

WORDS TO OWN

from Resistance to Civil Government
Henry David Thoreau

Pupil's Edition page 248

Vocabulary and Context Clues

In each sentence below, use the list of Words to Own and context clues to find the word that has the same meaning as the italicized word or words. Write the word in the blank in front of the sentence. Underline any context clues that help you find the answer. Context clues may be synonyms or antonyms of the correct word, and can be single words or phrases. You may use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

EXAMPLE: indubitably Thoreau was *undoubtedly* an influence on
Martin Luther King, Jr. That much is certain.

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|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| obstruction | posterity | perverted | effectual | inherent |
| insurrection | impetuous | expedient | alacrity | penitent |

- _____ 1. A night in prison certainly did not cause Thoreau to be *remorseful* about not paying his poll taxes. He did not think he had done anything wrong.
- _____ 2. He believed his imprisonment was further evidence of the government's *warped* sense of right and wrong—morality turned upside down.
- _____ 3. Most people in the United States today consider a washing machine a necessity; Thoreau would consider it a mere *convenience*.
- _____ 4. Though Thoreau supported resistance to the government when it was "unmoral," he did not actively encourage *rebellion*.
- _____ 5. Did Thoreau foresee the effect his writings would have on *his descendants*? Do you think he wondered how future generations would respond?
- _____ 6. Sit-ins and marches have sometimes proven to be *effective* methods of protest. They have gotten results.
- _____ 7. On the other hand, protesters have often been arrested with *great speed*. They have been quickly swept off the streets.
- _____ 8. Sitting in the street to cause an *impediment* to traffic might be considered an extreme measure. Blocking the flow of traffic could be dangerous.
- _____ 9. Do you think the existence of authority is *inborn* in any concept of government? That is, is it inseparable from government?
- _____ 10. The decision to protest a government action you feel is unjust should not be an *impulsive* one. It should be considered carefully.