

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: _____
n. the expanse of the heavens; the sky
- _____ 12. word: _____
v. to be a sign or omen of; to portend
- _____ 13. word: _____
n. a long, heavy, protective glove; a metal-plated glove, part of a knight's armor
- _____ 14. word: _____
adj. marked with spots, blotches, or streaks of different colors
- _____ 15. word: _____
n. a wrong name; an error in naming a person, place, or thing
- _____ 16. word: _____
n. solid earth; firm ground
- _____ 17. word: _____
v. to polish; to make shiny by rubbing; *n.* a glossy finish; a luster
- _____ 18. word: _____
adj. intended for or understood by only a few; confidential; private
- _____ 19. word: _____
v. to give according to measure or one's judgement; to allot or distribute
- _____ 20. word: _____
v. to compel; to force; to dominate or restrain by force

COLUMN B

- (A) "Your gloves don't look sturdy enough for that work," I told Tom. "What you need is a knight's metal **gauntlet**!"
- (B) "These poles will do," Tom said, pointing to long instruments that he had brought with him. He must have **burnished** them because they shone.
- (C) "Isn't it a **misnomer** to call you a chimney sweep?" I asked. "I mean, you don't really sweep the chimney."
- (D) "Well, sweeping is cleaning, and I'm cleaning with the stiff brush on this pole," Tom replied, pausing to watch a plane streak across the **firmament** which was becoming cloudy.
- (E) "I'd better hurry," he said. "Those clouds signal a change in the weather—they may **bode** more snow."
- (F) Spots of soot covered Tom's face. His **mottled** face and tired expression looked comical in the moonlight.
- (G) "If I could, I'd stay up on a roof all day and all night," Tom said with a sigh as he climbed down the ladder to **terra firma**.
- (H) Tom motioned me to him as if he were going to give me some **esoteric** or confidential bit of knowledge.
- (I) "I have some advice to **mete** out to you—burn your wood hotter and clean your chimney more often," Tom said.
- (J) "I can't **coerce** you into getting your chimney cleaned regularly," he continued, "but what has happened tonight should compel you to do so."

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: _____

n. a riddle or puzzle; something puzzling or unexplainable; a mystery

_____ 12. word: _____

adj. very large; capable of filling volumes

_____ 13. word: _____

n. great fear or shock that leaves one confused and bewildered; great dismay

_____ 14. word: _____

adj. sharp or bitter in language or manner

_____ 15. word: _____

n. something or someone that goes before and indicates what is to follow; a forerunner

_____ 16. word: _____

v. to waste away; to wither; *n.* a wasting away, especially of a part or parts of the body

_____ 17. word: _____

v. to interpret; to set forth or explain in detail

_____ 18. word: _____

n. a desire to do good; an act of kindness or charity

_____ 19. word: _____

n. to stop doing something; to cease; to abstain

_____ 20. word: _____

adj. fond of talking; talkative

COLUMN B

- (A) "Please **expound** to me, if you can, your reasons for disliking clocks," Thomas said to Eric. "I'd like to hear the details."
- (B) "If you must have help telling time, what is wrong with using a sundial?" Eric snapped. His **acrimonious** manner startled Thomas, who was not used to hearing a sharp and bitter tone from his friend.
- (C) "It's no mystery: It's obvious that sundials are not practical on cloudy days," Thomas quickly replied. "Surely you can understand that people might prefer a time-telling instrument that can be used in all times and conditions. Why is this such an **enigma** to you?"
- (D) "The mayor owns **voluminous** manuscripts about clocks," Eric said, "enough to fill a library. He should have much information about water clocks."
- (E) "But everyone knows water clocks freeze," Thomas said in some **consternation**. He was shocked and surprised that Eric was so stubborn and single-minded on this subject.
- (F) "You should **desist** from trying to think up substitutes for the mechanical clock," Thomas continued, "and cease your criticisms of clocks."
- (G) "I think you should go visit the **loquacious** Mayor Goodman. As you know, he will gladly talk to you at length about clocks—or anything else, for that matter," Thomas said.
- (H) "Mayor Goodman is a **precursor** of the coming mechanized world in which machines will tell us what to do," Eric said. "He's the forerunner of a way of life that I want nothing to do with."
- (I) "Just as your muscles will **atrophy** if you don't exercise them," Eric continued, "your mind will weaken and waste away if you don't use it."
- (J) "I appreciate your **benevolence**, Thomas," Eric said. "You are a good-hearted person who truly believes that mechanization will improve our lives. But I don't agree with your views."

