

Answer Key

Vocabulary Practice — Comprehensive Review

Practice Set 1

January 20, 2026

1 Exercise 1: Definitions — Match the Word

1. A special skill or talent, often natural and hard to teach: **knack**
2. To put something in danger; to risk losing or damaging: **jeopardize**
3. The state of looking like or being similar to someone/something: **resemblance**
4. Treated with excessive care; indulged or spoiled: **pampered**
5. To remain undamaged by; to resist or endure successfully: **withstand**
6. An enemy or opponent, especially in battle or conflict: **foe**
7. The superlative form meaning “most spirited” or “most bold”: **feisti**
8. Interfering in matters that don’t concern you: **meddling**
9. Extremely good; excellent or superior: **outstanding**
10. Refusing to change opinion; determined not to give in: **stubborn**
11. To deny or make ineffective; to nullify: **negate**
12. A long, narrow elevated area (mountain top or raised line): **ridge**

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 12 points.

2 Exercise 2: Idioms & Expressions — Fill in the Blanks

1. The manager tried to **sell** me **to** the hiring committee by highlighting all my achievements.
2. After the scandal broke, the politician found himself **on the back foot**, constantly defending his past decisions.
3. I know you're scared, but **search your feelings** — deep down, you know this is the right choice.
4. The authorities have been accused of **turning a blind eye to** corruption for years.
5. If you book the hotel at the last minute, you'll **pay through the nose** for it.
6. Your business plan sounds **half-baked** — you haven't done enough research yet.

Note: Accept grammatical variations (e.g., “turned a blind eye to” vs “turning a blind eye to”).

3 Exercise 3: Word Forms — Complete the Table

Base Word	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
feisty	feistiness	—	feisty, feistier, feistiest	feistily
jeopardize	jeopardy	jeopardize	—	—
meddle	meddling , meddler	meddle	meddling	—
negate	negation	negate	negative	negatively
stubborn	stubbornness	—	stubborn	stubbornly
pamper	pampering	pamper	pampered	—
withstand	—	withstand, withstood (past)	—	—
steer	steering	steer	—	—

Scoring: 1 point per correct blank. Total: 12 points.

4 Exercise 4: Multiple Choice — Choose the Best Answer

1. The word “outstanding” can mean:

C) Both “excellent” and “pending/unpaid”

Explanation: “Outstanding” has two main meanings: (1) exceptionally good, and (2) not yet resolved/paid.

2. Which sentence uses “foe” correctly?

B) The hero faced his greatest foe in the final battle.

Explanation: “Foe” means enemy or opponent, typically in conflict/battle contexts.

3. “She has a knack for learning languages.” This means she:

B) Has a natural talent for languages

Explanation: A “knack” is a natural skill or aptitude for something.

4. What is the past tense of “withstand”?

B) withstood

Explanation: “Withstand” is irregular (withstand → withstood → withstood).

5. “Turn a blind eye to” is closest in meaning to:

B) Deliberately ignore something wrong

Explanation: This idiom means to consciously choose not to notice or address something.

6. If a plan is “half-baked,” it is:

B) Incomplete or poorly thought out

Explanation: Like bread that’s only half-cooked, a half-baked idea isn’t fully developed.

7. “Parley” is most commonly used in which context?

B) Negotiations between enemies

Explanation: “Parley” is an old-fashioned word for discussing terms with an opponent.

8. A “ridge” can refer to all EXCEPT:

C) A valley between two hills

Explanation: A ridge is an elevated area; a valley is the opposite (low area between hills).

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 8 points.

