

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Exercise A: Using Word Relationships

Use context clues to guess the meaning of the underlined word. Circle the letter of the word's likely meaning. Remember to check your guess.

1. As he got older, his hair changed from thick to sparse.
a. curly c. well groomed
b. dyed d. thinly scattered

2. When I'm sad, having my dog nearby will often console me. Just having him around and loving me tends to soothe me.
a. amuse c. distract
b. comfort d. distress

3. She collected books steadily and never threw any away. Over the years, she amassed hundreds of them.
a. read c. arranged
b. piled up d. donated

4. What I had hoped would be beneficial was, instead, harmful. My efforts had just made things worse!
a. helpful c. appropriate
b. entertaining d. appreciated

5. He tried to explain as he saw the perplexity on my face, but the longer he talked, the deeper my bewilderment became.
a. anger c. exhaustion
b. confusion d. understanding

Exercise B: Using Context Clues: Description and Contrast

Use context clues to guess the meaning of the underlined word. Circle the letter of the word's likely meaning. Remember to check your guess.

6. The light began to dwindle, so it became harder and harder to see what everyone outside was doing.

a. move	c. decrease
b. change	d. end suddenly

7. I had hoped to spend the day relaxing, but I ended up with so many tasks that the day was filled with drudgery.

a. labor	c. idleness
b. games	d. avoiding work

8. Make sure you have a good ladder and that it's positioned steadily. Otherwise, you'll be sure to find yourself in a precarious situation.

a. firm	c. insecure
b. elevated	d. hopeless

9. Her smile and warm welcome indicated that Mrs. Asher was quite a genial woman.

a. wise	c. truthful
b. careful	d. pleasant

10. The hero of the story valiantly pursued the men even though their threats made everyone else too frightened to move.

a. quickly	c. foolishly
b. bravely	d. cheerfully

L.8.4, a, d
L.8.5, b
L.8.6

Context Clues: Examples

Many times you can figure out what an unfamiliar word means by looking for examples provided by context clues. The examples given in the sentence below suggest that *din* is loud noise.

Example: The barking dog, hammering, and sirens all added to the din.

Exercise C: Using Examples

Use context clues to guess the meaning of the underlined word. Circle the letter of the word's likely meaning. Remember to check your guess.

11. Some of her apparatus consisted of hammers, nails, several saws, and measuring tape.

a. work	c. equipment
b. attempts	d. safety gear

12. My mom's car was completely smashed right after our house caught fire. It was a case of one catastrophe after another.

a. disaster	c. surprise
b. incident	d. small misfortune

13. I find it amazing that people imperil themselves by driving too fast and not wearing a seatbelt.

a. excite	c. surprise
b. endanger	d. involve

14. He always completed his homework neatly and on time, never caused trouble in class, and was helpful to the teacher and his classmates. His conduct was irreproachable.

a. boring	c. blameless
b. average	d. barely acceptable

15. Chairs, cars, and rocks are inanimate objects, unlike animals and people.

a. simple	c. nonliving
b. unnatural	d. uninteresting

L.8.4, a, d
L.8.6

Context Clues: General Reasoning

Often you will find that a word's context clues don't fall into a particular category. You can still use your knowledge of words and language to get a good idea of an unfamiliar word's meaning.

For example: The basketball ricocheted off the backboard, and I grabbed it before it hit the floor.

Because the game of basketball and the function of a backboard are familiar to you, you would know that ricocheted means "bounced." Many times, context clues help you use what you do know to figure out what you don't know.

Exercise D: Using General Reasoning

Use context clues to guess the meaning of the underlined word. Circle the letter of the word's likely meaning. Remember to check your guess.

16. A bulldozer working on the street obstructed the cars attempting to travel there.

a. helped	c. ruined
b. blocked	d. annoyed

17. My grandfather's will left bequests of small amounts of money to each of his grandchildren.

a. details	c. loans
b. requests	d. inheritances

18. The gentle babbling of the rill that flowed outside the window lulled me to sleep.

a. bird	c. brook
b. lake	d. crickets

19. "Do it right this minute!" was the directive I received from my mother.

a. request	c. comment
b. command	d. suggestion

20. When he ran over my foot with his bike and did not apologize, I stared after him indignantly.

a. rudely	c. angrily
b. loudly	d. helplessly