Guessing Vocabulary in Context 1

Learning how to guess words you don't know is an important skill. Nobody wants to look every word up in a dictionary! If you learn how to guess the unfamiliar words in sentences, then you won't have to read with your dictionary open all the time!

HOW TO GUESS WORDS IN CONTEXT

Example sentence: The snake slithered through the grass. He was hunting.

You must discover what slithered means by using logic. Here are your choices, and the analysis:

A) stopped moving

INCORRECT: the sentence above says THROUGH the grass. 'Through' means there is some movement.

B) slept in the grass

INCORRECT: the sentence above says he is hunting. Snakes don't sleep when they hunt.

C) ate something
INCORRECT: the sentence above says he is hunting. Snakes don't eat when they are hunting. They eat AFTER they hunt.

D) moved or traveled

CORRECT ANSWER: the sentence above says THROUGH the grass. 'Through' means that there is movement.

READ the sentence, CHOOSE the answer. Try to use the techniques which you have learned....!

1) The tiger's roar could be heard in villages far away.

What does roar probably mean?

A) food a tiger eats

B) a tiger's dream
C) a tiger's ear

D) a sound a tiger makes

2) The thought of eating a rat is abhorrent to most people. What does abhorrent probably mean?

A) fun, lively

B) horrible, repugnant

C) delicious, tasty

D) sweet, sugary

3) My absent-minded teacher loses his keys, his book and his chalk almost every day!

What does it mean to be absent-minded?
A) be hateful  
B) not pay attention  
C) be intelligent  
D) not like someone  

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4) You can trust the salesmen at that store because they always conduct business in an aboveboard manner. 
What does aboveboard probably mean?  
A) honestly, openly  
B) sneaky, dishonest  
C) horrible, repugnant  
D) strange, unusual  
A) honestly, openly
5) Petra has so many friends because she is a **gregarious** person.

What does gregarious probably mean?

A) introverted, self-contained

B) shy, quiet

C) friendly, outgoing

D) rude, hostile

6) The lovely **egret** is in danger of extinction because clothing manufacturers use their long, beautiful tail feathers to make ladies' hats.

What is an egret?

A) a small child

B) a type of food
C) a sound a tiger makes
D) a type of bird

7) I can't believe it! Right in the middle of our conversation, Peter turned around **abruptly** and walked out of the room!

What does abruptly probably mean?
A) formally
B) slowly, in no hurry
C) suddenly, without notice
D) quietly, in an unusual manner
8) After the harvest, we had an **abundant** amount of apples. We made apple pie, apple sauce, and apple juice because we had so many apples!

What does abundant probably mean?

A) a shortage  
B) not enough  
C) very red  
D) plentiful

9) When Sara was sick, her voice was almost **inaudible**. We couldn't hear what she was trying to say clearly.

What does inaudible probably mean?

A) very loud, easy to hear  
B) very soft, hard to hear  
C) very strange, uncommon
D) very shy, introverted

10) The hill was too **arduous** for us to climb. We had to walk our bicycles up the hill.

What does arduous probably mean?

A) tall, sharp
B) fun, exciting
C) easy, not challenging
D) difficult, steep
Answer Key:

1) A) sound a tiger makes
2) B) horrible, repugnant
3) B) not pay attention
4) A) honestly, openly
5) C) friendly, outgoing
6) D) a type of bird
7) C) suddenly, without notice
8) D) plentiful
9) B) very soft, hard to hear
10) D) difficult, steep