

# 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.

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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

# Confusing Words Exercise

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

disposed

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

precedent  
precedent  
precedence

## 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.