

# Denotation/Connotation Practice

**Directions: Choose the most effective word or phrase within the context suggested by the sentence(s).**

1. Marvin, a(n) (blank) English instructor, drives a rusted 1981 Nissan Stanza and lives on peanut butter and lettuce sandwiches.
  - a. impecunious
  - b. poor
  - c. flat broke
  
2. Not having a good sense of rhythm was a huge (blank) Larry had to overcome before signing up for piano lessons.
  - a. obstacle
  - b. stigma
  - c. aggravation
  
3. The sleepy Schnauzer did not seem (blank) when the hungry rat began to gnaw on the dog's squeaky hotdog.
  - a. bugged
  - b. disquieted
  - c. annoyed
  
4. Dan, a (blank) ten-year-old, blushed deeply when his pushy mother demanded he sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic.
  - a. backward
  - b. cowardly
  - c. shy
  
5. The (blank) county commissioner accepted bribes from special interest groups in exchange for his vote.
  - a. corrupt
  - b. opprobrious
  - c. scuzzy

6. The (blank) Spanish instructor gave the ill student an opportunity to retake the final exam.
- a. commiserative
  - b. cool
  - c. sympathetic
7. The (blank) country boy saw no reason to lock his apartment doors and windows when he moved to Tallahassee.
- a. credulous
  - b. naïve
  - c. clueless
8. After class, Josie (blank) her boyfriend about his infidelity.
- a. attacked
  - b. badgered
  - c. confronted
9. Dehydrated after a tough, two-hour workout, Jared felt (blank)
- a. vertiginous
  - b. light-headed
  - c. spaced out
10. Lester (blank) a pre-owned Lexus from the Metropolitan Auto Emporium.
- a. stole
  - b. ripped off
  - c. appropriated

Answers: 1. b, 2. a, 3. c, 4. c, 5. a, 6. b, 7. b, 8. c, 9. b, 10. a

If you have further questions about this skill or about the answers to this exercise, please visit the Learning Commons or sign up for a live Brainfuse conference.