**Vocabulary Power Plus for the ACT**  Name
**Lesson 2 -- Assignment 2**  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 bland shard nihilism labyrinth effete
gloat bestial**

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.