

Multiple-Meaning Words

Question 1 .

assume \ə-'sūm\ *verb*

1. to take for granted or without proof
2. to try on or wear something
3. to take upon oneself, to place oneself in
4. to pretend to have or be; feign

What is the meaning of the word assume in this sentence?

Hans Fischer will assume the office of Chancellor in the month of April.

- ☐ A. definition 4
- ☐ B. definition 1
- ☐ C. definition 3
- ☐ D. definition 2

Question 2 .

Norman and Bella knew they were being followed. As they tried to bolt through the alley, they could hear the footsteps getting closer and closer. Norman panicked and wanted to shelter himself, but Bella had a brilliant idea. She picked up a nearby stick, waved it at the dogs, and tossed it. They immediately went for it, and Norman and Bella walked away relieved.

Using context clues, you can determine that shelter means what?

- ☐ A. a home
- ☐ B. to hide
- ☐ C. to surprise
- ☐ D. a dog

Question 3 .

essence (e-sən(t)s) *n.* [Latin]

1. the core personality
2. the important part of something (as in an argument)
3. a perfume
4. an oil extracted from a plant

What is the meaning of the word **essence** in the sentence below?

Geert is such a good photographer—he has a way of bringing out the **essence** of his models.

- ☐ A. definition 3
- ☐ B. definition 2
- ☐ C. definition 4
- ☐ D. definition 1

Question 4 .

The problem might stem from his lack of studying.

Which sentence uses the word stem as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. The instructor told Ricardo to stem his skis slightly.
- ☐ B. His joy must stem from the fact that Leska arrives today.
- ☐ C. The stem of the flower was much too long for the vase.
- ☐ D. The goblet's stem featured a row of inlaid crystals.

Question 5 .

Marcus told Megan that she had nothing but base motives.

Which sentence uses the word base as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. He told the painter that he wanted a green base.
- ☐ B. Do not base a claim on some mere observation.
- ☐ C. It was built on a base of solid limestone.
- ☐ D. She decided to turn her base lifestyle around.

Question 6 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which word in the passage also means "when one object in space is partially or completely obscured by another object in space?"

The Old Days

Last weekend when I rummaged through my grandmother's attic, I discovered a dusty radio. I asked my grandmother how old it was, and she informed me that she'd had it since her childhood. She said it was from a time before television eclipsed radio as the most used form of entertainment technology. She told me tales about how she and her siblings would lounge in front of the radio on Saturday mornings and listen to the elaborate storytellers. She missed those moments with her family because times were much simpler then. Now, she feels like we are all just pawns in the advancement of technology, and we don't spend enough time enjoying life.

Question 7 .

settle \ˈse-təl\ *verb*

1. to come to a decision
2. to establish a residence or colony
3. to conclude a lawsuit by agreement out of court
4. to close an account by making a payment

What is the meaning of the word settled in this sentence?

After checking out of the hotel, Amy settled the bill at the reception desk.

- ☐ A. definition 4
- ☐ B. definition 2
- ☐ C. definition 1
- ☐ D. definition 3

Question 8 .

Debby requested that her professor strike her name off the event registration because she would not be able to attend the seminar.

Which sentence uses the word strike as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. Sally heard the clock strike midnight and welcomed in the New Year.
- ☐ B. The worker strike had a negative impact on the profits of the company.
- ☐ C. After checking her grocery supplies, Liz decided to strike coffee off the list.
- ☐ D. David was disappointed to see his favorite baseball player strike out.

Question 9 .

Directions: Select ALL the correct answers.

Which **two** words from the paragraph help the reader understand the meaning of propel?

The sport of disc golf was first invented in 1926, though the modern equivalent wasn't developed and popularized until the late 1960s. Similar to golf, the object is to navigate a course in the least amount of strokes. However, disc golf relies on someone to hurl the disc, and rather than holes, disc golf uses baskets. Where courses were once rare, disc golf has become a popular pastime equal to the popularity of Ultimate, also a flying disc-based sport. The need to propel a disc across lush, green fields and parks helped double the number of disc golf courses in America between 2000 and 2008. Now, disc golf has its own professional organization and is played in over 40 countries. The sport of disc golf now has international tournaments to determine the best players, and now there are more courses than ever to test their throwing skills.

- ☐ throwing
- ☐ navigate
- ☐ courses
- ☐ developed
- ☐ hurl

Question 10 .

Mario was way too sharp to trick.

Which sentence uses the word sharp as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. A sharp whistle could be heard in the background.
- ☐ B. Kenneth was on a sharp lookout for shoplifters.
- ☐ C. You must be sharp if you wish to make the math team.
- ☐ D. The sharp, angular cliffs looked too daunting to scale.

Question 11 .

adapted from Jupiter: Moons
by NASA

Jupiter has 53 named moons. Fourteen more have been discovered but not given official status or names. Combined, scientists now think 67 moons revolve around Jupiter in unison. Jupiter's four largest moons are called the Galilean satellites after Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, who first observed them in 1610. They are Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

Io is the most volcanically active body in the solar system. Io's surface is covered by sulfur in different colorful forms. The scorching temperature on the moon's surface generates enough heat for volcanic activity and to drive off any water.

