Using a Dictionary to Use Words Properly

Directions: In each set of sentences below, only one uses the underlined word correctly. Choose the correct sentence. Write its letter in the box. Use a dictionary to help you determine the possible meanings of each underlined word.

1. A. The teacher wanted to **commend** Jerry on his improvement.
   B. The teacher wanted to **commend** a math tutor for Jerry.

2. A. It is **stifle** in the house in the summer, since we don’t have air conditioning.
   B. Peggy is afraid her parents will **stifle** her ambitions.

3. A. I would like to publicly **declare** my support for you.
   B. Kim is in **declare** over losing her pet cat.

4. A. I absolutely **loathe** examination time.
   B. Bill tried to bake a **loathe** of bread.

5. A. It takes a **majority** of the states to ratify a constitutional amendment.
   B. Linda’s **majority** in college was English.

6. A. I didn’t think that the **dialogue** was very well written.
   B. I don’t recognize that **dialogue**; what part of the country are you from?

7. A. It is very **swarm** outside tonight.
   B. We were attacked by a **swarm** of bees.

8. A. Janet likes to look at herself in the **mere**.
   B. We had to make do with **mere** crumbs to eat.

9. A. The cell phone is a truly amazing **innovation**.
   B. Henry got the **innovation** but wasn’t sure he would attend.

10. A. Amelia is really starting to look with **terrain** upon anyone who didn’t go to college.
    B. I prefer an all-terrain vehicle.