**Practice Context Clues**

Read each sentence below and write down the closest meaning type of context clue (contrast/antonym, restatement/synonym, example or general knowledge) that helps you define the meaning of the word.

1.  Joan loves to buy ***exotic*** foods: vegetables and herbs from China, spices from India, olives from Greece, and cheeses from France.

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| **expensive** | **seasonings** | **rare** | **from  other places** |  |

2.  Emotionally disturbed people may be troubled by ***morbid*** thoughts. For instance, they may often think about suicide or murder.

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| **disturbing** | **dealing with death** | **psychologically ill** | **scary** |  |

3.  At first, the surgery seemed to be successful. But several hours later, the patient’s condition began to ***deteriorate***, and it continued to worsen over the next few days.

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| **stabilize** | **surprise everyone** | **change** | **decay or decline** |  |

4.  In Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, the ***miserly*** Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three spirits who changed him into a generous man.

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| **cheapskate** | **single and elderly** | **unhappy** | **wealthy** |  |

5.  Raul is an ***indulgent*** father. For instance, he lets his daughter stay up as late as she likes and he never insists that she does her homework.

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| **lazy  and caring** | **stupid and kind** | **strict and mean** | **lenient and tolerant** |  |

6.  Languages ***evolve*** over time, as you can see if you open a page of *The Canterbury Tales*, written about six hundred years ago by the English poet Chaucer. It is barely recognizable as English today.

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| **develop** | **age** | **increase complexity** | **regress** |  |

7.  The decision Veronica made to study instead of going out for pizza with her friends was ***prudent***. She got an A on the exam, while her friends all got D’s.

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| **anti-social** | **careful and wise** | **selfish** | **calculating** |   |

8.  Whenever something bad happens to Jane, she ways it’s the fault of ***destiny***. But I prefer to take charge of my own life rather than simply blaming fate.

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| **bad luck** | **evil caused by someone** | **poor planning** | **event that happens regardless** |  |

9.  My father died when I was a baby, but Mom told me so many stories about him that I feel I knew him well. For example, one ***anecdote*** was about how he cried with joy when I was born.

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| **medicine or cure** | **biographical account** | **example** | **joke** |  |

10.  Ivan is a wonderful piano player. But Jerri is more ***versatile*;** she sings, acts, paints and writes poetry, and also plays the piano.

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| **talented** | **show off** | **superior skills** | **many abilities** |  |

11. This third grade was full of ***precocious*** children. One child had learned to read at two and another could do algebra at age 6.

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| **backward** | **active** | **ahead** | **pretty** |

12. I expected truthfulness from a doctor; I was shocked by his ***mendacity***.

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| **duplicity** | **meanness** | **candidness** | **knowledge** |

13. When my grandfather meets someone with that much knowledge in a field, he finds that their ***erudition*** frightens him and he is inclined to withdraw.

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| **rudeness** | **scholarliness** | **illiteracy** | **age** |

14. When going to an office party you should show your best ***decorum***, for example, dress your best, drink and eat moderately, and be sure to thank the host before you leave.

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| **civility** | **decorations** | **party moves** | **rudeness** |

15. We thought that the mother would be very ***distraught*** at hearing of her husband's accident; however, she took the news quite calmly.

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| **tranquil** | **angry** | **disgusted** | **anxious** |

16. It is refreshing to see students so excited, so ***zealous*** in doing their homework.

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| **zany** | **dedicated** | **indifferent** | **jealous** |

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/~steuben/practice_context_clues.htm>