Europa's surface is mostly water ice, and there is evidence that it may be covering an ocean of water or slushy ice beneath. Europa is thought to have twice as much water as Earth. This aspect of Europa intrigues astrobiologists because of its potential for having a "habitable zone."

Ganymede is the largest moon in the solar system (larger than the planet Mercury) and is the only moon known to have its own internally generated magnetic field.

Callisto's surface is heavily cratered and ancient — a visible record of events from the early history of the solar system. However, the very few small craters on Callisto indicate a small degree of current surface activity.

Although the space between the moons seems void and inactive, three of the moons influence each other in an interesting way. Io is in a tug-of-war with Ganymede and Europa, and Europa's orbital period (time to go around Jupiter once) is twice Io's period, and Ganymede's period is twice that of Europa. In other words, every time Ganymede goes around Jupiter once, Europa makes two orbits and Io makes four orbits. The moons all keep the same face towards Jupiter as they orbit, meaning that each moon turns once on its axis for every orbit around Jupiter.

What does the word void mean as used in the passage?

- ☐ A. having no examples
- ☐ B. lacking intelligence
- ☐ C. not legally binding
- ☐ D. containing nothing

Question 12 .

Baking has become a popular activity and a career for many people. More and more home bakers are choosing to invest their time and money on mastering the art of baking and learning new and advanced techniques. Gone are the days when people would buy cakes that were readily available at bakeries. These days, baking is all about making custom cakes that are created and designed after many discussions with the customers. These cakes are exclusive to each client and have a unique appearance and taste.

As used in the passage, what does the word custom mean?

- ☐ A. fee for imports and exports
- ☐ B. made to a person's requirements
- ☐ C. habitual customers
- ☐ D. to be common to a group

Question 13 .

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What does the word aspect mean as used in the passage?

- ☐ A. the way in which time is indicated by a particular verb
- ☐ B. the positioning of a structure in a particular direction
- ☐ C. a relationship between celestial bodies in a particular horoscope
- ☐ D. a particular characteristic or feature of something

Question 14 .

The only piece of art in the bright yellow room was surprisingly grave.

Which sentence uses the word grave as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. The movie was too grave for most children to enjoy.
- ☐ B. There are grave consequences for speeding in a school zone.
- ☐ C. He grave the year of construction into the foundation stone.
- ☐ D. I visited Simone de Beavoir's grave when I was in Paris.

Question 15 .

A thin film of soap grime covered the shower door.

Which sentence uses the word film as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. Perhaps you should film Edith's performance Friday night.
- ☐ B. Jorge was dismayed to find that his camera was out of film.
- ☐ C. The piano was covered with a heavy film of dust.
- ☐ D. The film was both evocative and well-directed.

Question 16 .

Although Linda read the file carefully, she failed to understand article 374 mentioned in bold font. She headed to her lawyer's office to clarify what it meant so that she could decide if she wanted to buy the property.

What does the word article mean as it is used in the passage?

- ☐ A. a report in a newspaper
- ☐ B. a topic in grammar
- ☐ C. a commercial product
- ☐ D. a clause in an official document

Question 17 .

Directions: Select ALL the correct answers.

Which **two** words from the paragraph help the reader understand the meaning of equivalent?

The sport of disc golf was first invented in 1926, though the modern equivalent wasn't developed and popularized until the late 1960s. Similar to golf, the object is to navigate a course in the least amount of strokes. However, disc golf relies on someone to hurl the disc, and rather than holes, disc golf uses baskets. Where courses were once rare, disc golf has become a popular pastime equal to the popularity of Ultimate, also a flying disc-based sport. The need to propel a disc across lush, green fields and parks helped double the number of disc golf courses in America between 2000 and 2008. Now, disc golf has its own professional organization and is played in over 40 countries. The sport of disc golf now has international tournaments to determine the best players, and now there are more courses than ever to test their throwing skills.

- ☐ double
- ☐ similar
- ☐ equal
- ☐ determine
- ☐ pastime

Question 18 .

Painting

Painting is a form of art in which one uses different types of colors, textures, and brush strokes to create specific images on a canvas or even a digital surface. A painting can vary based on the type of colors that the painter uses. For example, painters use oil-based colors to create oil paintings and water-based colors to create watercolor paintings. While using watercolors, painters dilute colors using water and agitate the combination to create new shades. The genre of a painting also varies depending upon what is painted. Some painters prefer abstract forms of paintings, while some prefer realistic ones that mimic photographs of a person or a scene.

Understanding a painting and the thought process behind it is also a form of art. Some paintings may be quite complex, with layers of meanings to them. Although every painting depicts a certain theme, it is more challenging to understand themes in abstract art than in realistic art.

What does the word agitate mean as used in the passage?

- ☐ A. to trouble someone
- ☐ B. to make someone nervous
- ☐ C. to rapidly stir or mix a liquid
- ☐ D. to form a campaign for a cause

Question 19 .

She will tear that note to shreds after she reads it!

