

Vocabulary Power



Lesson 17 Using Context Clues

Remembering can involve memorizing information for a test or recalling an event when you smell popcorn or hear a song. Whether you are trying to recover a lost fact or a forgotten name on the tip of your tongue, you are making every effort to locate something that you have stored in your brain. The words in this lesson will help you to write and speak about the process of remembering.

Word List

adept

confound

diligent

tantalize

axiom

cumulative

superlative

unerring

complement

delve

EXERCISE A Context Clues

Write the vocabulary word that best matches each clue below.

1. This type of person would take the time needed to recall information accurately. He or she is hardworking and careful. _____
2. Mouthwatering cakes and pies displayed behind the window of a closed bakery might do this to some people. _____
3. This kind of person may not have any difficulty remembering facts, places, or people. He or she is very skilled or proficient. _____
4. Having to spell an unfamiliar word might do this to a contestant in a spelling bee. _____
5. This kind of experience is one you remember because it surpasses all others. _____
6. This information is an established rule, principle, or law that is universally recognized. _____
7. This kind of activity will help uncover information that is deeply buried. _____
8. Your final exam may be considered this when it combines material from last semester with what you have studied this semester. _____
9. This is something that completes something else or brings it to perfection. _____
10. This kind of person is frequently right on target. He or she tends to be sure and exact when doing something. _____

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EXERCISE B Multiple-Meaning Words

Consider the multiple definitions of the vocabulary words in the following sentences. Circle the word in each set of parentheses that best completes the sentence.

1. She told Stan he was a(n) (cumulative, axiom, diligent) helper.
2. The Law of Gravity is a(n) (axiom, complement, superlative) that you can easily test for yourself.



Vocabulary Power *continued*

- An attractively set table can (delve, confound, complement) a well-prepared meal.
- Geometry and physics seemed to (tantalize, delve, confound) Martin because he could not visualize what he did not see in front of him.
- He is considered highly (axiom, adept, cumulative) in his field of psychology.
- The (complement, axiom, confound) of soldiers marched impressively at his back.
- In an attempt to (delve, complement, confound) his pursuers, the fugitive swam the river.
- Joe has often said that attending the rock opera, *Tommy*, was a(n) (unerring, superlative, diligent) experience in the theater.
- The Marantzes were (adept, unerring, superlative) enough to do the tango but too shy to do it at their daughter's wedding.
- Many medications have a(n) (adept, superlative, cumulative) effect, because they are stored in the body for several weeks until they start working correctly.

EXERCISE C Usage

Draw a line through the italicized word or phrase. Above it, write the correct vocabulary word that can replace it.

- Einstein's formula $E=MC^2$ is a(n) *universally recognized truth*.
- Genealogists use old diaries and documents to *dig or search* into past and present family connections.
- Mrs. Jacobson liked to *tease* the cat with chicken and pieces of hot dog.
- Diving in water with poor visibility can *perplex* even the most experienced divers because it is difficult to distinguish up from down.
- A 30° angle can *complete* a 60° angle to form a right angle.
- Once you become *very skilled* at waltzing you will probably not need to count the steps so carefully.
- Debbie could not think of enough comments that were *superior to all others* to explain her appreciation of the author's discussion.
- The librarians are looking for *hardworking* volunteers who will not be distracted from their work.
- Because of Carmichael's dedication and his *faultless* sense of style, the house was gorgeously redecorated.
- The final exam is not *increasing in size by successive additions*; it covers only the material we have studied this semester.