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The Real Word

Everyone has been a victim of misusing a word or saying a combination of letters that do not make a word but it sounds like a word. When you say a word that you stop and wonder whether you have used the word correctly or if it is a word at all, check the word in a dictionary.

Directions: Below is a list of words. Each row contains a word and a non-word or commonly misused word. Circle the “real” word.

1	ginormous	or	enormous
2	worthful	or	productive
3	as follows	or	as follow
4	irregardless	or	regardless
5	unexpectedly	or	unexpectedantly
6	exorbitant	or	exhorbent
7	sweaterless	or	coatless
8	bookoo	or	bucko
9	posse	or	poser
10	unnecessary	or	not necessarily





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Answer

1. Enormous is a real word. Enormous is an adjective that means extraordinarily great size, number, or degree. Ginormous is a nonsensical word that has recently been added to Webster's Dictionary. Ginormous is an adjective and is a combination of gigantic and enormous.
2. Productive is a real word. Productive is an adjective that means having the quality or power of producing especially in abundance. Worthful is not a nonsensical word. Worth means value and is already a term that includes the meaning of being full; therefore, worth does not need the suffix- "ful" to add to its meaning.
3. "As follows" is the correct phrase. "As follows" means as comes next. "As follow" is incorrect.
4. Regardless is a real word. Regardless is an adjective that means despite everything. Regardless already has a negative meaning. Therefore, regardless does not need the prefix - "ir" to add to its meaning.
5. Unexpectedly is a real word. Unexpectedly is an adverb that means not expectant. Unexpectantly is not a word and is often confused with unexpectedly.
6. Exorbitant is a real word. Exorbitant is an adjective and means exceeding the customary or appropriate limits in intensity, quality, amount, or size. Exhorbent is not a word and is often confused with exorbitant.
7. Coatless is a real word. Coatless is an adjective and means to be without a coat. Sweaterless is not a word, but is often used in the same context as being without a coat.
8. Bucko is a real word. Bucko is a noun and means a person who is domineering and bullying. Bookoo is not a word, but is often used to mean many.
9. Posse is a real word. Posse is a noun and means a large group often with a common interest. Although poser is a real word, it is used incorrectly. If you use "poser" to mean an imposter, then you are using the word incorrectly.
10. Unnecessary is a real word. Unnecessary is an adjective and means not necessary. Not necessarily is an incorrect form of saying not necessary.