Confusing Words Exercise

Fill in the blanks.

1. She was in such a .................................. She didn’t know to whom to turn.
   - quandary
   - quadrary
   - quarantine

2. The dictator’s army .................................. the rebellion.
   - quashed
   - squashed
   - quelled
   - All of the above

3. The door was ................................. left open.
   - purposely
   - purposefully
   - Either could be used here

4. The student .................................. studied all night in order to secure good grades.
Confusing Words Exercise

purposely
purposefully
Either could be used here

5. If he drank too much he would become

pungent
pugacious
pugnacious

6. His ........................................ remarks started an argument.

provocational
provocative
Either could be used here

7. ........................................ laws discouraged the drug trade.

Prohibitive
Prohibitory
Either could be used here
8. The family’s …………………………… was pitiable.

privation  
privilege  
privacy

9. He had nothing left of his inheritance because of his ………………………………… ways.

prodigal  
spendthrift  
wanton  
All of the above

10. It took a great deal of …………………………… to insult the mayor at his own party.

presumption  
audacity  
impertinence  
All of the above

11. His mother’s work as a nurse …………………………… him to become a doctor.

predisposed
Confusing Words Exercise

12. My family takes ........................................ over my work.

Answers
She was in such a quandary. She didn’t know to whom to turn.
The dictator’s army quashed / squashed / quelled the rebellion.
The door was purposely left open.
The student purposefully studied all night in order to secure good grades.
If he drank too much he would become pugnacious.
His provocative remarks started an argument.
Prohibitive / prohibitory laws discouraged the drug trade.
The family’s privation was pitiable.
He had nothing left of his inheritance because of his prodigal / spendthrift / wanton ways.
It took a great deal of presumption / audacity / impertinence to insult the mayor at his own party.
His mother’s work as a nurse predisposed him to become a doctor.
My family takes precedence over my work.