

4000 Essential English Words 5 Unit 16: The History of Parachutes

1.

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

Someone with integrity _____.

- A) invents new things
- B) tricks people
- C) lies
- D) is honest

2.

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

What does a person with a good understanding of a budget take care of?

- A) Their safety
- B) Their possessions
- C) Their money
- D) Their pet

3.

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

Which of the following might an archeological expert be interested in?

- A) Reading about ancient devices
- B) Studying the effects of height and speed
- C) Learning how to save lives
- D) Finding his car keys

4.

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

What does it mean to be a parachute addict?

- A) To want to be on land
- B) To want to jump from a plane with a parachute
- C) To always ride in hot-air balloons
- D) To want to be at sea

5.

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

In order to refine an invention, one has to _____.

- A) spend money on it
- B) make it better
- C) be ignorant
- D) know Italian

6.

Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.

prehistoric

- A) large
- B) old
- C) upsetting
- D) under

7.

Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.

outlook

- A) outside
- B) plan
- C) work
- D) viewpoint

8.

Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.

proponent

- A) supporter
- B) teacher
- C) traveler
- D) scientist

9.

Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.

estate

- A) gas
- B) property
- C) airplane
- D) evidence

10.

Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.

brainstorm

- A) to come up with
- B) to read a lot
- C) to get wet
- D) to jump



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11. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The farmer lived on a large *estate*. It was given to him by his father.

A) C
B) I

12. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The principal was a *proponent* of group learning. He wanted students to learn on their own.

A) C
B) I

13. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

He wanted to *refine* the machine before he sold it. He spent three years improving it.

A) C
B) I

14. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The seat belt *restricted* the child's movement in the car. He was able to move a lot.

A) C
B) I

15. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

After an accident in the laboratory, *hydrogen* filled the air. The gas was completely invisible.

A) C
B) I

16. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The boy had a different *outlook* than his brother. He thought that people should try to save the environment, but his brother thought it wasn't worth trying.

A) C
B) I

17. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The scientists found many *archeological* items in the desert. It would help them study modern societies.

A) C
B) I

18. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

Brian *brainstormed* with his group. After an hour, they came up with a great idea.

A) C
B) I

19. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The people in the plane crash were saved by *parachutes*. They dropped safely to the ground using the device.

A) C
B) I

20. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

Ellen wanted to learn how to *knit*. She wanted to save people from fires.

A) C
B) I

21. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The man was found guilty of *fraud*. He told people he was selling medicine, but it was only river water.

A) C
B) I

22. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The woman showed her *integrity* by lying to the police about her involvement in the crime.

A) C
B) I



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23. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The chocolate *addict* ate chocolate bars about once a month.

- A) C
- B) I

24. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The *archeology* expert was called to study some ancient bones. They are thought to belong to dinosaurs.

- A) C
- B) I

25. Write C if the italicized word is used correctly.
Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

The children ran into the *courtyard* when it started raining. They didn't want to get wet.

- A) C
- B) I

26. THE HISTORY OF PARACHUTES

Scientists who study **archeology** say that there may be some evidence of **prehistoric parachutes**. But the first written history of the device comes from China about 2,100 years ago. Scientists **cite** an ancient book that describes parachutes. However, there is no **archeological** evidence that proves that an actual parachute was ever made. Later, people from northern Africa and Italy also had ideas about a similar invention. In fact, a Leonardo Da Vinci's drawing **corresponds** closely with the modern parachute design!

In 1783, French scientist Sebastian Lenormand invented the first modern parachute. Sebastian **brainstormed** with other scientists to come up with a way to help people jump safely out of burning buildings. He thought the solution was to give people an object to **restrict** their speed while they traveled toward the ground. Many people thought that he was up to some kind of **fraud**, but Sebastian had a lot of **integrity**. His **budget** was limited, so he first tested his theory by using two umbrellas. He jumped out of a tree and found that the umbrellas worked.

Next, he **refined** his invention. Rather than using umbrellas, he **knit** a large parachute. Finally, he jumped off a tall building on a French **estate** and landed safely in the **courtyard**.

Sebastian's work gave another man an idea. Jean-Pierre Blanchard had a different **outlook** than Sebastian. He was a hot air balloon **addict**. He was one of the first people to ride in a hot air balloon powered by **hydrogen** gas. He was a **proponent** of using the parachutes to exit from hot air balloons. Starting in 1785, he used his dog to show that animals could land safely from hot air balloons by using parachutes. Then, in 1793, he was faced with a **chaotic** experience. The hot air balloon he was riding in burst and started to fall. He was forced to use a parachute himself. And much to his relief, it saved his life!

Archeological evidence shows there were prehistoric parachutes in China.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE



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Archeology experts cite an old Chinese book that describes a parachute that corresponds with modern parachutes.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE

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Sebastian brainstormed with scientists to invent a device that would allow people to jump from buildings safely.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE



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On Sebastian's first jump, he used a large blanket to restrict his speed as he traveled to the ground.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE

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Jean-Pierre was a hot air balloon addict.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE



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Answer Key:

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1: D | 16: A |
| 2: C | 17: B |
| 3: A | 18: A |
| 4: B | 19: A |
| 5: B | 20: B |
| 6: B | 21: A |
| 7: D | 22: B |
| 8: A | 23: B |
| 9: B | 24: A |
| 10: A | 25: B |
| 11: A | 26: B |
| 12: B | 27: B |
| 13: A | 28: A |
| 14: B | 29: B |
| 15: A | 30: A |

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