

Descriptive Analogies

Characteristic of

1. The first word is an adjective that describes a quality of the second word.

rough is to sandpaper AS smooth is to silk

Sandpaper has a rough texture, and silk has a smooth texture.

2. The first word is a noun that describes a characteristic of the second word.

flexibility is to muscle AS rigidity is to bone

Association

1. The first item is associated with the second in an implied relationship.

island is to ocean AS oasis is to desert

An island is not part of the ocean but is usually found in the ocean. An oasis is not part of the desert but is usually found in the desert.

desert is to Southwest AS plains is to Midwest

Desert is usually associated with the southwestern United States. Plains are usually associated with the midwestern United States.

Object-Action

1. The first word is a noun that names an object. The second word is a verb that describes an action of the first.

horse is to trot AS snake is to slither

A horse trots and a snake slithers.

Something Used to

1. In each pair, the first item names an object. The second item is a verb that describes how the first item is used.

bicycle *is to* ride AS car *is to* drive

A bicycle is a vehicle you ride, and a car is a vehicle you drive. This analogy is different from the object-action analogy because a bicycle does not ride itself. Someone has to ride a bicycle.

2. In each pair, the first item names an object. The second item is a noun that describes something with which the object is used.

wrench *is to* pipes AS saw *is to* wood

A wrench is used to tighten or loosen pipes; a saw is used to cut wood.

Someone Who

1. In each pair, the first item names a person, and the second item is a verb that describes what the person does.

chauffeur *is to* drive AS pilot *is to* fly

A chauffeur drives a car; a pilot flies a plane.

2. In each pair, the first word names a person, and the second word tells what that person uses in his/her job, or who that person works with.

chauffeur *is to* limousine AS pilot *is to* plane

A chauffeur drives a limousine; a pilot flies a plane.

3. In each pair, the first word names a person, and the second word names a person with whom the first person works.

doctor *is to* patient AS lawyer *is to* client

A doctor takes care of a patient; a lawyer takes care of a client.

Descriptive Analogies—Select

DIRECTIONS: Classify the following analogies as

a) used to

b) object–action

c) characteristic

1. cold is to glacier AS heat is to volcano _____
2. sugar is to dissolve AS flour is to mix _____
3. period is to stop AS comma is to pause _____
4. thin is to thread AS thick is to rope _____
5. horse is to gallop AS gazelle is to leap _____
6. volcano is to erupt AS fault is to split _____
7. siphon is to drain AS funnel is to pour _____
8. flower is to bloom AS seed is to sprout _____
9. period is to sentence AS stoplight is to traffic _____
10. thick is to mud AS thin is to water _____
11. velocity is to speed AS frequency is to sound _____
12. gale is to blow AS cloud is to drift _____
13. motion is to river AS stillness is to pond _____
14. diesel is to truck AS propellant is to rocket _____
15. sweet is to tart AS orange is to lemon _____