



ENGLISH VOCABULARY

VERBAL ANALOGY

Verbal analogy - tests the examinee's reasoning ability. This type of questions would usually ask you to identify the relationship existing between the given two words and you must find a pair of words with a similar relationship. There are generally two formats for these type of questions namely:

• SINGLE-WORD

In this format, you are given a pair of words followed by another word. You are then presented with choices where you must pick the best related to the third word parallel to the relationship of the second word to the first word.

In the single-word approach, express the relationship between the first two words; substitute the third word for the first, and think of an appropriate substitute for the second word.

Example: Dog: Bark::Pig:_____

a. Neigh b. purr c. grunt d. quack

Answer: C (animal: sound made)

• PAIRED

In this format, you are only given a pair of words and you must pick among the pair of words in the options that has a similar relationship with the given pair of words.

Like in the single-word approach, you have to: (1) look for the special relationship of the given pair; and then, (2) find a pair that exactly or most closely matches the original pair. This principle of parallelism must be observed.

Example: Cow: milk:: _____ : _____

a. Dog: Pup
b. Chicken: Egg
c. Stallion: Mare

Answer: B (animal: product)

TIPS IN ANSWERING VERBAL ANALOGY

a. Read and understand the analogy as a sentence.

- Narra: tree :: Bangus: _____
- Read:** Narra is to tree as Bangus is to?

b. Establish the relationship

- Narra: tree :: Bangus: _____
- Analyze:** Narra is a type of tree while Bangus is a type of...
- Answer:** FISH

3. Do not reverse the order

- Make sure that the words in each pair are in the same order – the order in which those words appear in the question.

COMMON VERBAL RELATIONSHIPS

Synonym-Antonym	Rich: Poor
Classification/ Characteristic/ Category	Hammer: Tool Dirty: Garbage
Parts-Whole/ Specific-General	Fur: Bear Wheel: Car
Sequence	Caterpillar: Butterfly Wiggler: Mosquito
Cause-Effect	Studying: Excelling Flood: Typhoon
Complement	Spoon: Fork
Function, Purpose	Shovel: Dig
Tool/ Instrument: Uses: Object of action	Stethoscope: Doctor Rolling pin: Dough
Composition	Wood: Table Glass: Silica
Degree of difference	Car: Truck
Intensity, Quantity, Amount	Pond: Ocean
Measure	Meter: Length
Shape, Color, Smell, etc.	Ball: Round
Position/ Location	Quezon City: Metro Manila
Worker: Product	Engineer: Building
Worker: Action	Nurse: Cares
Worker: Tool	Hammer: Carpenter



Action: Significance	Bow: Respect
Symbolism	Dove: Peace
Grammatical/ Verbal	She: hers :: he: his Work: wrought :: fight: fought
Sex	Mare: Horse

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

GENERAL TIPS:

1. Read, read and read!
2. Always have a thesaurus with you. It never hurts to look up any unfamiliar word.
3. Memorize at least 5-10 words from the list above each day.
4. Practice using each word in a sentence.
5. If there is a phrase or sentence given, look for context clues.
6. Eliminate any distracters on the options.

ANSWERING TEST ON SYNONYMS

1 Determine whether the word is a noun, verb, adverb or adjective. Once decided, for instance, the word is a verb, eliminate from the choices those which are not verbs. That way, you will lessen the number of your choices and increase your chances of guessing the right answer.

2 Eliminate options that are based on words that look or sound like the word to be defined. Most likely, those words were included in order to distract you.

Example: A hero's *talisman*

- a. wise man
 - b. story teller
 - c. seller
 - d. foolish man
 - e. lucky charm
- Although talisman sounds like wise man and foolish man, and also a salesman (seller), the correct answer is option e.

3 If the word to be defined is used in a phrase, understand the context in which it is used. The context of a word is that part of a phrase or of a sentence which throws light on its meaning.

Example: in *deference* to his superior

- a. conformity
- b. objection
- c. fairness
- d. dissimilarity
- e. respect

- In the example, the word that can give a clue to the meaning of the word *deference* is *superior*. Note the words that can be used in relation to one's superior and eliminate the other option. The words that can be used with superior are conformity, respect and fairness. Dissimilarity and objection may be outrightly eliminated since they are not usually used in relation to a superior.

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Substitute all possible options for the given word. In the example above, the options may be substituted as follows:

in conformity to his superior (*with, not to*)
in respect to his superior (*for, not to*)
in fairness to his superior

- Among the three choices, the word that is most commonly associated with a superior is respect. Therefore, option 2 is the correct answer.

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If the word to be defined is somewhat familiar, use it in a sentence. Then substitute each option for it as in step 4.

