____, the students could rarely get a word in edgewise.

9. Many minority groups in America have fought to achieve rights _____ to that of the majority population.

10. The unqualified lawyer was often sued for _____.

Multiple Choice

Read each question and choose the best answer from the options given. Answers can be found on page 36.

Question 1 is based on the passage below.

The doctor packed his instruments and left Keswick Manor, stepping into the cool grey of a London morning. As he passed Whitehouse Street, his lip curled and his pace quickened. Here were the shabby offices of his nominal
5 peers, untrained nurses and midwives, mostly, although the doctor thought of the gulf between him and them as large as that between the captain of an ocean liner and the rower of one of the small rowboats that scurry across the Thames.

1. The doctor's attitude towards the "nurses and midwives" in line 5 is best described as
   A) ambivalent
   B) malcontent
   C) placid
   D) vociferous

2. The tour guide was known for both his _____ and his _____: frequently kind, he was also calm and self-assured.
   A) beneficence . . . equanimity
   B) malfeasance . . . placability
   C) complacence . . . equidistance
   D) malignity . . . dexterity

3. Given the gravity of his offenses, the convicted executive displayed astonishing _____ when he addressed the court before sentencing.
   A) invocation
   B) malpractice
   C) volition
   D) placidity

Question 4 is based on the passage below.

Pull up to a traffic light in Anytown, U.S.A. and look around. On one side sits an army of national chain stores and "family friendly" restaurants, with names designed to **evoke** memories of small-town Americana.

4. In context, "evoke" most nearly means
   A) shout
   B) speak quietly
   C) equal
   D) recall

5. During the Sunday church sermon, the pastor _____ the name of Jesus Christ several times.
   A) provoked
   B) invoked
   C) evoked
   D) advocated

Words in Context

Read each passage and determine the meaning of the words in bold based on the context of the paragraph. Answers can be found on page 37.

The human body is not an ideal model of biological efficiency; it is more like a garbage dump. Buried deep within the genetic code of all humans is the unfortunate record, the genetic "trash," of our less successful evolutionary cousins and ancestors. Consider hemoglobin. Modern human hemoglobin consists of four different protein chains known as globins. Many of the genes that could produce globins are **redundant**, and several others are inactive, damaged in such a way as to make protein production impossible. What is the significance of these **dysfunctional** genes? Quite simply, these damaged genes are the legacy of our less successful ancestors, the biological **remnants** of evolutionary **mutations** that didn't work out well enough.

1. **redundant** _____

   _____

2. **dysfunctional** _____

   _____

3. **remnant** _____

   _____

4. **mutation** _____

   _____

While many rivers have long been **utilized** and harnessed by the people who **congregate** near them, the Mekong River, though it snakes through five countries in Southeast Asia, has **eluded** human control until recent times. The low water level in dry seasons **impedes** travel down the river, as does the Mekong's habit of splitting into wide networks of smaller channels. Annual flooding during the monsoon season **thwarts** attempts at long-term agriculture. But in recent years, modern technology and **burgeoning** human populations have begun to **encroach** upon the Mekong's independence. Soon, the Mekong may be as readily **manipulated** as many of its peers around the world.

5. **utilize** _____

_____

6. **congregate** _____

_____

7. **elude** _____

_____

8. **impede** _____

_____

9. **thwart** _____

_____

10. **burgeoning** _____

_____

11. **encroach** _____

_____

12. **manipulate** _____

_____

Crossword Puzzle

Try this crossword as a test of your word knowledge. All answers are words found in this chapter. Answers can be found on page 38.

Across

2. vague, unclear
6. a blessing
8. to call upon a higher power
9. one who performs an act of kindness
10. to deliberately mislead or confuse

Down

1. a general sense of unease
3. unable to be stopped
4. equally skilled with both hands
5. to speak or act on someone else's behalf
7. to cause