

Context Clues

1. The woman crossed her fingers as her daughter did the cheer. She was hoping that everything would work out for her daughter as she vied for a position on the squad. Her daughter wanted to be a cheerleader.

The word VIED probably means:

- a. shouted
 - b. enclosed
 - c. expanded
 - d. tried
2. Fortunately, the dizzy spell was transient. He was able to continue playing within seconds and had no trouble winning the match.

When you describe an event as "transient," you are saying that....

- a. it sounds like a train
 - b. it is quite harmful
 - c. it helps you win
 - d. it doesn't last long
3. When they heard the good news about the court's decision, the angry crowd cheered and then began to disperse. "It looks like everyone is going home," one reporter stated.

Which would be the opposite of "disperse"?

- a. come together
 - b. smile
 - c. fly like a bird
 - d. sing
4. No word must ever leak out about this military action! It has to be a clandestine operation in order to succeed.

Which word is a synonym of "clandestine"?

- a. family
- b. useful
- c. dangerous
- d. secret

5. Put this medicine on your arm and rub it into your skin until it's invisible. It will inhibit the infection's attempt to spread.

What does "inhibit" mean?

- a. live in a certain place
- b. block or slow down
- c. itch or burn
- d. help to do something important

6. Our new alarm system will wake up the entire neighborhood if an intruder gets in the house.

An intruder is someone who intrudes. To intrude is to _____

- a. paint or repair old building
- b. wear ones shoes on the wrong feet
- c. go where one is not wanted or doesn't belong
- d. be very noisy

7. Some people are always bashing the president just like others based the one before him. Wouldn't you think that everyone could find something to praise him for, at least once in a while?

What does "bashing" mean in the above selection?

- a. hitting hard with a heavy tool
- b. going to too many expensive parties
- c. speaking or writing harshly about
- d. voting for a different candidate

8. I believe that if you lower taxes so that people can keep more of the money they earn, it will be an incentive for them to work harder.

What is the meaning of "incentive"?

- a. a reason to do something
- b. a small amount of money
- c. a tax
- d. a good job

9. Most of America's Founding Fathers did not believe in women's suffrage. ONLY men could vote in the United states until 1920.

What is "suffrage"?

- a. something that caused physical pain
- b. an early flag
- c. skirts that did not cover the ankles
- d. the right to vote

10. Using IQ tests and MRI brain scans, researchers have found that the measurable intelligence of teenagers can rise and fall over time. We used to believe that intelligence was static. But now, because of new studies, we know that teens and even fully mature adults can grow more brain cells when needed.

What does "static" mean in the above selection?

- a. noise
- b. not changing
- c. moldy
- d. unreal