

SAMPLE PAGES
from
The Competitive Edge

Passing the
EOG 6 in Reading

❖ *SECOND EDITION* ❖

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VOCABULARY

➤ *Understanding Prefixes*

A **base word** is a complete word that has no syllables attached to it. New words are made from base words plus other syllables. If the syllables are placed before the base word, they are called **prefixes**.

A prefix is a syllable or syllables added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning.

EXAMPLES

Prefix	Meaning	New Word
bi-	two, twice	biplane
dis-	away, off, lack of, not	disbelieve
ex-	former	ex-ballplayer
extra-	outside of, beyond	extrasensory
fore-	before, in front of, ahead	forehead
il-	not	illegal
im-	not	impossible
in-	not	incomplete
ir-	not	irresponsible
mis-	badly, wrong, not	miscalculate
over-	too much, above	overboard
post-	after	postdate
pre-	before	preheat
re-	back, again	retry
semi-	half of, partly	semiconductor
tri-	three	triangle
un-	not	unheard
un-	opposite of	unlatch

➤ *Understanding Suffixes*

Syllables added to the ends of base words are called **suffixes**.

A suffix is a syllable or syllables added to the end of a base word. A suffix changes the base word's part of speech and sometimes its meaning.

EXAMPLES

Suffix	Meaning	New Word
-able	ability to do	treatable
-ible	able to	tangible
-ful	full of	hopeful
-ish	after the manner of	sheepish
-less	without	childless
-ous	full of	wonderous
-y	inclined to be	mousy
-er	someone who performs an action	banker
-ion	state or condition	completion
-ment	action or state	encouragement
-ness	state of being	kindness
-self	person	himself
-en	causing to be	deepen
-ly	in a specific manner	shortly

➤ ***Understanding Roots***

Roots are like base words in that you can add prefixes, suffixes, and even other roots or base words to them. They are unlike base words since they are only word *parts*, not whole words.

A **root** is a word part that can be combined with prefixes, suffixes, base words, and other roots to form new words.

EXAMPLES

Root Word	Meaning	New Word
aud, audio	hear	audition
auto	self	autocrat
bio	life	biography
geo	earth	geothermal
gram, graph (y)	write	telegraph
kilo	thousand	kilowatt
log, logy	study of	mineralogy
meter	measure	centimeter
micro	small	microchip
multi	many	multicolored
phone, phono	hear	radiophone
photo	light	photosynthesis
scope, scopy	see	microscope
therm, thermo	heat	thermometer
tele	far	telephone

PRACTICE

Circle the prefix, suffix, or root word(s). Write the meaning of each word.

1. imbalance _____
2. distrust _____
3. foreground _____
4. illegal _____
5. overweight _____
6. bicycle _____
7. misplace _____
8. nonsense _____
9. unlock _____
10. precook _____
11. thicken _____
12. joyous _____
13. sooty _____
14. myself _____
15. helpless _____
16. wonderful _____
17. government _____
18. childish _____
19. farmer _____
20. revisit _____

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21. multimedia _____
22. kilometer _____
23. geology _____
24. photograph _____
25. autobiography _____
26. microscope _____
27. thermometer _____
28. thermal _____
29. biology _____
30. telegram _____

➤ *Meanings of Words*

In many selection, you will find words whose meaning you do not know. How can you find the meanings of these words without using a dictionary? Look for clues in the sentence.

EXAMPLE

1. Straight ahead, sheer cliffs rose out of the earth, reaching an unbelievable height.

What is the meaning of sheer?

2. Chuck received an artificial limb when he lost his leg in the Vietnam War.

What is the meaning of artificial?

For question 1, you should have answered *steep* as the meaning of sheer. The clue was “an unbelievable height.”

For question 2, you should have answered *made by man* or *imitation* for the meaning of artificial. The clue was “lost his leg.”

PRACTICE

Write the meaning of each word and the clue that helped you find the meaning.

1. The singer strained to reach the high note.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

2. The loud music blared from the radio.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

3. Mary's father is a pilot, and he flies a large jet.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

4. The flippers of a whale balance the creature and keep it level.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

5. Rays, sharks, and whales feed on plankton.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

6. The aquarium features fish from the nearby ocean waters.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

7. Inside the apartment, we keep a roaring fire ablaze.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

8. Marlowe had an idea; she gave it much thought.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

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9. The sudden gust of wind bent the trees double in the backyard.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

10. The art instructor taught the students about primary colors.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

11. Natalie did not like the ugly, old, antique china her grandmother left her.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

12. Crocodiles inhabit the African waterways and have lived there for centuries.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

13. Many plants were thriving in the fertile soil and had grown 3 inches.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

14. The cork floated on the water waiting for a fish to nibble the worm.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

15. The eruption of the volcano blew out the left side of the mountain.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

16. There was not a building standing among the ruins.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

17. The bitter chocolate tasted terrible to the small toddler.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

18. The carrots had not been cooked, so we ate them raw.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

19. The lemon towels dyed all of my clothes a pale yellow in the washer.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

20. The duck's feathers will be quite warm in the down jacket.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

21. The climate of France is varied with many different temperature ranges.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

22. Our prey knew that it was being hunted and hid.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

➤ Analogies

Whenever you try to figure out what several things have in common, you are making an **analogy**. Analogies show the relationships between things.

