

Words to Own

Collection 10: The Ways We Are

Pupil's Edition pages 556–573

Developing Vocabulary

Carefully read each word's definition, explanation, and sample sentence. Then write a sentence of your own using that word.

1. **stout** (stout) *adj.* physically sturdy; forceful; brave. ▲ *Stout* is related to the Frankish *stolt*, which means “proud.”
- Grandmother was a stout old woman who tolerated no foolishness from her children or grandchildren. (“Women,” line 3)

Original sentence: _____

2. **countenance** (kounvE•nEns) *n.* a person's facial expression that shows emotions or thoughts. ▲ *Countenance* is a near synonym of *appearance*.
- Denise's bright smile lit her countenance beautifully. (“My Papa's Waltz,” line 7)

Original sentence: _____

3. **sliver** (slivvEr) *n.* a slender, sharp piece that has broken off of something. ▲ *Sliver* is a synonym for *splinter*.
- The new moon was barely a sliver among the glimmering stars. (“The Gift,” line 5)

Original sentence: _____

4. **shard** (shärd) *n.* a broken piece or fragment. ▲ This word comes from the Old English word *sceard*, akin to *scieran*, meaning “to shear.”
- The archaeologist discovered during his dig a painted shard of ancient pottery. (“The Gift,” line 26)

Original sentence: _____

5. **christen** (krisvEn) *vt.* name or dedicate; use for the first time; baptize. ▲ A *Christian name* was traditionally the name given at a child's baptism. Baptism signifies one's
- entrance into the community of Christians.
- Althea decided to christen her new car “the Spitfire.” (“The Gift,” line 29)

Original sentence: _____

6. parings (perv inz) *n. pl.* cuttings or shavings from the edge or surface of something. ▲ A *paring knife* is a small knife used for peeling or cutting fruit or vegetables.

■ Carlos made sure to clean up his parings after he peeled the apple. (“Combing,” line 8)

Original sentence: _____

7. plaiting (plātvn) *vt.* participle of *plait*, meaning “to braid.” ▲ This word comes from the Latin *plicare*, “to fold.”

■ The hair stylist liked working with straight hair rather than curly hair, as he was an expert at plaiting. (“Combing,” line 29)

Original sentence: _____

8. flanks (flanks) *n. pl.* sides; sides of a military formation. ▲ A *flanker* in football is the player who is stationed off to the side of the main offensive formation.

■ After the horse galloped across the meadow, its flanks were lathered with sweat. (“Fifteen,” line 7)

Original sentence: _____

9. demure (di•myoor) *adj.* reserved, modest, or coy. ▲ This word comes from the Old French *mēur*, meaning “ripe, mature.”

■ Ashok made sure to wear an appropriately conservative and demure suit to the wedding. (“Fifteen,” line 7)

Original sentence: _____

10. shimmering (shimv Er•in) *v.* participle of *shimmer*, which means “to shine fitfully or glimmer.” ▲ *Shimmer* comes from the Old English word *scymrian*, meaning “shadowy or glimmering.”

■ The diamonds were glinting and shimmering in the sunlight. (“American Hero,” line 5)

Original sentence: _____