5 Exercise 5: Sentence Completion — Use the Word in Context

1. The twins bear a striking **resemblance** to each other — it's hard to tell them apart.
2. Don't let one bad decision **jeopardize** / **negate** all the hard work you've done.
(Accept either — both fit the context)
3. Despite his small size, the puppy was the **feistiest** of the litter, always barking at bigger dogs.
4. The captain carefully **steered** the ship through the narrow channel.
5. Her new evidence completely **negated** his alibi — he couldn't have been there.
6. After the stressful week, she decided to **pamper** herself with a spa day.
7. The old bridge was designed to **withstand** heavy traffic and harsh weather.
8. Stop **meddling** in my business — I can make my own decisions!
9. He's so **stubborn** that he won't change his mind even when he's clearly wrong.
10. She received an award for her **outstanding** contribution to the field of medicine.

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 10 points.

6 Exercise 6: Synonyms & Antonyms

Part A: Match the Synonyms

1. foe → **D) enemy**
2. resemblance → **B) similarity**
3. jeopardize → **C) endanger**
4. stubborn → **E) obstinate**
5. outstanding → **A) excellent**
6. knack → **F) talent**

Part B: Write the Antonym

1. foe → **friend / ally**
2. pampered → **neglected / deprived / independent**
3. outstanding (meaning: excellent) → **mediocre / average / poor**
4. half-baked → **fully baked / well-planned / thorough**
5. stubborn → **flexible / yielding / compliant / open-minded**

Scoring: Part A: 1 point each (6 pts). Part B: 1 point each (5 pts). Total: 11 points.

7 Exercise 7: Error Correction

1. ~~She has a nack for playing the piano~~
Correction: **She has a knack for playing the piano.**
(Spelling: “knack” not “nack”)
2. ~~The building withstanded the earthquake~~
Correction: **The building withstood the earthquake.**
(Irregular verb: *withstand* → *withstood*)
3. ~~He paid through the eye for those tickets~~
Correction: **He paid through the nose for those tickets.**
(Correct idiom: “pay through the nose”)
4. ~~The company turned the blind eye to safety violations~~
Correction: **The company turned a blind eye to safety violations.**
(Article: “a blind eye” not “the blind eye”)

5. ~~The restaurant was at the back foot~~
Correction: **The restaurant was on the back foot.**
(Preposition: “on” not “at”)
6. ~~Your proposal sounds half-backed~~
Correction: **Your proposal sounds half-baked.**
(Spelling: “baked” not “backed”)
7. The hero defeated his greatest foe in battle.
No error — this sentence is correct!
8. ~~That metaling neighbor is always asking~~
Correction: **That meddling neighbor is always asking.**
(Spelling: “meddling” not “metaling”)

Scoring: 1 point for identifying error, 1 point for correct fix. Total: 14 points.

8 Exercise 8: Collocations — Choose the Right Partner

1. bear a (**strong** / heavy / big) resemblance
2. (**bitter** / sour / angry) foe
3. have a (**knack** / knock / nack) for something
4. (**mountain** / field / ocean) ridge
5. withstand (**pressure** / opinion / color)
6. (**bureaucratic** / democratic / automatic) meddling
7. jeopardize someone's (**safety** / color / taste)
8. (**pampered** / hammered / gathered) lifestyle
9. stubborn as a (**mule** / mouse / monkey)
10. put someone on the (**back** / front / side) foot

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 10 points.

9 Exercise 9: Translation Practice

1. Ele é um garoto mimado que nunca precisou trabalhar.
He's a pampered kid who never had to work.
2. O prédio foi projetado para resistir a terremotos.
The building was designed to withstand earthquakes.
3. As autoridades fizeram vista grossa para a corrupção.
The authorities turned a blind eye to corruption.
4. Pagamos caro demais por ingressos de última hora.
We paid through the nose for last-minute tickets.
5. O gol cedo os colocou na defensiva.
The early goal put them on the back foot.
6. Ela tem um jeito para resolver problemas rapidamente.
She has a knack for solving problems quickly.

Note: Accept reasonable variations that maintain meaning and use the target vocabulary.