EXAMPLE

Shut is to close as jump is to _____ .

shut : close

jump: _____

These relationships are synonyms so the answer would be leap. Shut is the same as close, and jump is the same as leap.

PRACTICE

Write the relationship that exists between each pair of items.

1. bass, fish _____
2. propane, grill _____
3. ship, water _____
4. astronaut, space _____
5. flake, snow _____
6. ice, power outage _____
7. flour, biscuits _____
8. hear, here _____
9. moon, sky _____
10. sunny, cloudy _____

Complete each of the analogies.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 11. eleven : twenty-two | thirteen : _____ |
| 12. stall : barn | bedroom : _____ |
| 13. horse : neigh | dog : _____ |
| 14. complete : start | tomorrow : _____ |
| 15. piano : pianist | stethoscope : _____ |
| 16. moccasins : feet | beret : _____ |
| 17. produce : make | ruin : _____ |
| 18. Persian : cat | Arabian : _____ |
| 19. pie : bakery | hamburger : _____ |
| 20. ice : cold | steam : _____ |

➤ Review

Read each selection and answer the “vocabulary” questions.

LARGE TURTLE

The little village of *Murphy* ... lies at the junction of the Owassa and Valley rivers, and in point of location is one of the prettiest places in the world. Its Indian name was *Klausuna*, or the *Large Turtle*. It was so called, says a Cherokee legend, on account of its being the *sunning* place of an immense turtle which lived in its vicinity in ancient times. The turtle was particularly famous for its *repelling* power, having been known not to be at all injured by a stroke of lightning. Nothing on earth had power to annihilate the creature; but, on account of the many attempts to take its life, when it was known to be a harmless and inoffensive creature, it became disgusted with this world, and burrowed its way into the middle of the earth, where it now lives in peace.

—Charles Lanman

1. What is the meaning of “junction” in the first sentence?
 - a. mix
 - b. to deceive
 - c. where things meet
 - d. land in the tropics
2. Based on the context of this paragraph, what is vicinity?
 - a. evil
 - b. someone injured
 - c. neighborhood
 - d. winner
3. What does the author mean when he writes “annihilate the creature”?
 - a. destroy the turtle
 - b. annoy the turtle
 - c. measure the turtle
 - d. plant the turtle
4. Inoffensive means _____.
 - a. causing pain
 - b. causing no anger
 - c. in the offense
 - d. unpleasant
5. Which of the following relationships is most similar to the relationship below?

ancient : old

 - a. burrowed : dug
 - b. covered : uncovered
 - c. offense : defense
 - d. pleasant : unpleasant

ROAN MOUNTAIN AND ITS MUSIC

1 All sorts of strange things are told about Roan Mountain, a mile-high peak in Mitchell County lying astride the dividing line between Tennessee and North Carolina.

2 For one thing, it is a mountain “bald,” and no trees grow on the top of it. The story is told that the Catawba Indians once challenged all their enemies to come there and fight. Though the Catawbas won in three gory battles, so much blood was shed that the trees withered away and never grew back, and the rhododendron which gradually took hold on the heights had blossoms mostly crimson in hue.

3 Sometimes the fierce wind pounds the mountain so hard that it blows holes in the northwest side. Or so it is said. On calmer days, after a thunderstorm, a rainbow appears—not a semicircular one, but a completely round one.

4 And what about the ghostly music that early travelers heard? To some it seemed like the humming of a thousand bees. Others thought it sounded rather like the constant low snapping of one glass jar upon another and was merely an electrical phenomenon resulting from two powerful winds meeting head-on in a narrow gap on the mountain.

5 Yet no scientific explanation has ever convinced the local folk that it is not the heavenly melody of angels practicing for Judgement Day.

