

## Vocabulary Via Context Clues

Directions: Use context clues in each of the following sentences to determine the meaning of the word. *First*, circle the word or words in each sentence that best help(s) you to figure out the meaning of the underlined word. The word(s) you circle might be either similar or opposite in meaning to the underlined word. *Second*, answer the question below that passage by circling the correct letter.

Lily suspected Mr. House of knavery, though at that point she had not yet seen any actual evidence of mischief.

1. What does the word *knavery* mean as it is used in the sentence above?
  - A. honesty
  - B. trickery
  - C. nobility
  - D. visibility

Because he was tired of duplicitous customers stealing money from him, James J. Ritty of Dayton, Ohio, invented the cash register; the machine was more trustworthy than the patrons.

2. What does the word *duplicitous* mean as it is used in the sentence above?
  - A. rich
  - B. various
  - C. funny
  - D. dishonest

As the astringent liquid dried out my tongue and puckered my lips, I thought, *This isn't lemonade—it's pure lemon juice!*

3. What does *astringent* mean as it is used in this sentence?
  - A. wet
  - B. fruity
  - C. sour
  - D. yellow

Be sure to bring a camera when you visit Ohio; you just might see bald eagles, white-winged doves, bobolinks, wrens and even vultures.

4. A *bobolink* is a type of
  - A. bird.
  - B. fish.
  - C. tree.
  - D. rodent.

Mrs. Veron spent the hottest part of the day recumbent in the living room, stretched out on the couch in the weak breeze of the old fan.

5. What is the most likely meaning of the word *recumbent* as it is used in this sentence?
- A. walking
  - B. reclining
  - C. singing
  - D. painting

As Farley left the courtroom, free to hug his father and sisters for the first time in months, he stopped to thank Detective Villalobos. The exculpatory evidence would not have been found without her hard work and belief in his innocence.

6. Which of the following is closest in meaning to *exculpatory* as it is used in this passage?
- A. Clearing of guilt or blame
  - B. Proving that a crime occurred
  - C. Indicating involvement with a group
  - D. Showing the whereabouts of a witness

Some films are held in high esteem for their famous firsts—impressive artistic breakthroughs or stunning acting debuts. Other films are revered simply for being the best of their kind. *Singin' in the Rain* falls into this latter category.

7. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word *revered* as it is used in this passage?
- A. Ignored
  - B. Copied
  - C. Criticized
  - D. Respected

The principal cautioned the students about their frenetic behavior. He said that all their wild, frenzied activity was bound to get someone hurt.

8. What does *frenetic* mean?
- A. Frantic
  - B. Relaxed
  - C. Casual
  - D. Lazy

Paul was a dark horse at the cross-country meet. It was his first race and his first year on the team, yet he finished in first place.

9. What is the meaning of the phrase *dark horse* in this context?
- A. An unenthusiastic athlete
  - B. A loner rather than a team player
  - C. A very fast and experienced champion
  - D. An unexpectedly successful participant

*Step 2: Check for injury.* After removing any footwear, look for damage to the metatarsal by gently pressing between the toes and ankle.

10. What is the *metatarsal*?
- A. Part of the fingers
  - B. Part of the foot
  - C. Part of the leg
  - D. Part of a shoe

A bright smile spread across Mrs. Holland's face. She knew from the scent filling the classroom that her students had brought cookies to celebrate the last day of school.

11. Which word is closest in meaning to *scent* as it is used in this sentence?
- A. Foul smell
  - B. Bitter smell
  - C. Burnt smell
  - D. Sweet smell

Mama and I continued to talk, though she hardly looked up at me as she dredged each piece of chicken with flour before dropping it into the skillet.

12. Which of the following meanings of *dredged* describes the word as it is used in the sentence?
- A. Made deeper
  - B. Sprinkled or coated
  - C. Dug, gathered, or pulled out
  - D. Brought to light by searching

In a noble act of munificence, Carl sold all his CDs and gave the money to his college, the University of Akron.

13. Which word is a **synonym** for the word *munificence* as it is used in the passage?
- A. Greed
  - B. Hunger
  - C. Generosity
  - D. Judgment

Karen and Jeni looked forward to seeing the Crazy Horse Memorial during their trip to the Black Hills in South Dakota, but when they finally arrived, a thick blanket of fog completely obscured the carving.

14. Which word is an **antonym** for the word *obscured* as it is used in the passage?
- A. revealed
  - B. saw
  - C. hid
  - D. replaced