10 Exercise 10: Context Clues — Guess the Word

1. **Context:** The small dog kept barking at the German Shepherd...
Word: **feisti**est (adjective, superlative form)
2. **Context:** "...he refuses to accept he might be wrong. He won't budge an inch."
Word: **stubborn**
3. **Context:** ...the generals from both armies met to discuss terms...
Word: **parley** (verb, old-fashioned)
4. **Context:** The racing driver expertly controlled the car...
Word: **steer** (verb)
5. **Context:** "People always say I look just like my grandmother..."
Word: **resemblance** (noun)
6. **Context:** ...the investors found it incomplete — no costs, competition, or target market.
Word: **half-baked** (idiom, adjective)

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 6 points.

11 Exercise 11: Creative Writing — Use the Words

Evaluation Criteria:

- Uses at least 6 vocabulary words correctly: 6 points (1 per word)
- Words are used in appropriate context: 3 points
- Grammar and coherence: 3 points

Total possible: 12 points

Sample Answer:

*Marcus was the feisti*est player on the basketball team. Despite his small size, he never backed down from any foe on the court. His stubborn determination helped him withstand pressure from bigger opponents. The coach had a knack for bringing out the best in him, even when his half-baked plays didn't work out. She never turned a blind eye to his mistakes, but she also celebrated his outstanding moments. Together, they steered the team to victory.

(Words used: feistiect, foe, stubborn, withstand, knack, half-baked, turned a blind eye to, outstanding, steered — 9 words)

12 Exercise 12: Word Origins — Etymology Matching

1. ridge → **D) From Old English “hrycg” (back, spine)**
2. knack → **E) From an imitative word for a sharp sound/trick**
3. parley → **B) From French “parler” (to speak)**
4. negate → **C) From Latin “negare” (to deny)**
5. foe → **A) From Old English “fāh” (hostile)**

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 5 points.

13 Exercise 13: Sentence Transformation

1. The team was in a difficult, defensive position... (BACK FOOT)
The team was on the back foot after the early mistake.
2. She has a natural talent for cooking. (KNACK)
She has a knack for cooking.
3. The officials deliberately ignored the corruption... (BLIND EYE)
The officials turned a blind eye to the corruption.
4. The child was spoiled and given too much attention... (PAMPERED)
The child was pampered by his parents.
5. Don't risk your career over one bad decision. (JEOPARDIZE)
Don't jeopardize your career over one bad decision.
6. We paid way too much for these hotel rooms. (NOSE)
We paid through the nose for these hotel rooms.

Scoring: 2 points each (1 for using word, 1 for correct grammar). Total: 12 points.

14 Exercise 14: Fill the Story

Marcus was the (1) **feisti**est kid in his class — small but fierce, never backing down from anyone. His (2) **stubborn** nature sometimes got him into trouble, but it also earned him respect.

At home, his younger brother Leo was the opposite: a (3) **pampered** child who had never faced real challenges. Despite their differences, they shared a striking (4) **resemblance** — the same bright eyes and mischievous smile.

One day, Marcus met his greatest (5) **foe** on the basketball court: a tall player named Derek. The game was intense, but Marcus (6) **withstood** the pressure and delivered an (7) **outstanding** performance.

Meanwhile, their (8) **meddling** neighbor Mrs. Chen almost (9) **jeopardized** the victory by calling the police about the noise! Luckily, Marcus (10) **steered** the situation away from disaster by charming her with his smile.

Scoring: 1 point each. Total: 10 points.

Total Score Summary

Exercise	Points
1. Definitions	/12
2. Idioms	/6
3. Word Forms	/12
4. Multiple Choice	/8
5. Sentence Completion	/10
6. Synonyms & Antonyms	/11
7. Error Correction	/14
8. Collocations	/10
9. Translation	/6
10. Context Clues	/6
11. Creative Writing	/12
12. Etymology	/5
13. Transformation	/12
14. Fill the Story	/10
TOTAL	/134

Keep learning and expanding your vocabulary!
Great work on completing this comprehensive review.