6. What is the meaning of “astride” in the first sentence?
- a. off the right way
 - b. sideways
 - c. with one section on each side
 - d. athletic

7. Mountain “bald” means _____.
- a. hairless
 - b. offensive
 - c. tailless
 - d. having no trees
8. Another word for “crimson” is _____.
- a. criminal
 - b. red
 - c. wrinkle
 - d. deep
9. What is meant by “semicircular”?
- a. half a circle
 - b. a circle
 - c. small circle
 - d. large circle
10. What does the author refer to when he writes “gory battles”?
- a. beautiful victories
 - b. large wars
 - c. bloody fighting
 - d. hallow trench for fighting
11. Based on the context of paragraph 4, what is a phenomenon?
- a. large bird
 - b. photo
 - c. stage of development
 - d. extraordinary event

THE PLEADING HAND

Henderson County has a restless wraith who frequents the highways. She watches passing vehicles and keeps to paths that are near the main arteries of travel. Strollers on those paths have been known to feel a cold hand laid suddenly on an arm, and turn to see a face, with mournful eyes. Travelers—back in horse-and-buggy days and on into the automobile era—have sometimes been surprised to find a seat beside them—which they had thought empty—occupied by the lovely phantom with the sad face. Such a discovery is made when a cold hand tugs at sleeve or pocket, pleading for something. Never a sound has she been known to utter; so no one knows what it is she seeks.

12. What is a “restless wraith”?
- young girl
 - ghost who is not at peace
 - uneasy story
 - frightening experience
13. What does the author refer to when he writes “arteries of travel”?
- main roads
 - veins
 - bloodlike
 - carry away from the heart
14. Which of the following relationships is most similar to the relationship below?
- black : ebony
- cold : hot
 - frightening : funny
 - mournful : sorrowful
 - yellow : green
15. What is the meaning of phantom?
- king
 - something that appears real
 - queen
 - prince-like
16. Another word for utter is _____.
- weep
 - laugh
 - producer of milk
 - express

MYSTERY SHIP OF DIAMOND SHOALS

On the cold morning of January 31, 1921, a lookout at the Cape Hatteras Coast Guard Station reported that a five-masted schooner was stranded offshore on Diamond Shoals “with all sails set.” Two boats went to her rescue, but the breakers were so turbulent that they could get only close enough to call out her name: *Carroll A. Deering*. There was no sign of a crew, and her lifeboats were missing. When she was finally boarded four days later, charts were found in disarray in the skipper’s bathroom, and food, prepared but never eaten, was set out in the galley. The only thing alive was an unhappy, lonesome meowing yellow cat. Three weeks later the *Deering* was dynamited as a danger to shipping. What had happened?

Only a few facts have come to light. The *Deering* sailed from Boston in September, 1920, for Buenos Aires. Off Delaware the captain became sick and was replaced. Months later she began her homeward voyage from Buenos Aires, with Norfolk her destined port. In the West Indies the new captain told a friend he had no confidence in his crew. Later, the schooner lost her anchors in a storm somewhere off the mouth of the Cape Fear River. She was in trouble.

Was there a mutiny? Did the crew murder their unpopular captain and leave the ship in their lifeboats? Perhaps that is what happened. Or was the *Deering* captured by Russian pirates? For a while, rumor said that such was the case. A more likely story is that the disabled vessel, upon being stranded on Diamond Shoals, was abandoned by the captain and her eleven crewman, and that subsequently the lifeboats were wrecked with all lives lost. Maybe so, but why were they in such a hurry that they left freshly cooked food untouched on their plates in the galley?

17. What is a schooner?
 - a. mast
 - b. fish
 - c. mug for drinking
 - d. ship

18. What is the author referring to when he says “with all sails set”?
 - a. all sails down
 - b. no sails
 - c. sails on fire
 - d. all sails up

19. Disarray means _____.
 - a. organized
 - b. messy
 - c. missing
 - d. unfinished

20. Based on the context of paragraph 2, what is another word for confidence?
 - a. limit
 - b. proof
 - c. faith
 - d. secret

21. What is a mutiny?
 - a. sheep meat
 - b. dog
 - c. deafness
 - d. rebellion

22. *Anchors* means what in this selection?
 - a. fasten
 - b. fish
 - c. robot
 - d. metal device to hold a ship steady

CELESTIAL PATTERNS

When we look at the sky today, we no longer see it the way our early ancestors did. We dismiss the sun and the moon as ordinary, commonplace things. When people such as the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians looked at the sky, they saw gods, sources of warmth and light, gods to guide their journeys, gods to foretell the seasons, gods who could be seen and trusted to cycle and recycle through the heavens. It is easy to understand why the sun and the moon were regarded as divine. Human beings receive a large amount of all their information about the external world from the light reaching their eyes. Thus sunlight, either directly or when reflected from the moon, is very important, and the sun and moon can become divine as bringers of light. We still use many of the words and metaphors that once belonged to sun worship. The sky is still referred to as “heaven” or “the heavens.”

