

EXERCISE 2 *Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A

- _____ 11. word: _____
v. to violate or disregard a law or an agreement; to trespass; to break in on
- _____ 12. word: _____
adj. seemingly desirable, reasonable, or true but not really so; having a deceptively good appearance; plausible
- _____ 13. word: _____
adj. outwardly professed; apparent; seeming
- _____ 14. word: _____
v. to declare free from guilt and blame; to set free from a promise or an obligation
- _____ 15. word: _____
v. to subdue; to conquer; to force to submit
- _____ 16. word: _____
n. any two places at directly opposite points on the earth; two opposite things
- _____ 17. word: _____
adj. applying to events that are past
- _____ 18. word: _____
n. a strong dislike; an aversion
- _____ 19. word: _____
n. a spiny or stinging plant *v.* to sting with, or as if with, a nettle; to cause sharp annoyance; to irritate
- _____ 20. word: _____
adj. poor; needy

COLUMN B

- (A) Kipling viewed Eastern and Western philosophies and lifestyles as complete opposites. He commented on the **antipodes** of Asian and European cultures in "The Ballad of East and West."
- (B) Kipling did not consider it a **specious** statement to say that "Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet. . . ." To him, the statement was utterly true and reasonable.
- (C) Kipling's interest in children's stories was not a **retroactive** desire stemming from unfinished business in his own childhood; it grew from his desire to make up stories for his own children.
- (D) In the story "The Elephant's Child," a young elephant is constantly punished for asking questions. He asks the Kolokolo Bird, who is sitting in a sharp **nettle**, to help him. The Kolokolo Bird looks down at him from its perch in the spiny plant.
- (E) The Kolokolo Bird appears to help the little elephant, but his **ostensibly** friendly advice really places the elephant child in danger, for the Kolokolo Bird sends him to visit the Crocodile.
- (F) So far in the story, the other animals have failed to **subjugate** the little elephant's curiosity and questioning, which seems to have no end. They don't know how to subdue such inquisitiveness.
- (G) They think that his never-ending questions **infringe** on their right to live in peace and quiet, trespassing on their privacy.
- (H) All the animals have an **antipathy** for the Elephant Child's curiosity, but he finds ways to get even for their dislike and mistreatment of him.
- (I) Eventually, when the little elephant comes home with something all of his relatives want, they **absolve** him, no longer blaming him for his curiosity.
- (J) The popularity of this story and others in *Just So Stories* brought Kipling a good income, so he was never **indigent**. In fact, he was probably among the most financially successful authors of his day.

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#8



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COLUMN A

COLUMN B

_____ 11. word: _____
adj. ordinary; commonplace; of this world
 (rather than the world beyond)

_____ 12. word: _____
n. a speech or piece of writing in praise of a person or thing, especially to honor one who has recently died; a tribute; praise

_____ 13. word: _____
n. children; offspring; descendants

_____ 14. word: _____
adj. abundant; plentiful; full of information; wordy

_____ 15. word: _____
n. the holding of an office; the length of time for which a position is held; the permanence of position granted to teachers, civil service employees, and others

_____ 16. word: _____
n. agreeableness of sound; pleasant combination of sounds in spoken words

_____ 17. word: _____
adj. giving out, capable of producing, or having a deep, rich sound

_____ 18. word: _____
n. self-denial; a giving up or a renunciation of rights

_____ 19. word: _____
adj. painfully felt; emotionally touching or moving; pointed; sharp

_____ 20. word: _____
adj. coming from outside; foreign; not necessary; irrelevant

(A) The story of Maria Edgeworth's life would make a **poignant** novel. I am always emotionally touched by true success stories.

(B) Edgeworth's father was an inventor and educator who had twenty-one **progeny**. Maria was his second child.

(C) Maria's childhood was not **mundane**; in fact, it was far from ordinary. Most children do not have the opportunity to grow up on an estate and be taught by their fathers.

(D) On the family estate in Ireland, Richard Edgeworth's lessons to his daughter were **copious**. She quickly absorbed the abundance of information.

