



Getting Meaning from Context

That constant pacing to and fro, that never-ending restlessness, that **incessant** tread of feet wearing the rough stones smooth and glossy—is it not a wonder how the **dwellers** in narrow ways can bear to hear it! Think of a sick man in such a place as Saint Martin's Court, listening to the footsteps, and in the midst of pain and weariness **obliged**, despite himself (as though it were a task he must perform) to detect the child's step from the man's, the **slipshod** beggar from the booted exquisite, the lounging from the busy, the dull heel of the **sauntering** outcast from the quick tread of an expectant pleasure-seeker...think of the hum and noise always being present to his sense, and of the stream of life that will not stop, pouring on, on, on, through all his restless dreams, as if he were **condemned** to lie, dead but conscious, in a noisy churchyard, and had no hope of rest for centuries to come.

From the novel *The Old Curiosity Shop* by Charles Dickens

1. What does *incessant* mean?
 - a. annoying
 - b. quick
 - c. unending
2. A *dweller* is someone who _____.
 - a. lives somewhere
 - b. thinks a lot
 - c. is stuck
3. What is a synonym for *obliged*?
 - a. forgotten
 - b. compelled
 - c. unseen
4. *Slipshod* means:
 - a. messy
 - b. careless
 - c. late
5. What does it mean to *saunter*?
 - a. mope
 - b. walk slowly
 - c. ignore someone
6. *Condemned* means:
 - a. lost or doomed
 - b. imprisoned
 - c. disguised