

### VOCABULARY

# UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

When you run into an unfamiliar word, the rest of the sentence or paragraph can give you clues to the word's meaning. Sometimes, even a familiar word needs to be in context for you to recognize

which of its various meanings the author intends.

Use context clues to complete this exercise, which excerpts 10 sentences found in the world leader profiles (pp. 5-7).

**DIRECTIONS:** Fill in the circle of the word or phrase that best defines the boldface word in each sentence below. Then, on the back of this sheet of paper, use that word in a sentence of your own.

- Washington's efforts to stimulate the economy have not reduced the nation's high unemployment rate, which **hovers** around 9 percent. *(See United States.)*  
 (A) changes (B) creates (C) falls (D) remains suspended
- Calderón soon launched a campaign against drug-smuggling **cartels**. *(See Mexico.)*  
 (A) elected officials (B) laws (C) organized groups (D) shopkeepers
- Harper and President Obama have discussed establishing a single security **perimeter** around both countries, to ease travel between them. *(See Canada.)*  
 (A) imaginary boundary (B) interstate highway (C) physical fence (D) system of canals
- The U.S. and the United Nations have imposed economic **sanctions** against Iran because of its suspected efforts to produce nuclear weapons. *(See Iran.)*  
 (A) commendations (B) encouragements (C) punishments (D) supports
- A controversial leader, he often **provokes** international outrage. *(See Iran.)*  
 (A) causes (B) conceals (C) discovers (D) uncovers
- Critics charge that Karzai is a weak leader who allows corruption to **flourish** in his government. *(See Afghanistan.)*  
 (A) be strictly controlled (B) disappear (C) grow freely (D) move slowly
- Netanyahu has resisted Palestinian demands that Israel **abandon** settlements on the West Bank. *(See Israel.)*  
 (A) build (B) leave behind (C) search for (D) think seriously about
- Singh has also tried to ease tensions between India and neighboring Pakistan, which was a part of India until their **partition** into two countries in 1947. *(See India.)*  
 (A) adoption of a constitution (B) investigation of a crime (C) separation (D) unification
- But poverty, crime, and unemployment remain high, and AIDS has **ravaged** the country. *(See South Africa.)*  
 (A) created (B) taken a high toll on (C) threatened the opportunities for (D) united parts of
- Hu has pledged to **remedy** such inequalities, but has rejected calls for increased political freedom. *(See China.)*  
 (A) correct or fix (B) overlook or ignore (C) question or debate (D) support or aid