Name: _____

Context Clues

1. We could tell by the voices usual, that something painful was on our teacher's.

   In this sentence, the word **painful** means:
   a. alive c. simple
   b. sullen d. appealing

2. Using certain body language is illicit in some countries, but allowed in others.

   In this sentence, the word **illicit** means:
   a. classic c. forbidden
   b. cool d. awkward

3. Janice thought the man was friendly, but Carey thought he was malicious.

   In this sentence, the word **malicious** means:
   a. spiteful c. sweet
   b. friendly d. kind

4. Becky had an innate ability to play the piano. She had never taken a lesson, yet she was able to play the most complicated songs.

   In this sentence, the word **innate** means:
   a. trained c. sensational
   b. natural d. learned

5. The speaker's comments were detrimental to Carl's reputation. Following the remarks, the speaker agreed to a public apology, which included valuable comments about Carl.

   In this sentence, the word **detrimental** means:
   a. nice c. useful
   b. harmful d. good

6. The cop knocked the developer, or gun, away from the bad guy.

   In this sentence, the word **developer** means:
   a. hat c. jewelry
   b. gun d. book

7. I knew that Bill is smart, so I was confused when he did such a vacuous thing as to jump off the roof of our house.

   In this sentence, the word **vacuous** means:
   a. stupid c. annoying
   b. outstanding d. comedy

8. The man was sent to the penitentiary, or prison, for stealing cars.

   In this sentence, the word **penitentiary** means:
   a. paradise c. Heaven
   b. prison d. hotel

9. Bill's capricious behavior shows up when the speaker out of town.

   In this sentence, the word **capricious** means:
   a. careless c. stable
   b. careful d. steady

10. I watched as the eagle swooped down and grabbed his prey with his talons, or claws.

    In this sentence, the word **talons** means:
    a. beak c. claws
    b. teeth d. feathers