HRW material copyrighted under notice appearing earlier in this work.

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 the 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: _____
n. evenness of mind or temper; calmness; composure
- _____ 12. word: _____
adj. capable of being held or defended; defensible
- _____ 13. word: _____
adj. much too great; excessive; immoderate
- _____ 14. word: _____
v. to declare to be true; to state positively
- _____ 15. word: _____
adj. concerning money; in the form of money
- _____ 16. word: _____
n. an inhabitant; a person, a plant, or an animal at home in a particular region
- _____ 17. word: _____
adj. unpredictably changeable; quick and changeable in character
- _____ 18. word: _____
adj. careful and attentive; persevering
- _____ 19. word: _____
n. sin; wickedness; injustice
- _____ 20. word: _____
n. a temporary or final ceasing; a pause or stop

COLUMN B

- (A) The **denizens** around the Thames—wild animals such as birds, badgers, and hedgehogs—were affected by the construction of a huge electrical power station in southeast London.
- (B) S. Z. de Ferranti (1864–1930) was the **assiduous** engineer of the station. Through careful planning and perseverance he was able to begin construction in 1888.
- (C) De Ferranti’s London Electric Supply Company did not take an **inordinate** amount of time to build the station; it took only two years.
- (D) Historians **aver** that the venture was a failure, but they also declare that it was a partial model for future electrical stations.
- (E) Your statement that customers were unhappy with disruptions of the electrical supply is **tenable**—company records support it.
- (F) The company’s failure did not mean a **cessation** of interest in electricity. On the contrary, interest grew.
- (G) Electricity seemed to have won steady favor with the British people. The usually **mercurial** public was, for once, unchangeable and stable in its desires. As a result, power stations were common by 1903.
- (H) You can imagine the **pecuniary** interests in the growing electrical industry. There was much money to be made, and profits would grow with supply and demand.
- (I) Did pioneering companies in electricity proceed with **equanimity** as they expanded and consolidated? Or was their calmness and evenness of mind disrupted by greed and the promise of profits?
- (J) Some **iniquities** surely occurred in the electric companies’ growth period, but my resource book mentions very few instances of injustices during the boom years.

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 excuse or serve as an excuse; to make the magnitude of something, such as a guilt, fault or offense, seem less

_____ 12. word: _____

n. the use of force or threats to compel someone to act in a certain manner; coercion

_____ 13. word: _____

v. to quiet; to put down or suppress by force; to put an end to something

_____ 14. word: _____

v. to imprison; to confine

_____ 15. word: _____

v. to win over; to appease; to gain good will or favor by being friendly

_____ 16. word: _____

adj. faultless; without flaw; incapable of wrongdoing

_____ 17. word: _____

n. something that follows once something else has been proven; a deduction; a natural consequence; a result

_____ 18. word: _____

n. too great a desire for money and property; greed

_____ 19. word: _____

n. a narrow or deep split, crack, or opening;
v. to split or break open; to break into parts

_____ 20. word: _____

v. to advocate or support a cause; to take up; to marry

COLUMN B

- (A) "I can definitely see flaws in the plan," said Mark. "You're right to say that it was not **impeccable**."
- (B) "Yes," I said. "There are reasons why Napoleon's engineers had **quelled**, or suppressed, his canal plans years earlier."
- (C) "The engineers said that the Red and Mediterranean seas were at different levels. Under **duress**, Napoleon was forced to agree," I continued.
- (D) "In his **avarice** and greed, Napoleon became convinced that it would be foolish to throw away money on the project."
- (E) "But de Lesseps knew that the two seas were on the same level," I said. "He managed to win people over to his views, to **conciliate** them with his knowledge and friendliness."
- (F) "As the **fissure** for the canal grew and no problems occurred with the narrow opening, more people became convinced that the project should continue."
- (G) "By the time the canal opened in 1869," I informed the group, "many people had **espoused** its construction, supporting de Lesseps' efforts."
- (H) "As a **corollary**, or result, the opening of the canal was a gala event. The Italian composer Verdi composed his opera *Aida* especially for the occasion."
- (I) "The canal was a financial success," I concluded. "This **extenuated** Britain's doubt about the project, lessening its wariness."
- (J) "But I've heard that some of Egypt's leaders were in danger of being jailed or **incarcerated** for debt," said Faith. "How could the canal have been a financial success?"

HRW material copyrighted under notice appearing earlier in this work.