

Vocabulary Set A: Children and Parents

Directions: In the first activity in this packet, you will use context clues to try and determine the meaning of each of your new vocabulary words. The example below shows you how to do this activity.

1. Begin by looking at the **photo**.
Ask yourself, **What do I see?**
I see birds flying in the air. They are not being controlled or told where to go.
2. Next, look at the **caption**.
Ask yourself, **what word could I put in place of the underlined vocabulary word?**
Here I might substitute "all" or "complete" for absolute.
3. Then, look at the **example sentence**.
Ask yourself, **do my substitutions from the caption — "all" and "complete" — make sense in this sentence?**
Yes, "complete" works in the example sentence as well.
4. Finally, **write or type a prediction** in the last box.

Example: Absolute (ab-suh-loot)

My mother's no was absolute. Once she said it, there was no chance of changing her mind.



Birds have absolute freedom to go wherever they like.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer: *complete*

Let's begin!

1. Adversary (ad-ver-ser-ee)

Mike was worried when he learned his adversary in the first match would be the state champ.



The tiger swiped at his adversary.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

2. Assert (uh-surt)

Mr. Jones asserted his authority over the unruly class.



The hotel workers asserted their right to fair pay.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

3. Conspire (kuhn-spahyuhr)

The children conspired against their babysitter when she sent them to bed without dessert.



The coworkers met secretly to conspire against their new boss.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

4. Elaborate (ih-lab-er-it)

Rihanna's elaborate dress was covered in jewels and feathers.



The tops of the columns were elaborately decorated.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

5. Foresight (fawr-sahyt)

Thanks to Jin's foresight, we had batteries for our flashlights when a storm knocked the power out.



Damien had the foresight to bring a map in case the GPS cut out.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

6. Impart (im-pahrt)

Norah's parents imparted their love of music by taking her to concerts from a very young age.



Mel imparted his sailing skills to his grandsons.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

7. Modest (mod-ist)

Kawhi Leonard is one of the best players in the NBA, but he's so modest that he never gives interviews or brags about himself.



Lily is so modest that I never knew she won any of these trophies!

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

8. Possessive (puh-zes-iv)

Toddlers tend to be possessive of toys, sometimes having a tantrum when another child picks up a toy they're not even using.



My brother is so possessive of his bike that he locks it so I can't use it!

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

9. Prodigy (prod-i-jee)

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was a prodigy who learned to read as a toddler and taught herself Latin in middle school.



Ramón is a prodigy who could play violin concertos at age 4!

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

10. Relent (ri-lent)

Anne's mother grounded her for three months, but she relented and let Anne go to her best friend's Sweet Sixteen party.



At first Joe's dad said he had to walk, but after three blocks he relented and carried Joe.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

11. Retort (ri-tawrt)

When a man told author Edna Ferber, "You look almost like a man," she retorted, "So do you."



*Lan always has a retort for whatever I say -
I can never get the best of her!*

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

Let's review the definitions of the words.

1. **Adversary** (*noun*) a person or group that is an opponent or enemy; rival *Related: adversarial, adverse*
2. **Assert** (*verb*) to behave in a way that shows power, authority, or control *Related: assertive, assertion*
3. **Conspire** (*verb*) to secretly plan with a group to commit an unlawful or harmful act *Related: conspiracy, conspirator, conspiratorial*
4. **Elaborate** (*adjective*) complicated and detailed, especially in plan or design *Related: elaboration*
5. **Foresight** (*noun*) the ability to predict what will happen or be needed in the future
6. **Impart** (*verb*) to give, share, or communicate information
7. **Modest** (*adjective*) tending to be quiet about one's own abilities and achievements; not bragging or overly proud; humble *Related: modesty*
8. **Possessive** (*adjective*) selfish; unwilling to let others use something you own *Related: possessiveness*
9. **Prodigy** (*noun*) a young person who has a great natural talent in an area; genius *Related: prodigious*
10. **Relent** (*verb*) to give in or stop; to soften or become kinder in attitude *Related: unrelenting, relentless*
11. **Retort** (*noun*) a sharp, angry, or clever reply to a comment

Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentence

Directions: Fill in the blanks using the correct vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

Adversary Assert Conspired Elaborate Foresight Impart Modest Possessive Prodigy Relented Retort

	My answer
1. Marquise's boyfriend is so _____; he gets angry whenever Marquise spends time with friends instead of him.	
2. I make rules to try and keep my teenage daughter safe, but she sees me as a(n) _____ and treats me so cruelly!	
3. Carla's brother used to always pick on her, but after she got sick, he _____.	
4. Kayla's mom told her to be _____ about being invited to compete on <i>The Voice</i> , but she couldn't help bragging!	
5. Larry is very shy and sweet, so it was hard for him to _____ himself when he became manager of the store.	
6. Several people _____ to enter fake votes so that Mark Harris could win election to the Senate.	
7. My six-year-old nephew is still learning how to argue; his favorite _____ is, "You're a garbage head!"	
8. The villains in superhero movies tend to make up _____ plans with many tricks and false leads.	
9. Marinda showed a lack of _____ by not packing any warm clothes for her month-long trip.	
10. Gabby Douglas is a gymnastics _____ who won Best All Around at the Olympics when she was only 17.	
11. Traditional folk tales _____ wisdom about the natural world and human behavior.	

Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenario

Fill in the blanks using the correct vocabulary word to complete each scenario. Then, explain why that vocabulary word fits best based on context clues provided in the scenario. You may have to change the form of the word (ex: go, going, gone).

For Example:

Every single day, Bryan wakes up at 5 o'clock in the morning to take a 10-mile jog. Then, he goes to the gym to lift weights. Afterwards, he does 20 laps in the pool. And this is before he goes to practice with the team every afternoon! Bryan is _____ about training because _____.	
My Answer	My Reason
<i>relentless</i>	<i>He is extremely dedicated and exercises all of the time. He runs 10 miles, lifts weights, swims, and attends practice every day.</i>

Adversary Assert Conspire Elaborate Foresight Imparting Modest Possessive Prodigy Relent Retort

- Trina and Jackie both want to be the valedictorian when their class graduates this June. They both study every weekend and work intensely on school projects. Each girl knows that the other is her number one rival for that top spot.

Trina and Jackie are _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

- Loretta is an amazing knitter who makes beautiful sweaters, blankets, and scarves for her family and friends. Now she's teaching her grandson to knit, as well.

Loretta is _____ her knowledge because _____

My Answer	My Reason

- Ciara likes the sound of rap music, but she's really turned off by rappers who brag about themselves. "I wish they'd stop talking all the time about how much money they have," she said. "Nobody should talk themselves up that much."

Ciara thinks rappers should be more _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

4. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the most famous musicians in world history, first showed his genius as a child. Mozart could play piano at age 4 and wrote his first original music at age 5. By the time he was 8, Mozart was writing symphonies.

Mozart was a(n) _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

5. When Alejandro and I first became roommates, we shared food and stuff like cleaning supplies with no problems. But as time went on, he changed. Now Alejandro labels all the food in the fridge that's "his" — he even labels "his" toilet bowl cleaner! It's crazy, but he won't share anything with me anymore.

Alejandro is being _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

6. My cousin Joey is the most ridiculous liar. He'll miss a family event and then make up a long, complicated story about why he couldn't make it. The stories always have a million details and twists to them. I think he's trying to confuse us so we won't realize that it's all a lie!

Joey's lies are _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

7. In a mixed martial arts match, it sometimes happens that one fighter realizes he has been trapped and cannot fight his way out of his opponent's hold. This fighter will "tap out," which means that he taps several times on the mat or his opponent's body, indicating that he gives up. The opponent will then release him and stop fighting. The opponent has won the match.

When a fighter taps out, the opponent must _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

8. The main water pipes that run under Auburn's street have frozen and burst each of the last three winters. This year, Auburn decided to be prepared just in case, so she bought several cases of water and stored them in her basement.

Auburn showed _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

9. Sir Winston Churchill, who was Prime Minister of Great Britain during WWII, was known for making witty comebacks. For instance, when one lady said to him, “Sir Winston, if I were your wife, I would poison your coffee,” he replied, “Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink it.”

Churchill was known for his _____ because _____

My Answer	My Reason

10. In 1951, Oliver Brown filed a lawsuit against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. Brown believed his daughter, Linda, had a right to attend the local public school, but the city wouldn’t allow her to because she was African-American. At that time, African-American children in Topeka (and many other cities) were forced to attend separate schools which the city purposely underfunded. Brown’s lawsuit went all the way to the Supreme Court, where he won. Linda and all other African-American children could now attend schools with their neighbors of all races.

Brown _____ his daughter’s right to an equal education because _____

My Answer	My Reason

11. On November 5, 1606, a man named Guy Fawkes nearly killed James I, King of England. Fawkes and 12 other men had planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament while King James would be there, but their plot was discovered and they were arrested. A national “day of thanksgiving” was declared, and English people still celebrate Guy Fawkes Day on November 5 every year.

Guy Fawkes _____ against King James because _____

My Answer	My Reason

Activity 4: Matching

Match the following vocabulary words to their synonyms from the box. Write your answer in the column next to the word.

Synonyms: Share Complicated Declare Enemy Genius Humble Plot Preparation Response Selfish Stop

Words	My Answer
1. Adversary	
2. Assert	
3. Conspire	
4. Elaborate	
5. Foresight	
6. Impart	
7. Modest	
8. Possessive	
9. Prodigy	
10. Relent	
11. Retort	

Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary

Answer each question in **1-2 complete sentences**. Make sure that you **use the underlined vocabulary word** in your answer.

1. Many fictional heroes have an evil adversary. Who is your favorite fictional adversary? Why?

2. What is one way you have seen a teacher assert their authority over a class? How did it make you feel?

3. Have you ever conspired against someone? What were you and your fellow conspirators trying to accomplish?

4. Do you like clothing that's elaborately decorated? Or do you prefer simpler, cleaner looks? Give an example.

5. Do you think foresight is an important quality in a leader? Explain why or why not.

6. What information about your school would you impart to an incoming 9th grade student next year?

7. Do you think modesty is an attractive quality in a person? Why or why not?

8. Do you have any belongings of which you are possessive? Explain why.

9. What do you think it would be like to have a sibling who was a prodigy? Do you think this would be easy or difficult? Explain.

10. Have your parents or teachers ever assigned you a punishment and then relented? What made them relent?

11. The French call it *l'esprit de l'escalier*: someone cracks a joke and you think of the perfect retort — but not until far too late. Has this ever happened to you? Why do you think it can be so hard to think of a funny retort in the moment?