**Vocabulary Unit 10**

Choosing the Right Word:

1. A grandfather clock works by gravity: when the pendulum (oscillates, sporadics) it moves a system of weights attached to the clock’s hands.
2. At an autocrat’s court, free speech is usually replaced by the (
3. We believe that classes taught by teachers with specialized training will have a (sporadic, benign) effect on the troubled children.
4. Though I admire the woman’s strong points, I find her (rebuffs, foibles) comic.
5. Over the years, her (luminous, obtuse) descriptions and scintillating with have helped her students master the difficult subject she taught.
6. Since he didn’t want to give me credit for having done a good job, he took refuge in endless (foibles, cavils) about my work.
7. Though the small nation was always ready to settle a conflict peacefully, it was not afraid to use (luminous, peremptory) force when necessary.
8. We must never allow our passion for justice to be (inured, attenuated) to mere halfhearted goodwill.
9. I have learned that (sporadic, peremptory) sessions of intense “cramming” can never take the place of a regular study program.
10. Somehow or other, a bull got into the china shop and turned it into a complete (shambles, foibles).
11. Since he is not guided by firm principles, he (attenuates, oscillates) between the rival factions, looking for support from both of them.
12. During the Civil War the ranks of both armies were (decimated, rebuffed) as much by disease as by enemy action.
13. When I found that people I admired were looking (askance, sporadic) at my unconventional clothing, I resolved to remedy the situation.
14. The (decimated, penitent) youths agreed to work without pay until they could make restitution for the damage their carelessness had caused.
15. How could you have the heart to (rebuff, oscillate) those people’s appeals for aid?
16. Even though my experiences in battle have (inured, caviled) me to scenes of suffering, I was horrified by the devastation wrought by the tornado.
17. Their relationship has been so (fraught, benign) with strife and malice that I don’t see how they can ever patch things up.
18. All angles are classified as acute, right, (obtuse, benign), or straight, according to the number of degrees they contain.
19. Imagine the general disappointment when the so-called “miracle cure” was exposed as a fraud promoted by a (charlatan, cavil).
20. Bank robbers often spend a good deal of time (reconnoitering, benign), or straight, according to the number of degrees they contain.
21. The play featured the stereotypical (obsequious, benign) butler who treated his employer’s family with excessive and artificial kindness.
22. Was it Juan’s gentle stroking of the frightened dog’s neck that produced a (benign, peremptory) change in the animal’s mood?
23. When I found that people I admired were looking (askance, sporadic ) at my unconventional clothing, I resolved to remedy the situation.
24. Even though my experiences in battle have (inured, benign) me to scenes of suffering, I was horrified by the devastation wrought by the tornado.
25. Imagine the general disappointment when the so-called “miracle cure” was exposed as a fraud promoted by a (charlatan, obtuse).

Synonyms:

1. **Quibble** over who is at fault
2. Exposed him as a complete **fraud**
3. A **salutary** effect on consumer confidence
4. **Vacillated** between two choices
5. Feeling **sorry** about the decision
6. Willing to overlook its **defects**
7. Will **spurn** his offer of marriage
8. His **high handed** challenge to our authority
9. Embarrassed by his **stupid** questions
10. Looked **skeptically** at their proposals

Antonyms:

1. A **tentative** request for money
2. Set the fan to **stay still**
3. Her **acute** handling of the issue
4. An entirely **unrepentant** gambler and thief
5. Prone to **praise** unnecessarily

Fill in the blank:

1. Although there had been some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fighting earlier, the real battles of the Civil War did not begin until Bull Run in 1861.
2. Although the moon appears to be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ body, the fact is that it only reflects light from the sun.
3. I was relieved to learn that the officials were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and that I would only have to pay a small fine.
4. No doubt he’s very sorry he got caught, but that does not mean that he’s at all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what he did.
5. During imperial times, the Roman Senate was little more than a collection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes-men, intent upon preserving their own lives by gratifying the emperor’s every whim.
6. No doubt he’s very sorry he got caught, but that does not mean that he’s at all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what he did.
7. I was totally taken aback when they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my kind offers of assistance so rudely and nastily.
8. During the fourteenth century, the Black Death suddenly swept across Europe, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the population and paralyzing everyday life.
9. His statements have been so uniformly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that I get the impression that he is wearing a permanent pair of mental blinders.
10. Though my childhood recollections have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the passage of time, they have not been totally effaced from my memory.
11. Good supervisors know that they can get more cooperation from their staff by making polite requests than by issuing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ orders.
12. The man’s personality was a strange mixture of strengths and weaknesses, fortes and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Life on the family farm has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me to hard physical labor and long hours of unremitting toil.
14. Any “investment counselor” who promises to double your money overnight must be regarded as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or a crook.
15. In a typical James Bond movie, Agent 007 has a series of adventures that are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with tongue-in-cheek peril.