Using Context Clues

Using clues from the sentences, guess the meaning of the word underlined. Try using another word you think would fit into the underlined space in the sentence and keep its original meaning. If the substitution works, you probably have found the meaning for the underlined word.

Do not use a dictionary; just provide your best educated guess.

1. Susie’s mother **enveloped** her in a bear hug, so Susie returned the gesture by wrapping her arms around her mother’s waist.

   **envelope**

2. When Susie was driving on Park Boulevard, about a quarter of a mile away from her college, she was able to **discern** a cluster of orange buildings at the end of the road.

   **discern**

3. The first person she met on her way to her dormitory room was an **amiable** woman who introduced herself with a big smile and told Susie that she was the resident leader.

   **amiable**

4. Susie **contrived** to get the evening chemistry lab section by telling the course’s teaching assistant that she could not change her work schedule, and could not quit her job because she needed the money to stay in college.

   **contrive**

5. Melanie was able to **empathize** with Susie because she herself had failed a chemistry midterm before.

   **empathize**

6. Whereas Professor Harrington is quite **loquacious**, Professor Metz is considered to be rather **taciturn** because he barely says a word.

   **loquacious**
   **taciturn**

7. Susie’s **mendacious** ways caused her roommates not to believe the truth in what she tells them.

   **mendacious**
8. It is a convention at St. Anne’s College to dress conservatively; you never see any of the girls wear anything considered inappropriately risqué by the school community.

**convention**
**risqué**

9. The members of St. Anne’s Phi Theta Kappa declared Susie’s heroic attempt to save the sorority’s mascot laudable.

**laudable**

10. Melanie and Susie were mired under a mountain of homework assignments when the president of Phi Theta Kappa asked them to do the entire sorority’s laundry.

**mired**

11. Though usually resourceful and scheming, today Susie could not think of a way to get out of doing the sorority’s laundry.

**resourceful**

12. The sorority president and the other office members have vacillated repeatedly in their public remarks on the no-boys-visiting after hours policy, sometimes supporting it, while at other times speaking out against it.

**vacillate**

13. Melanie’s xenophobia became apparent when she was seen shunning prospective members who did not look like the typical Phi Theta Kappa member, and acting friendly towards people who did.

**xenophobia**
**shun**

14. Susie languished under the sorority’s stifling rules; she wistfully longed for the freedom she used to have.

**languish**

15. Melanie, the one found guilty of spreading rumors, was now an anathema in the sorority; all of her friends who used to live alongside her comfortably now ostracized her by choosing not to go out with her or stay in any room she enters.

**anathema**
**ostracize**