Determining Meaning

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Choose the correct meaning for each underlined word.

1. Jill decided not to climb the mountain after she saw the **precarious** route.
   A. enormous  
   B. dangerous

2. Ryan’s parents pay him for every **he** earns, to **reinforce** the importance of good grades.
   A. strengthen or support  
   B. remind

3. If you want to be healthy you must make exercise a **priority**.
   A. something more important than something else  
   B. enjoyable

4. When the engines died, the plane **plummeted**.
   A. coasted  
   B. fell

5. We don’t have any vanilla beans but we do have vanilla **extract**.
   A. a substance in concentrated form  
   B. flavoring

6. My skin doesn’t do well in this **arid** climate.
   A. cool and wet  
   B. hot and dry

7. The ship’s captain was looking for a **beacon** in the storm.
   A. a guiding light  
   B. a port

8. When Jane started studying, she really began to **excel** in school.
   A. be very good at something  
   B. fall behind in something

9. For budget reasons, we had to **terminate** three employees.
   A. kill  
   B. fire from a job

10. Penny loves to **mimic** people when they are angry.
    A. imitate  
    B. tease

11. The defendant’s family wasn’t there when the judge delivered her verdict.
    A. speech  
    B. ruling

12. Hank and Sarah wrote their own wedding **vows**.
    A. promises  
    B. memoirs