Vocabulary Building Comprehension Checks

Check 1 (after slide 6)

Instructions: Read the below passages. Use context to make an educated guess about the meaning of the words in **bold**.

1. Tracy is cunning, selfish and dishonest. During the last test, she tried to **manipulate** the teacher to believe that she needed to keep her smart phone turned on because she was expecting an emergency text message. The **manipulation**, however, did not work because the teacher guessed that she was just being **manipulative**.

Manipulate means:

1. Influence
2. Talk
3. Beg
4. David serves his company in a small but vital way. He cleans the rooms, dusts the computers, and brings coffee for everyone by walking over to the nearby Starbucks. However, he is at the bottom of the company **hierarchy**. Every other employee is higher than David in the **hierarchy** of the company.

Hierarchy means:

1. Manager of a company
2. A system that gives some people more power and influence than others
3. A group of employees

Check 2 (after slide 13):

Instructions: Read the below passages. Guess the meaning of the word in **bold** using definitions, explanations, synonyms, or examples as context clues.

1. The people of the town were asked to avoid **burglaries** by acting cautiously. The newspapers and T.V. news announced that thefts can be avoided if people follow common rules such as locking the house when leaving and going to bed at night.

Burglary means:

1. Stealing from a house
2. Breaking the windows of a house
3. Repairing a house
4. My sister ran out of chocolate chips while baking cookies. She substituted, or replaced, them with raisins and walnuts.

Substitute means:

* 1. Buy
  2. Bake
  3. Replace with something else

1. Mrs. Green enjoys her retired life. She has completely given herself to her long-lost **avocations**. For example, she now spends most of her time gardening, painting, and writing poetry.

Avocation means:

* 1. Responsibilities
  2. Hobbies
  3. Chores

1. I have **arachnophobia**. As a result, I am scared of any type of spider, even the smallest, most harmless ones.

Arachnophobia means:

* 1. Fear of animals
  2. Fear of spiders
  3. Fear of the dark

1. On Mrs. Joyce’s 80th birthday, her children and grandchildren **bestowed** all kinds of gifts and compliments on her. She received a vacation ticket to Hawaii and two gift cards to her favorite spa. She was also complimented on her beauty and wit.

Bestow means:

* 1. Accept
  2. Take away
  3. Give

Check 3 (after slide 19)

Instructions: Read the following passages and guess the correct meaning of the words in bold. Use contrast or antonyms as context clues. You can also use the general sense of the sentence.

1. Instead of eating the same breakfast every morning, Jim prefers to **vary** his choices.

Vary means:

1. Change
2. Keep
3. Skip
4. Maria sips her drink delicately; in contrast, her brother **guzzles** his drink.

Guzzle means:

1. Steal
2. Take big swallows of a drink
3. Pour
4. Charlie was jealous of Lucy’s **permissive** parents. His parents were so strict that they never let him do anything!

Permissive means:

1. Uncaring
2. Busy
3. Allowing people to do what they want
4. Judith went to the mall with $200. She spent all the money on clothes. When her mother asked her why she spent so much, Judith **justified** her decision. She said that she needed a suit for a job interview and a dress for her friend’s wedding.

Justify means:

1. Cry
2. Buy
3. Explain with reasons
4. When Kelly returned from vacation, she discovered that her kitchen smelled awful. She had forgotten to take out the trash before she left. In order to **eliminate** the smell from the kitchen, she opened all the windows and bought an air freshener.

Eliminate means:

1. Get rid of
2. Take the trash out
3. Hate
4. During the game, the crowd became **boisterous**. They did not sit quietly and peacefully like we thought they would.

Boisterous means:

1. Noisy
2. Quiet
3. Calm