**SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING PRACTICE JAM**

**TOPIC:**  Vocabulary Building

**APPLICABLE COURSES:** English 071, 081,091,101 and other courses requiring critical reading strategies  
 **LEARNING OUTCOMES:** (What will students be able to do by the end of the workshop?)

* Use contextual clues (definitions, synonyms, contrast, etc.) to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words
* Analyze words into their component parts (prefixes, suffixes, and roots) and use them as clues to a word’s meaning
* Explain the benefits of “reading more and often”

**CONTENT:** (What do students need to know to accomplish the outcome?)

Techniques for deciphering word meanings: using contextual clues; recognizing parts of words (prefixes, suffixes, roots); using the dictionary; reading more, and often.   
 **METHOD:** (How will the tutor use active learning strategies to review the material?)

1. Tutor will ask students to fill out the chart in the Warm-Up Vocabulary Building Exercise. This chart prompts them to think metacognitively about the challenging words they encounter in their reading.
2. Using the “think aloud” technique, the tutor will model THE FIRST EXAMPLE of active learning strategies in both Part A and Part B. Tutor will also provide brief instructions for Part C.
3. Students will then pair up to solve each problem in Parts A and B. Using the “think aloud” technique, one student in each pair verbalizes the process s/he used in solving the problem while the other listens. Then, they switch roles and repeat the process with a different problem.
4. Students will then continue to solve the problems in Part C. **(Please note: Students need to use a dictionary to complete Exercises C and D on the worksheet. Pocket dictionaries can be provided, or students can use their electronic devices to access online dictionaries like Webster.com.)** As a follow-up to the workshop, students will be encouraged to make a plan to “read more and often.”
5. Tutor will instruct students to stop working when the finish Part C. Tutor will then provide answers.

**ASSESSMENT METHOD:** (How will the instructor know that the student met the objectives?)

1. Instructor will monitor the group activity and check students’ understanding.

2. Part D. - Students will take, individually, this brief quiz on the concepts and skills presented. The tutor will post quiz answers for the students to self-check their work.

3. The tutor will ask the group to share what they discovered about their problem-solving process and how they plan to “read more and often,” as well as what strategies they will integrate in their reading.

**Warm-Up Vocabulary Building Exercise**  
Directions: For each word in the column at the left, please check the appropriate columns on the chart.

**Vocabulary Chart**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WORD or PHRASE | I know the word and can use it | I’ve seen the word but I’m unsure of its meaning | I don’t know this word |
| ensuing |  |  |  |
| devastated |  |  |  |
| inherently |  |  |  |
| intervene |  |  |  |
| moratorium |  |  |  |
| multinational |  |  |  |

**Vocabulary Building -- Worksheet**

EXERCISES

Part A – Use clues from context—definition, synonym, antonym, example, contrast, and general context/sense—to guess the meaning of the underlined word in each passage below.

1. Oprah Winfrey is famous for her magnanimity; she has surprised her studio audience with expensive gifts, including cars and vacations.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Although the four tubs of popcorn were not heavy, they were too cumbersome for Bill to   
   carry into the theater by himself. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. George’s new dog exasperated him with its constant barking and whining.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Whenever our boss tells his insipid vacations stories, we have to keep from yawning and pretend his tales are exciting and interesting.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. The students in this class will not pass the course unless they complete the requisite assignments.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. The nurse suggested that the patient, who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, adopt a more salubrious lifestyle.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part B – Listed below is a small selection of some common prefixes, roots, and suffixes, along with their meanings. Use the lists to guess the approximate meaning of the underlined words in the sentences below.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PREFIX MEANING** | **ROOT MEANING** | **SUFFIX MEANING** |
| eu- “well, good”  omni- “all”  acro- “at the top”  bene- “good”  ex- “out”  a- “to, toward”  intro- “inside” | phon “speech, sound”  vor “eating”  phobia “fear”  spec, spect “look”  fac, fec, fic “do, make”  pecu “wealth, property"  hume “earth”  ver “green”  grand “great” | -ic (creates an adjective)  -ous (creates an adjective)  -ive (creates an adjective)  -int (creates an adjective)  -ary (creates an adjective or  noun)  -ant (creates an adjective)  -y (creates a noun)  -ly (usually creates an adverb)  -ize (creates a verb) |

