

Vocabulary Power Plus for the ACT
Lesson 2 -- Assignment 2

Name _____
Hour _____

Words in Context

Directions: From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph.
Some words will not be used.

antithesis impotent emendations maelstrom impediments labyrinth
diaphanous chagrin bestial

1. Loren, the new manager, is the (a)_____ of compassion; just yesterday, she fired two people because they were late to work once this week. Corporate headquarters, upset with declining sales, appointed Loren to replace a(n) (b)_____ manager who had been spotted on the golf course during work hours one-too-many times.

Loren's many changes and (c)_____ to company guidelines caused a(n) (d)_____ in both the warehouse and the salesroom. Employees faced evaluations and new instructions that drove many to resign; however, it was all just a part of Loren's plan. The people who quit, she reasoned, were just (e)_____ to meeting the expected monthly profit margin.

Loren spent the first two weeks familiarizing herself with the (f)_____ of shelves and palettes in the warehouse. Shreds of textiles littered parts of the packaging area; some were hefty snippets of wool, and others were (g)_____ scraps of silk that hovered in the gust created by passing forklifts. She occasionally stopped to introduce herself to the workers, but she ceased her introductions after noticing the regular look of (h)_____ on workers' faces as they scrambled to look busy or stumbled over the proper responses to her questions. After the first round of resignations and firings, most of the workers were intimidated by Loren's (i)_____ management techniques.

bauble
gloat

bland
bestial

shard

nihilism

labyrinth

effete

2. Most of the office personnel assumed that Devon's home life was as (a) _____ as his uninteresting manner at work. Reserved and soft-spoken, Devon sat at a desk every day filling out purchase orders and staring at the only ornamental object on his desk: a glass paperweight with a brass tag commemorating fifteen years of service – a(n) (b) _____ presented to Devon by the company in lieu of a bonus or a raise. It must not have sentimental importance to Devon, because he did not say a word when one of the interns accidentally knocked the glass bubble to the floor, where the (c) _____ still can be heard crunching beneath the wheels of antiquated office chairs.

The passing years took a toll on Devon's unremarkable body. In the months following the fall of the paperweight, he developed a weary look; he had become both (g) _____ and apathetic from the exhausting monotony of filling out purchase orders for fifteen years. Occasionally, in the break room, he listened to some of the younger workers (g) _____ about how quickly they were promoted; most were ten years younger than Devon and had half the experience. A form of (g) _____ rapidly replaced his apathy and he found himself wishing the company would simply fail, go bankrupt and disintegrate, along with his entire world.