Which sentence uses the word tear as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. I have to be very careful not to tear my sister's silk skirt.
- ☐ B. She went on a tear after she found out what had happened.
- ☐ C. There is a small tear at the knees of her blue jeans.
- ☐ D. You could see a tiny tear in his eye after he sprained his ankle.

Question 20 .

Sandra was content reading a book on Friday nights.

Which sentence uses the word content as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. The inspector found that the mercury content was too high.
- ☐ B. The baby seemed content listening to the soothing music.
- ☐ C. Soy beans have a high protein content.
- ☐ D. The content of the magazine was quite stimulating.

Question 21 .

Frank was surprised that he got along so well with Derek, who was his distant cousin. They had met the previous day for the first time at an aunt's wedding. They shared a lot of common interests, so they bonded really well.

What does the word distant mean as it is used in the passage?

- ☐ A. far away
- ☐ B. reserved and aloof
- ☐ C. different in kind
- ☐ D. not directly related

Question 22 .

It is Margo's job to account for all of the funds.

Which sentence uses the word account as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. All you need is your telephone number and account information.
- ☐ B. You are the only person who can account for your actions.
- ☐ C. Lizette was the account manager for about thirteen years.
- ☐ D. My bank account is running disturbingly low.

Question 23 .

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As used in the passage, what does the word scorching mean?

- ☐ A. very fast
- ☐ B. getting burnt easily
- ☐ C. extremely hot
- ☐ D. harsh or rude

Question 24 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which word in the passage has multiple meanings and sometimes means "to brighten?"

The Study of Folklore
adapted from the Library of Congress

The study of folklore is the study of how community life and values are expressed through a wide variety of living traditions. These cultural practices illuminate who we are as a people. To most people, however, the term folklore suggests aspects of culture that are out-of-date. The term may even be used to describe something as unimportant or untrue, as in "that's just folklore." Modern folklorists believe that no aspect of culture is trivial, and that the impulse to make culture is universal among humans. Reflecting on their hardships and triumphs in song, story, ritual, and object, people everywhere shape cultural legacies meant to outlast each generation.

Question 25 .

Painting

Painting is a form of art in which one uses different types of colors, textures, and brush strokes to create specific images on a canvas or even a digital surface. A painting can vary based on the type of colors that the painter uses. For example, painters use oil-based colors to create oil paintings and water-based colors to create watercolor paintings. While using watercolors, painters dilute colors using water and agitate the combination to create new shades. The genre of a painting also varies depending upon what is painted. Some painters prefer abstract forms of paintings, while some prefer realistic ones that mimic photographs of a person or a scene.

Understanding a painting and the thought process behind it is also a form of art. Some paintings may be quite complex, with layers of meanings to them. Although every painting depicts a certain theme, it is more challenging to understand themes in abstract art than in realistic art.

What does the word abstract mean as used in the passage?

- ☐ A. an idea that does not have a concrete existence
- ☐ B. something that is detached and theoretical
- ☐ C. a summary of a book or a paper
- ☐ D. extraction or removal of something

Question 26 .

expose ('ik-'spOz) v. [French]

1. to leave without shelter, protection, or care
2. to put on display (as in a store window)
3. to make known (expose a dishonest scheme)
4. to reveal the face of a playing card

What is the meaning of the word **exposed** in the sentence below?

The politician's dishonesty was **exposed** to the public.

- ☐ A. definition 2
- ☐ B. definition 4
- ☐ C. definition 3
- ☐ D. definition 1

Question 27 .

keen ('kEn) *adj.* [English]

1. having a sharp edge or point
2. full of enthusiasm
3. having or showing mental sharpness
4. very nice

What is the meaning of the word **keen** in the sentence below?

Chris' teachers often compliment his **keen** mind.

- ☐ A. definition 1
- ☐ B. definition 4
- ☐ C. definition 3
- ☐ D. definition 2

Question 28 .

gallery \ˈga-lə-rē, ˈgal-rē\ *noun*

1. a building for exhibiting art and paintings
2. an outdoor balcony
3. spectators at a sporting event
4. a photographer's studio

What is the meaning of the word gallery in this sentence?

Justin had a clear view of the New York City skyline from the gallery of the Empire State Building.

- ☐ A. definition 3
- ☐ B. definition 2
- ☐ C. definition 1
- ☐ D. definition 4

Question 29 .

Norman and Bella knew they were being followed. As they tried to bolt through the alley, they could hear the footsteps getting closer and closer. Norman panicked and wanted to shelter himself, but Bella had a brilliant idea. She picked up a nearby stick, waved it at the dogs, and tossed it. They immediately went for it, and Norman and Bella walked away relieved.

Using context clues, you can determine that bolt means what?

- ☐ A. to tighten
- ☐ B. to work
- ☐ C. to run fast
- ☐ D. to fasten

Question 30 .

Her sound decisions made her successful in life.

Which sentence uses the word sound as it is used in the box above?

- ☐ A. "Please sound the alarm!" Sarah screamed.
- ☐ B. Rain on a tin roof is a pleasing sound.
- ☐ C. The decision was based on sound reasoning.
- ☐ D. The sound of birds makes me happy.