COMMON SYNTONYMS

Abate – Lessen	Surly – Rude
Arid – dry	Thermal – Warm
Blasphemous – Profane	Vagrant – Tramp
Caprice – Fancy	Vogue – Fashion
Contemptuous – Approving	Accent – Emphasize
Deplete – Reduce	Banal – Boring
Emblem – Symbol	Bravado – Boldness
Falter – Stumble	Colloquial – Informal
Gamut – Range	Debonair – Groomed
Haven – Refuge	Distress – Suffering
Jeopardize – Endanger	Ennui – Boredom
Juxtapose – Put next to	Feign – Pretend
Maudlin – Sentimental	Genre – Type
Mire – Swamp	Instigate – Initiate
Obfuscate – Darken	Jibe – Agree
Penurious – Stingy	Kudos – Compliments
Putrid – Rotten	Menial – Fickle
Quench – Extinguish	Naïve – Immature
Rapacious – Greedy	Odious – Hatelul
Scald – Injury	Petty – Small
Stalwart – Strong	Qualm – Bad feeling
Quibble – Bad feeling	Saccharine – Sweet
Secluded – Sheltered	Stupefy – Amaze
Taboo – Banned	Tyro – Beginner
Vanguard – Forefront	Zenith – Top
Acme – Pinnacle	Befuddle – Confuse
Burgeon – Multiply	Conflagration – Fire
Denizen – Inhabitant	Dumbfounded – Shocked



Fad – Craze	Fickle – Changing
Ghoul – Ghost	Jaunt – Trip
Jovial – Festive	Lethargic – Sluggish
Merger – Combination	Nefarious – Wicked
Omniscient – All knowing	Profuse – Abundant
Queer – Odd	Rampant – Extensive
Salient – Prominent	Sentry – Guard
Stupendous – Surprising	Tacky – Shabby
Ubiquitous – Everywhere	Verdant – Green
Scathing – Severe	Wrath – rage
Omnipotent – Almighty	Glib – Fluent
Daunt – Frightened	Cupidity – Greed
Knack – Gift	Paragon – Model
Valiant – Heroic	Whim – Caprice
Prowess – Bravery	Homage – Tribute

ANTONYMS: words which mean the opposite of another.

- It is best to know the category under which the words fall – whether positive or negative, and pleasant or unpleasant.

COMMON ANTONYMS	
Abdicate – Accept	Ameliorate – Worsen
Cowardice – Bravery	Disdain – Respect
Genial – Unwelcoming	Hail – Chide
Acclaim – Admonish	Boon – Disadvantage
Cunning – Simple	Extol – Deprecate
Genteel – Vulgar	Imbue – Empty
Alleviate – Aggravate	Castigate – Praise
Deluge – Drought	Flagrant – Veiled
Grueling – Easy	Imperious – Subservient
Laud – Decry	Magnanimous – Stingy
Nebulous – Clear	Pious – Offensive
Taciturn – Loyal	Wax – Wane
Liberty – Captivity	Mitigate – Oppose
Pandemonium – Order	Semblance – Difference
Tout – Disparage	Lugubrious – Ebullient
Muddle – In order	Panegyryze – Denigrate
Shackle – Encourage	Tranquil – Noisy
Pacify – Repel	Tout – Disparage
Panegyryze – Denigrate	Mollify – Rebuff
Allay – Incense	Decorous – Irascible
Extol – Censure	Hail – Chide

POSITIVE GENEROUS	NEGATIVE CHEAP
Munificent	Spartan
Effusive	Parsimonous
Charitable	Paltry
Beneficent	Miserly
Benevolent	Niggardly
Altruistic	Frugal
Hospitable	Penurious

Magnanimous	Skinflinty
Philanthropic	Thrifty
COURAGEOUS	TIMID
Valiant	Timorous
Dauntless	Indisposed
Gallant	Laconic
Audacious	Diffident
Stalwart	Reticent
Intrepid	Reserved
PLEASANT	UNPLEASANT
Decorous	Ireful
Engaging	Obstinate
Unblemished	Petulant
Cordial	Gruff
Affable	Callous
Agreeable	Captious
Congenial	Contentious
Obliging	Peevish
Sportive	Perverse
LIVELY	BLEAK
Brisk	Dejected
Inspiring	Muted
Provocative	Prostrate
Dynamic	Forlorn
Ebullient	Lackluster
RICH	POOR
Copious	Destitute
Myriad	Indigent
Plentiful	Paucity
Affluent	Dearth
Multifarious	Impecunious
Opulent	Insolvent
Profuse	Scanty
Plethoric	Penurious
CAREFUL	CARELESS
Provident	Reprehensible
Circumspect	Felonious
Chary	Culpable
Discreet	Insouciant
Exacting	Lackadaisical
Gingerly	Negligent
Heedful	Perfunctory
Conscientious	Indifferent