DIRECTIONS  Determine the meaning of the italicized words below.

- Underline the comparison-contrast context clues. Look for words or phrases that might have the same or opposite meaning of the italicized words.
- Write what you think the words mean. Be prepared to explain your responses.

1. Maria has a high aptitude for science. Jessica, on the other hand, has to work hard to get passing grades.

   *Aptitude* means __________________________________________________________

2. The coastal town felt balmy. Further inland, however, the cold front brought harsh weather.

   *Balmy* means __________________________________________________________

3. The music business is hit and miss. The least talented players may be *exalted* by fans while the more talented players go completely unnoticed.

   *Exalted* means _________________________________________________________

4. Although my sister Marguerite is normally quite amiable, she sometimes becomes unpleasant when she is worried about a looming deadline.

   *Amiable* means _________________________________________________________

5. The decrepit building looked every one of its eighty-five years old, and the addition of a brand-new neighbor, a high-rise office building, made it look even more worn.

   *Decrepit* means _________________________________________________________

6. Tamara enjoyed being in the open space of her home much more than being jostled through the dense crowd at the party.

   *Jostled* means _________________________________________________________

7. Carmen loathed the stage, and Miguel also disliked being in front of a crowd.

   *Loathed* means _________________________________________________________

8. Following the chemistry teacher’s meticulous example, the students carefully set up their experiments.

   *Meticulous* means _______________________________________________________

9. Just as the police could not find any pertinent information, the experts also made no useful discoveries.

   *Pertinent* means _______________________________________________________

10. My kitten perched precariously on the high picket fence, and my neighbor’s cat struggled not to fall as well.

    *Precariously* means ___________________________________________________
In the U.S., flashing headlights mean, “I’m coming through,” whereas in Britain they mean, “Please go first.”

Your Turn 3: Additional Practice
Comparison-Contrast Structure

Responses and graphic organizers will vary but should be linked to the text. Sample responses follow.

Method of Organization: block method

Subject 1: Flowering Plants
- Environment: largest, most diverse family of plants; exist in most environments
- Structure: have roots, stems, leaves, and cells that conduct water
- Reproduction: reproduce by forming seeds within flowers or fruits and by releasing seeds
- Uses: important food source, fiber, hardwood timber
- Plants included: most grains, vegetables, fruits, and herb plants, as well as hardwood trees

Subject 2: Nonflowering Plants
- Environment: not as numerous or diverse as flowering plants; exist in many environments, but some species must be close to water and grow in shady, moist areas
- Structure: less advanced members lack roots, stems, leaves, or water conducting cells; more advanced varieties have a water conducting system
- Reproduction: reproduce through spores or external seeds
- Uses: yard and garden plants, construction material, paper pulp
- Plants included: mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and conifers such as redwoods and pines

Vocabulary Mini-Lesson
Comparison-Contrast Context Clues

1. aptitude n: ability to learn, skill
   clue: on the other hand
2. balmy adj: pleasant or fair
   clue: however
3. exalted v: raised up by praise
   clue: while
4. amiable adj: friendly, good-natured
   clue: although
5. decrepit adj: worn down or damaged by age or use
   clue: and, even more
6. jostled v: bumped or pushed, as in a crowd
   clue: much more than
7. loathed v: hated
   clue: and, also
8. meticulous adj: very careful
   clue: following
9. pertinent adj: related, relevant
   clue: just as, also
10. precariously adv: unsecurely, dangerously
    clue: and, as well

Test-Taking Mini-Lesson
Main Idea

Passage A
1. A 3. A
2. J 4. G

Passage B
5. D 8. F
6. F 9. D