1. The author’s plots were simple and childlike, yet her language was so euphonic that her books had many devoted fans.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Some animals eat only meat, others eat only plants, but some, like humans, are omnivorous.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. When I visited my best friend, who moved 2,000 miles away, I took the train rather than flying because I suffer from acrophobia.  
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. The introspective young man questioned his motivation for breaking up with his girlfriend and sought help from a counselor.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. My sister’s fad diet caused her to gain ten pounds; she is hoping her new healthy eating plan will be more beneficent.  
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Frank married the wealthy heiress because he loved her, but his friends thought he was seeking pecuniary benefits.   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. The coroner ordered the man’s body be exhumed after the police suspected he had been murdered.   
    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. After the rainy season in California, the dry landscape had become lush and verdant. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. The D-list actor hoped to aggrandize himself by socializing with only A-list celebrities. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part C – *Complete this section with one or two other students, as directed by the workshop instructor.***

**Directions:** Read the passage below from *Issues and Controversies.* Now, use the contextual clues you have learned today to guess the meaning of each word. Write that meaning in the middle column. In the right-hand column, list the clues you used to decipher the word meanings. When you are done, use a dictionary to check your answers and fill in any blanks.

**Critics of deepwater oil drilling say: The explosion of a deepwater oil drilling rig run by BP, and the ensuing oil spill that devastated the Gulf of Mexico, offer clear proof that deepwater oil drilling is an inherently dangerous practice with potentially disastrous consequences. At the very least, the federal government should intervene and temporarily halt new deepwater drilling, if not end it completely, until the practice can be fully evaluated.**

**Supporters of deepwater oil drilling say: The deepwater oil drilling industry employs thousands of Americans; even a relatively brief moratorium could cause those jobs to disappear, as multinational drilling companies pack up and take their operations to more-drilling-friendly countries. Additionally, the U.S. remains heavily dependent on oil, and needs to produce as much as possible.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **WORD or PHRASE** | **Meaning** | **Clues from Context** |
| **ensuing** |  |  |
| **devastated** |  |  |
| **inherently** |  |  |
| **intervene** |  |  |
| **moratorium** |  |  |
| **multinational** |  |  |

**Part D – *Complete this section with one or two other students, as directed by the workshop instructor.***

**Directions:** Read the following passage from *Issues and Controversies* and underline any unfamiliar words. When you are finished reading, write the words in the left-hand column of the chart on the next page. Then, using any contextual clues you have learned today, guess the meaning of each word and write your definition in the middle column. In the right-hand column, list the clues you used to decipher the word meanings. When you are done, use a dictionary to check your answers and fill in any blanks.

**The issue: Are European countries justified in prohibiting their residents from wearing the burqa in public? [The burqa is an outer garment worn by some Muslim women, which covers the entire face and body, with only a mesh screen or small slit for the eyes.] Or do such laws discriminate against Muslims, worsening already tense relations between Muslim immigrants and their host countries?**

**Supporters of banning the burqa in public say: The burqa is oppressive to women, virtually erasing their identity. It violates the tenet of secularism important in many European countries, and undermines the openness and individual responsibility that are also hallmarks of Western democracies. Furthermore, garments that completely cover the face pose a security threat because they make it hard for authorities to identify people at crime scenes or during investigations.**

**Critics of banning the burqa in public say: Bans on the burqa in Europe are xenophobic, and nothing more than a pretense for attacking Muslim cultural values. Such legislation is an assault on the individual freedoms of women who choose to wear the burqa, and will do nothing to help women who are forced to wear it. Instead, such bans will lend credence to the jihadist narrative that the West is waging a war on Islam.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNFAMILIAR WORD** | **Meaning** | **Clues from Context** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**ANSWER KEY - Vocabulary Building -- Worksheet**

EXERCISES

Part A – Use clues from context—definition, synonym, antonym, example, contrast, and general context/sense—to guess the meaning of the underlined word in each passage below.