(E) I imagine that a **sonorous** bell rang at the start of the Edgeworth children's lessons, its deep, rich sound filling the estate.

(F) Richard Edgeworth apparently believed in strength through the expansion of individual rights rather than the **abnegation** of rights. He did not believe that people should be made to renounce their rights.

(G) He exposed Maria to essential ideas from England as well as **extraneous** ideas from foreign lands, such as those of French philosophy.


(H) Although Richard Edgeworth was not a university professor with **tenure**, his lack of a professional position did not diminish the fact that he was an excellent teacher.

(I) Don't you think he has a nice-sounding name? I really like the **euphony** of his full name, Richard Lovell Edgeworth.

(J) I wonder if Maria wrote a **eulogy** about her father after his death. Even if she didn't, her career itself was a tribute to him and his inspiration.

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#9

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COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____
adj. used too often; stale from overuse; trite; clichéd

_____ 12. word: _____
n. a model of excellence or perfection; a perfect example of something

_____ 13. word: _____
v. to assign (as to a cause); to attribute; to think of as coming from or belonging to someone

_____ 14. word: _____
adj. unimportant; petty; trivial

_____ 15. word: _____
adj. without variety or excitement; monotonous; dull; commonplace

_____ 16. word: _____
v. to bring into being; to produce; to cause

_____ 17. word: _____
n. a personal peculiarity that is an identifying trait; a quirk

_____ 18. word: _____
n. a sad or mournful poem or song, often about someone who is dead

_____ 19. word: _____
n. a person who looks inward; a shy, quiet person

_____ 20. word: _____
n. a sermon, especially on something in the Bible; a long, often dull, moralizing talk or writing

COLUMN B

• **A** Austen's novels engendered, or caused, much interest in Austen herself, but she avoided literary circles and publicity. ✓

• **B** Although a private person, Austen apparently was not an introvert, because she was lively and outgoing among family and friends. ✓

• **C** What some people would regard as humdrum domestic duties occupied much of Austen's time. I wonder if she found them as monotonous as my friends and I would. ✓

• **D** We might not ascribe an interest in acting to Austen, but such an interest was very much a part of her character. ✓

• **E** She performed in home theatrical shows. Do you think this experience was important, or was it inconsequential to Austen as a novelist? ✓

• **F** Austen received much of her education from her father, a teacher and minister. I imagine that he was a serious, learned man who wrote long, scholarly homilies on Bible stories. ✓

• **G** Austen considered her older sister Cassandra to be a paragon of talent. She especially regarded Cassandra as a model comedy writer. ✓

• **H** The family may have regarded Austen's habit of writing in the sitting room as a peculiarity, but they tolerated this idiosyncrasy. ✓

• **I** No one could complain that Austen was writing hackneyed stories, because her work was never trite or unoriginal. ✓

• **J** Cassandra wrote lovingly, even poetically, of her sister, Jane. Do you know if Cassandra or another family member ever wrote an elegy to mourn Jane Austen's death in 1817? ✓

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#10

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COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____

v. to support or strengthen an idea or a statement; to attest to the truth of; to confirm

_____ 12. word: _____

n. a departure from the usual course; a deviation; an abnormal development

_____ 13. word: _____

adj. extremely demanding or difficult; requiring or having great courage or strength, like that possessed by Hercules

_____ 14. word: _____

n. a contemplation or survey of things that happened in the past

_____ 15. word: _____

n. a scarcity, as of food; a lack; too small a supply of something

_____ 16. word: _____

adj. standing out; easily seen or noticed; conspicuous; noticeable; prominent

_____ 17. word: _____

v. to decree or decide by law; to pass sentence

_____ 18. word: _____

adj. occurring every day; daily; occurring during the daytime

_____ 19. word: _____

n. openness; saying what one really thinks; frankness; impartiality

_____ 20. word: _____

adj. amusingly absurd; ridiculous

COLUMN B

(A) I once had a weird dream that I was sent to court in order for a jury to decide whether I was worthy of being sent to England to study Stonehenge. In the dream, the court **adjudged** that I was indeed qualified to research ancient British art.

