

# *vocabulary practice*

## California Reading Standard 1.0: Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

The multiple choice questions provide practice in commonly used standardized testing format and are divided into four types:

- **Synonyms and Antonyms**
- **Context Clues / Shades of Meaning**
- **Multiple Meaning Words**
- **Word Origin**

Please note: the page which bears the heading "Vocabulary Practice" is intended for use as a worksheet, to be completed prior to reading with dictionary help. However, in our own classrooms we frequently do not use this page. Prior to reading the chapter we offer *only* the words used in synonym questions as daily vocabulary words. We do not offer "advance notice" for the words which occur in the context clue, multiple meaning, and structural analysis formats. These questions contain clues imbedded in them which should make prior study unnecessary or even detrimental to the process of finding meaning through context or determining meaning through usage. We want our students to learn the *skills* involved in making meaning from text. Accordingly, should you decide to use the "Vocabulary Practice" page, you will find only those vocabulary words used in the Synonyms section included on the worksheet. This is intentional on our part.

**Vocabulary Practice - "The Treasure of Lemon Brown"**  
**Reading Standard 1.0 - Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development**

---

**A) Matching:** Use a dictionary to fill in the blank on the left with the letter of the correct vocabulary word from the list on the right.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| _____1. unplanned, made or done without preparation      | A. ajar        |
| _____2. in a hesitant or uncertain way                   | B. intently    |
| _____3. with close attention                             | C. slurred     |
| _____4. threatening, hinting that bad things will happen | D. impromptu   |
| _____5. not closed; slightly open                        | E. ominous     |
| _____6. unclear, not distinct, as in speech              | F. tentatively |
| _____7. unintentional, automatic, as a reflex action     | G. involuntary |

**B) Matching:** As you read, fill in the blank in each sentence from the story with the letter of the correct vocabulary word from the list above, then mark the page number where you found it.

8. Greg heard an \_\_\_\_\_ sound of thunder in the distance.
9. Greg found a door slightly \_\_\_\_\_ in an abandoned building.
10. As he was leaving, Greg offered his hand \_\_\_\_\_ to Lemon Brown.
11. Greg and his friends often enjoyed an \_\_\_\_\_ basketball game after coaching hours at the Community Center.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ speech of the young men suggested they had been drinking.
13. A loud clap of thunder directly overhead caused a/an \_\_\_\_\_ jump from both Lemon and Greg.
14. Both Lemon and Greg listened \_\_\_\_\_ to see if the thugs were gone.

## SYNONYMS / ANTONYMS

### DIRECTIONS

In this section you will be asked to choose the word or group of words that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word.

1. ominous clue --
  - A. fortunate
  - B. threatening
  - C. harmless
  - D. mobile
  
2. involuntary movement --
  - A. jerky
  - B. intentional
  - C. practiced
  - D. unwilling
  
3. tentatively offered --
  - A. precisely
  - B. hesitantly
  - C. confidently
  - D. intentionally
  
4. intently focused --
  - A. with close attention
  - B. carelessly
  - C. sadly
  - D. unreasonably

### DIRECTIONS

In this section choose the word that means the opposite of the underlined word.

5. the lid is ajar --
  - A. a type of bottle
  - B. shut
  - C. noise
  - D. open
  
6. impromptu meeting --
  - A. scheduled
  - B. tardy
  - C. unplanned
  - D. slow
  
7. slurred speech --
  - A. mixed
  - B. fuzzy
  - C. unclear
  - D. clear

**WORDS IN CONTEXT**

**DIRECTIONS**

As you read each sentence, use the other words in the sentence to help you figure out what the underlined word means. Then mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 8 " 'And you want to play *basketball*?' His father's brows knitted over deep-brown eyes. 'That must be some kind of a joke.'" Knitted means --
- A one brow arched
  - B both brows arched
  - C both brows joined together
  - D both brows disappeared into his hairline
- 9 "Down the block there was an old tenement that had been abandoned for some months... He entered the room, frowning at its musty smell. It was a large room that must have been someone's parlor at one time. Squinting, Greg could see an old table on its side against one wall, what looked like a pile of rags or a torn mattress in the corner, and a couch, with one side broken, in front of the window." Tenement means --
- A warehouse
  - B store
  - C apartment building
  - D bus stop
- 10 "They used to say I sung the blues so sweet that if I sang at a funeral, the dead would commence to rocking with the beat." Commence means --
- A begin
  - B continue
  - C rest
  - D stop
- 11 "Lemon Brown's voice rose an octave as he started to put his treasure back into the plastic." Octave means --
- A like an opera singer
  - B eight whole notes
  - C twelve tones
  - D like a sea creature
- 12 "They reached the top of the stairs and Greg felt Lemon Brown's hand first lying on his shoulder, then probing down his arm until he finally took Greg's hand into his own as they crouched in the darkness." Probing means --
- A searching
  - B losing
  - C rocketing
  - D finding

## MULTIPLE MEANING WORDS

### DIRECTIONS

Read the sentence and the question. Then choose the answer answers the question given. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

13. "He thought about it until he reached his stoop and decided against it."
- In the above sentence stoop means --
- A. to be humble
  - B. to bend over
  - C. porch
  - D. hunch
14. "They used to say I sung the blues so sweet that if I sang at a funeral, the dead would commence to rocking with the beat."
- In the above sentence blues means --
- A. colors
  - B. sadness
  - C. a style of music
  - D. the name of a song
15. "Howdy, Mr. Pain, sees you back again."
- In the above sentence back means --
- A. to support
  - B. to reverse
  - C. to return
  - D. a position in football
16. "They used to call me Sweet \_\_\_\_\_ Brown."  
This car is a total \_\_\_\_\_.
- Choose the word that completes both sentences correctly --
- A. honey
  - B. sugar
  - C. wreck
  - D. lemon
17. "His father's voice came to him again ... lecturing endlessly about his \_\_\_\_\_ efforts in math."  
His eyesight is too \_\_\_\_\_ to see that far.
- Choose the word that completes both sentences correctly --
- A. poor
  - B. half-way
  - C. blurry
  - D. blue
18. "Now you just get into your room and \_\_\_\_\_ those books."  
Brian knows every \_\_\_\_\_ song for the last decade.
- Choose the word that completes both sentences correctly --
- A. sad
  - B. funny
  - C. study
  - D. hit

## WORD ORIGINS

19. "Greg would probably fail math if he didn't spend more time studying."

In the sentence above, the word math most probably is derived from --

- A. the Latin *mater* meaning "mother"
  - B. the Greek *mathematikos* meaning "inclined to learn"
  - C. the Latin *matutinus* meaning "of the morning"
  - D. the Old French *mat* meaning "exhausted"
20. Which of the words below is derived from the Indo-European word bher? (Clue: this word also became the modern English word "bear")
- A. bore
  - B. brown
  - C. buttery
  - D. bare