1. Oprah Winfrey is famous for her magnanimity; she has surprised her studio audience with expensive gifts, including cars and vacations.   
   very generous or forgiving
2. Although the four tubs of popcorn were not heavy, they were too cumbersome for Bill to   
   carry into the theater by himself.   
   awkward, clumsy
3. George’s new dog exasperated him with its constant barking and whining.   
   irritate intensely
4. Whenever our boss tells his insipid vacations stories, we have to keep from yawning and pretend his tales are exciting and interesting.   
   lacking interest, boring
5. The students in this class will not pass the course unless they complete the requisite assignments.   
   required
6. The nurse suggested that the patient, who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, adopt a more salubrious lifestyle.   
   healthy

**Part B – Listed below is a small selection of some common prefixes, roots, and suffixes, along with their meanings. Use the lists to guess the approximate meaning of the underlined words in the sentences below.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PREFIX MEANING** | **ROOT MEANING** | **SUFFIX MEANING** |
| eu- “well, good”  omni- “all”  acro- “at the top”  bene- “good”  ex- “out”  a- “to, toward”  intro- “inside” | phon “speech, sound”  vor “eating”  phobia “fear”  spec, spect “look”  fac, fec, fic “do, make”  pecu “wealth, property"  hume “earth”  ver “green”  grand “great” | -ic (creates an adjective)  -ous (creates an adjective)  -ive (creates an adjective)  -int (creates an adjective)  -ary (creates an adjective or  noun)  -ant (creates an adjective)  -y (creates a noun)  -ly (usually creates an adverb)  -ize (creates a verb) |

1. The author’s plots were simple and childlike, yet her language was so euphonic that her books had many devoted fans.   
   pleasing to the ear, sounding pleasant
2. Some animals eat only meat, others eat only plants, but some, like humans, are omnivorous.   
   feeding on food of both plant and animal origin
3. When I visited my best friend, who moved 2,000 miles away, I took the train rather than flying because I suffer from acrophobia.  
   fear of heights
4. The introspective young man questioned his motivation for breaking up with his girlfriend and sought help from a counselor.   
   the examination or observation of one’s own mental and emotional processes
5. My sister’s fad diet caused her to gain ten pounds; she is hoping her new healthy eating plan will be more beneficent.  
   resulting in good, helpful
6. Frank married the wealthy heiress because he loved her, but his friends thought he was seeking pecuniary benefits.   
   related to money or wealth
7. The coroner ordered the man’s body be exhumed after the police suspected he had been murdered.   
   dug from the ground (usually a corpse)
8. After the rainy season in California, the dry landscape had become lush and verdant.  
   green
9. The D-list actor hoped to aggrandize himself by socializing with only A-list celebrities.

increase the power or status of

**Part C – *Complete this section with one or two other students, as directed by the workshop instructor.***

**Directions:** Read the passage below from *Issues and Controversies.* Now, use the contextual clues you have learned today to guess the meaning of each word. Write that meaning in the middle column. In the right-hand column, list the clues you used to decipher the word meanings. When you are done, use a dictionary to check your answers and fill in any blanks.

**Critics of deepwater oil drilling say: The explosion of a deepwater oil drilling rig run by BP, and the ensuing oil spill that devastated the Gulf of Mexico, offer clear proof that deepwater oil drilling is an inherently dangerous practice with potentially disastrous consequences. At the very least, the federal government should intervene and temporarily halt new deepwater drilling, if not end it completely, until the practice can be fully evaluated.**