(B) I don't think about my own past a lot, but in **retrospect**, I decided to study prehistoric British art because of that dream.

(C) I actually ended up going to Stonehenge the summer after I graduated from high school. Stonehenge is a gigantic **aberration**, an abnormal grouping of stones on the Salisbury Plain that is totally different from anything else around it.

(D) Can you imagine the **herculean** effort required to drag the fifty-ton sandstone blocks into place?

(E) There are many theories about the meaning and purpose of Stonehenge, but there is little physical evidence to **corroborate**, or confirm, these theories.

(F) Stonehenge may have been a temple to which Neolithic people made **diurnal** visits, perhaps to watch the sun rise every morning.

(G) There is a **dearth** of artistic markings on the stones, but a few still remain—carvings of a dagger and depictions of bronze axe heads, for example.

(H) These markings are difficult to see; they are not among Stonehenge's most **salient** features.

(I) Do you think it is **ludicrous** that people come from all over the world to see Stonehenge? I certainly do not—there is nothing absurd about admiring a work of art!

(J) As an art historian, what do I really think of Stonehenge? With complete **candor** I can say that it is magnificent.

Lesson 11

EXERCISE 2

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COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____

n. a skill; a clever device; a sly or artful trick; trickery

_____ 12. word: _____

n. the position or arrangement of parts or elements of something; a shape; an outline

_____ 13. word: _____

adj. giving strict attention to what is right or proper; exact and careful

_____ 14. word: _____

v. to infer by reasoning; to conclude from known facts and principles

_____ 15. word: _____

v. to prove that someone or something is false or incorrect; to disprove

_____ 16. word: _____

v. to catch the attention of, by beauty or excellence; to enchant; to fascinate; to charm; to attract

_____ 17. word: _____

n. a person who supports a cause or idea; someone who makes a proposition; an advocate

_____ 18. word: _____

adj. still in existence; not extinct, lost, or destroyed

_____ 19. word: _____

n. the use of clever talk or trickery to deceive or evade

_____ 20. word: _____

n. the practice of foretelling the future from signs and omens; an omen or a sign

COLUMN B

- (A) I marvel at the **artifices** used by the clever Roman artists who skillfully created life-size bronze busts.
- (B) A bronze head of the emperor Claudius, who defeated the Britons, shows **scrupulous** attention to proper proportions. The three-dimensional portrait is so exactly and carefully made, in fact, that it almost seems like a real face.
- (C) Unlike many other Roman rulers, who were known for using clever talk to deceive their subjects, Claudius is not known for **chicanery**.
- (D) From looking at the bronze head of Claudius, a viewer can **deduce** that Roman art was realistic. He or she might also infer that the Romans appreciated simplicity and directness.
- (E) It would be difficult to **refute**, or disprove, the evidence that early English sculptors were influenced by Roman artists.
- (F) The stone relief of the hideous monster Medusa, carved at Bath by an early English artist, still **captivates** visitors. The image is fascinating and unforgettable.
- (G) The arrangement of the locks of hair tangled with snakes around Medusa's face is an especially interesting **configuration**.
- (H) We're fortunate that the stone relief is still **extant** and that it wasn't destroyed after the Romans withdrew from Britain.
- (I) Some people may be opposed to spending money to uncover Roman artifacts in England, but I am a strong **proponent** of such efforts.
- (J) If I were a believer in such things, I would look for signs and omens and use **augury** to predict what wonderful discoveries may be found in the future!