23. In the title, what is meant by “celestial”?
- a famous person
 - a plant
 - of the sky
 - observance
24. Which of the following relationships is most similar to the relationship below?
- warmth : heat
- cycle : recycle
 - ancestors : descendants
 - directly : indirectly
 - sun : moon
25. Commonplace means _____.
- in common
 - ordinary
 - very remarkable
 - modern
26. What are “beings of light”?
- sun and moon
 - electricity
 - fluorescent lighting
 - wattage
27. In this selection, what is the meaning of foretell?
- forthright
 - past tense
 - predict
 - in the front

CARL SAGAN

As soon as I was old enough, my parents gave me my first library card. I think the library was on 85th Street, an alien land. Immediately, I asked the librarian for something on stars. She returned with a picture book displaying portraits of men and women with names like Clark Gable and Jean Harlow. I complained, and for some reason then obscure to me, she smiled and found another book—the right kind of book. I opened it breathlessly and read until I found it. The book said something astonishing, a very big thought. It said that the stars were suns, only very far away. The Sun was a star, but close up.

—Carl Sagan in *Cosmos*

28. What “stars” are the author referring to in this quote?
- a. movie makers
 - b. heavenly bodies
 - c. figures
 - d. fields
29. Based on the context of this quote, what does obscure mean?
- a. hidden
 - b. dark
 - c. understood
 - d. practice
30. What is meant by “opened it breathlessly”?
- a. frightened
 - b. sadly
 - c. excited
 - d. seriously

31. Alien refers to _____.
- a. foreign
 - b. UFO
 - c. familiar
 - d. same

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

At the close of the Civil War, the United States embarked on a new adventure and never looked back. The new adventure was the US version of the Industrial Revolution. The US possessed all of the prerequisites needed, such as abundant natural resources, capital to finance the venture, and a labor force. The United States produced inventors by the dozens and made them American heroes. Immigrants poured into the country to fill its factories and transportation was improved by the expansion of railroads. The growing population provided the markets that were needed.

Captains of industry became new heroes. Cornelius Vanderbilt had an empire of shipping and railroads. Andrew Carnegie became a steel magnate, starting the company that was a fore-runner of US Steel. John D. Rockefeller and his brothers started Standard Oil which had a near monopoly on oil in the US. Thomas Edison, often called the Wizard of Menlo Park, became a folk hero due to his many inventions dealing with electricity. His best-known invention was the incandescent light bulb, which converted electricity into light. This stable, controllable light soon light factories all over the US.

Other inventions which helped fuel industrialization were the Bessemer process which provided a method to produce large quantities of steel at a reasonable price. The invention of refrigeration enabled meat packers to ship their product throughout the US and changed the way Americans ate. Chicago became the center of the meat-packing industry. By the turn of the century, the US was fast on its way to being the most industrialized nation in the world.

32. In the opening sentence, what is meant by “embarked”?
- removed bark
 - come home
 - passengers
 - started out
33. What are prerequisites?
- skin
 - rights
 - things that are required
 - exercises
34. Which of the following relationships is most similar to the relationship below?
- convert : change
- partner : single
 - project : method
 - venture : undertaking
 - air : water
35. What is a “steel magnate”?
- steel building
 - bird
 - very powerful and influential person
 - ship
36. Based on the context of paragraph 2, what is a monopoly?
- sole control
 - board game
 - train
 - use of all
37. What does the author mean when he says Thomas Edison is the “Wizard of Menlo Park”?
- has magical power
 - clever person
 - casts spells
 - tells fairy tales
38. What is the meaning of meat-packing?
- sausage
 - freezer
 - butcher
 - slaughterhouse

SALMONELLA FOOD POISONING

Salmonella is a food-borne bacterium and the microorganism has to reproduce in your intestinal tract to cause illness. Salmonella is found in raw meats, especially poultry, eggs, fish, and in milk and milk products. Salmonella can be destroyed by thorough cooking of foods. After cooking or when storing uncooked foods, it is very important that the food be refrigerated during holding. If a food is not cooked thoroughly or is held at the wrong temperature, a few surviving food-borne organisms can eventually reach your intestinal tract where they can reproduce and thrive. Because these organisms must grow in your intestine, the onset of symptoms is usually 18-36 hours after eating the suspected food. The symptoms of Salmonella poisoning include nausea, headaches, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea. This infection can be fatal in infants, the elderly, and the ill. In healthy individuals, symptoms usually abate after three to five days.

39. Food-borne means _____.
- a. the birth of food
 - b. carried by food
 - c. food containers
 - d. related to vegetables
40. What is the meaning of onset in this selection?
- a. set out
 - b. on the set
 - c. at the end
 - d. beginning
41. What is abate?
- a. begin
 - b. lessen
 - c. build
 - d. return