**Supporters of deepwater oil drilling say: The deepwater oil drilling industry employs thousands of Americans; even a relatively brief moratorium could cause those jobs to disappear, as multinational drilling companies pack up and take their operations to more-drilling-friendly countries. Additionally, the U.S. remains heavily dependent on oil, and needs to produce as much as possible.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **WORD or PHRASE** | **Meaning** | **Clues from Context** |
| **ensuing** | happens or occurs afterwards | We know that the oil spill happened after the explosion. |
| **devastated** | destroy or ruin | We already know that the oil spill seriously damaged the gulf. |
| **inherently** | involved in the essential character of something, by its very nature | We understand that drilling for oil beneath the ocean is dangerous by its very nature (like defusing bombs, for example). |
| **intervene** | step in | “government temporary halt” already implies the government should step in and do something. |
| **moratorium** | stop | The side that wants the drilling to continue is worried about a moratorium, so it must mean a “stop.” |
| **multinational** | multi | “Multi-“ means many,  “-national” could refer to countries. “More drilling friendly countries” implies that several countries are involved in these operations. |

**Part D – *Complete this section with one or two other students, as directed by the workshop instructor.***

**Directions:** Read the following passage from *Issues and Controversies* and underline any unfamiliar words. When you are finished reading, write the words in the left-hand column of the chart on the next page. Then, using any contextual clues you have learned today, guess the meaning of each word and write your definition in the middle column. In the right-hand column, list the clues you used to decipher the word meanings. When you are done, use a dictionary to check your answers and fill in any blanks.

**The issue: Are European countries justified in prohibiting their residents from wearing the burqa in public? [The burqa is an outer garment worn by some Muslim women, which covers the entire face and body, with only a mesh screen or small slit for the eyes.] Or do such laws discriminate agains Muslims, worsening already tense relations between Muslim immigrants and their host countries?**

**Supporters of banning the burqa in public say: The burqa is oppressive to women, virtually erasing their identity. It violates the tenet of secularism important in many European countries, and undermines the openness and individual responsibility that are also hallmarks of Western democracies. Furthermore, garments that completely cover the face pose a security threat because they make it hard for authorities to identify people at crime scenes or during investigations.**

**Critics of banning the burqa in public say: Bans on the burqa in Europe are xenophobic, and nothing more than a pretense for attacking Muslim cultural values. Such legislation is an assault on the individual freedoms of women who choose to wear the burqa, and will do nothing to help women who are forced to wear it. Instead, such bans will lend credence to the jihadist narrative that the West is waging a war on Islam.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNFAMILIAR WORD** | **Meaning** | **Clues from Context** |
| **discriminate** | To make an unjust or prejudicial distinction in the treatment of different categories of people or things, esp. on the grounds of race, sex, or age | We already know that people have prejudices against Muslims, and “worsening already tense relations” implies that prejudices exist. |
| **oppressive** | unjustly inflicting hardship and constraint, causing depression or discomfort | The burqa “erases identity,” and erasing identity unjustly inflicts hardship. |
| **tenet** | Principle or rule | One can “violate” a principle or rule; “tenet of secularism” seems like “rule of secularism.” |
| **secularism** | Denoting attitudes, activities, etc., that have no religious or spiritual basis. | We know that “secularism” is a rule that is important in European countries. This passage is about wearing a religious garment; therefore, “secularism” might have something to do with the opposite of religious. |
| **undermine** | Damage or weaken | The burqa “undermines openness and individual responsibility,” and there is nothing open about wearing a burqa. |
| **hallmark** | A distinctive feature | We know that “openness and individual responsibility” are important to Western culture, so these might be distinctive features. |
| **xenophobic** | Fear of foreigners | We know this word criticizes those who want to ban the burqa, and we know “phobia” means “fear,” so we can assume this word means fear of people different from ourselves. |
| **pretense** | An attempt to make something that is not the case appear true | “Pretense” sounds like “pretend.” |
| **credence** | believability | We know that the West really is not waging a war on Islam, but that some Muslims may believe this. Therefore “lend credence” could mean, “make something seem believable.” |
| **jihadist** | Holy war waged by Islam as part of religious duty | We know that “narrative” means story, so a “jihadist” story, that “the West is waging a war on Islam” must be the story that some radical Muslims believe. |