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COLUMN A

- _____ 11. word: _____
adj. outgoing; sociable
- _____ 12. word: _____
n. high spirits; invigoration; excitement
- _____ 13. word: _____
n. an inheritance from one's father or ancestors; any heritage or legacy
- _____ 14. word: _____
adj. too ready to please, praise, or obey; servile; fawning
- _____ 15. word: _____
n. politeness; courtesy; a polite action
- _____ 16. word: _____
adj. closely related to the matter at hand; pertinent; to the point
- _____ 17. word: _____
adj. paying attention to the fine details of etiquette; meticulous; scrupulous; very exact
- _____ 18. word: _____
n. a minor weakness or fault; a minor but persistent personal failing; a shortcoming
- _____ 19. word: _____
n. someone who is an expert in some field, especially in art or in matters of taste
- _____ 20. word: _____
adj. showing unusually early development; mature or advanced for one's age

COLUMN B

- (A) A greatly appreciated **patrimony** left by my father's great-grandfather is a copy of Johnson's two-volume *Dictionary of the English Language*. Our family was fortunate to inherit it.
- (B) My father, who is an expert in lexicography as well as a **connoisseur** of rare books, keeps the dictionary in a safe.
- (C) My father was a **precocious** child and recalls memorizing definitions from the dictionary at the age of four.
- (D) I know more stories about my father's childhood, but they are not about lexicography and therefore would not be **germane** to this topic.
- (E) My mother says that my father's only **foible** is talking about dictionaries too much. I don't think this is a serious shortcoming at all!
- (F) He is very **gregarious**, and in social groups his outgoing tendencies are evident—he talks to complete strangers about dictionaries and literature.
- (G) His **exhilaration** about the subject, especially about Johnson's achievements, adds to my excitement about dictionaries.
- (H) Fortunately, at parties my father is **punctilious**, and, politely following the rules of etiquette, he always asks his listeners if they would like to hear about dictionaries. He does not want to bore anyone.
- (I) It is an act of **civility** to ask, and listeners seem to appreciate his politeness. Of course, they usually respond that they would like to hear what he has to say.
- (J) Some of the people are a little **obsequious**, and I'm not sure they really mean it when they praise his knowledge of dictionaries. They seem a little too eager to please him.

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COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____

n. a pouring forth; an unrestrained expression of feeling in talking or writing

_____ 12. word: _____

adj. complaining; faultfinding; peevish

_____ 13. word: _____

adj. very lenient; not strict enough; making allowances

_____ 14. word: _____

n. an open, intentional insult; *v.* to insult openly; to offend

_____ 15. word: _____

adj. favorable; favorably inclined

_____ 16. word: _____

adj. extremely generous; very liberal and lavish in giving

_____ 17. word: _____

n. a loud or coarse burst of laughter; a horselaugh; *v.* to laugh loudly or coarsely

_____ 18. word: _____

v. to surrender on certain terms; to give up; to yield; to stop resisting

_____ 19. word: _____

n. a person who amuses people with tricks, pranks, and jokes; a clown

_____ 20. word: _____

adj. noble in spirit; generous in forgiving; unselfish; rising above petty, mean concerns

COLUMN B

- (A) Mike's question about slave labor in the colonies began another **effusion** of comments, and soon everyone was bursting forth with ideas and questions.
- (B) Mr. Tucker answered that slavery is never a **propitious** condition. It is always wrong to keep people in the unfavorable state of bondage, he stated firmly.
- (C) Joy, whose great-great-grandparents were slaves, said that the slaves' masters were not **indulgent**. In fact, they were usually very strict.
- (D) "I take it as an **affront** that you would say that about slavery," she told Mike. "Even if you didn't mean it that way, it still sounded insulting."
- (E) "Lucky for you, I'm **magnanimous** enough to forgive you," Joy continued.
- (F) "Yeah, but not lucky for us—it robs us of the entertaining spectacle of seeing you clobber him," said Charlie with a loud **guffaw** that broke the tension. Other team members started to laugh.
- (G) "I didn't mean anything by it," said Mike in a **querulous** tone that plainly showed he was still peevish.
- (H) "So what finally happened to Wilber Horse?" asked Charlie, never missing a chance to be a **buffoon** and make us laugh.
- (I) "He died a month before Parliament **capitulated** completely, surrendering to his demands and abolishing the slave trade," Mr. Tucker replied.
- (J) "It's a shame that he was not alive when Parliament abolished slavery," said Joy. "Wilberforce was **munificent**, generously giving so much time and energy to the cause."