

## Improving Vocabulary Quiz 1 – Chapters 5 & 11

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Match the word to its definition. (1 point each)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. altruistic _____ | a. a hint about; an indirect reference                                |
| 2. taint _____      | b. lacking originality; overused; commonplace                         |
| 3. allusion _____   | c. something that weakens, damages, or destroys                       |
| 4. mercenary _____  | d. to damage; to stain the honor of someone or something              |
| 5. euphemism _____  | e. an uneasy feeling about how right or proper a particular action is |
| 6. banal _____      | f. to jumble  |
| 7. qualm _____      | g. unselfish  |
| 8. blight _____     | h. a term that doesn't offend   |
|                     | i. pay back   |
|                     | j. motivated only by financial gain; greedy                           |

### B. Complete each sentence with the appropriate word from the box. (1 point each)

banal	blight	appease	garble	retaliate
qualm	altruistic	contrive	gloat	

1. Apologizing for tearing Danny's shirt isn't enough. Nothing will \_\_\_\_\_ him until you buy him a new one.
2. When the boss announced that everyone would have to work an hour overtime, the staff \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d by taking a two-hour lunch.
3. I admire Luis' \_\_\_\_\_ nature. He is truly more concerned for the welfare of those around him than he is for his own.
4. Joanne has \_\_\_\_\_ (e)d a clever way of making throw pillows. She sews two fancy washcloths together back to back and then stuffs them with foam rubber.
5. I expected the made-for-TV movie to be another \_\_\_\_\_ romance, but I was pleasantly surprised. It was both original and funny.
6. Even though I know I was doing the right thing, I felt a \_\_\_\_\_ of conscience as I told Mr. Lane that it was my friend who'd stolen his car.

### C. On the answer line, write the letter of the choice that best completes each item. (2 points each)

1. Our English teacher says spring fever is a **syndrome** that includes...  
a) March through June  
b) beautiful roses  
c) pain in shoulder and swelling in hand  
d) allergy pills

2. "You have **tainted** the name of our family forever," Ellen's father told her, "and you should be ...  
 a) proud." c) amused."  
 b) ashamed." d) thanked."
3. The parrot **garbled** its words, ...  
 a) making us all laugh at its mixed-up speech. c) embarrassing us with its dirty words.  
 b) amazing us by speaking it clearly. d) boring us by repeating the same few words.
4. Since she wanted to **gloat** about her promotion at work, Kris ...  
 a) didn't mention it to anyone. c) became very nervous about her new responsibilities.  
 b) said to a coworker, "Sorry loser, I got it." d) worked harder than ever to show that she deserved it.

**D. Chose the word that best completes each item and write it in the space provided. (1 point each)**

1. A common \_\_\_\_\_ for corpse is "remains".  
 a) syndrome b) blight c) gaunt d) euphemism
2. The taxi driver was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he charged his own mother for a ride.  
 a) gaunt b) blatant c) mercenary d) retaliate
3. Even the most \_\_\_\_\_ people have microscopic creatures clinging to their hair.  
 a) blatant b) blatant c) blight d) altruistic
4. Measles remains a serious \_\_\_\_\_ worldwide, killing a million people each year.  
 a) qualm b) gloat c) gaunt d) blight

**E. Write the meaning **and** an example sentence for each of the following phrases. The sentence must **clearly** show the meaning of the phrase and how it is used. (4 points each)**

1. *immaculate*  
 Part of speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_
2. *gloat*  
 Part of speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_
3. *plagiarism*  
 Part of speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_
4. *blatantly*  
 Part of speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_
5. *assail*  
 Part of speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_