

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: _____

PARAPHRASING DEFINITIONS AND USING PERSONAL EXAMPLES

One way to boost your vocabulary is to keep a notebook in which you write down the meanings of new words that you encounter. You could write down the dictionary's definitions of these words and try to memorize them. But a more fun and memorable way to learn new words is to paraphrase the definitions and give your own examples. Paraphrasing means rephrasing in your own words.

Here is an example of a page of a vocabulary notebook. Take note of how the student begins by copying down the dictionary's definition of the word "binge." The student then paraphrases the definition and provides a funny personal example. (Also, check out the picture below the personal example.)

Binge - according to the dictionary, binge is "a short period devoted to indulging in activity to excess, especially drinking alcohol or eating." As a verb, it means to "indulge in an activity, especially eating, to excess."

To binge is to go crazy with eating because the food is so delicious, like at a buffet or party!

I remember last Christmas, my parents organized a party and many friends and relatives came to our house. We received a lot of chocolate as presents and during the last few days of 2013, I had chocolate for breakfast, lunch, and dinner! I just couldn't stop eating! It was awesome but I fell sick after that. The first day of 2014 wasn't so awesome after all!



It's your turn now! Choose 10 words from the box below and paraphrase their dictionary definitions, provide personal examples, and include funny pictures. The important thing is to make the word as memorable as possible for yourself.

servile	revere	omnipotent	gorge	binge	
	pensive	gyrate	plaintive	scoff	disdain
sympathy	eavesdrop	embassy	camouflage	denounce	
	sabotage	skirmish	approximate	vulnerable	

Word 1:

Word 2:

Word 3:

Word 4:

Word 5:

Word 6:

Word 7:

Word 8:

Word 9:

Word 10:

VOCABULARY BUILDING

The words in this vocabulary section are taken from "The End of the Elephant Empire," which is the second chapter of the story about Bridge, Barnaby, Babette, and not forgetting Beauregard. You can find Chapters 1 and 2 in previous weeks' handouts.

A) Fill in the blank

For each sentence below, choose the word that best completes the sentence.

1. It was obvious that Lance felt _____ toward the girls' softball team because even before he saw them, he had made up his mind that they were lousy players.
a. audacity b. reverence
c. prejudice d. dignity
2. The kids called Marlon "dog-face" because his pointed teeth, shaggy hair, and his habit of hanging his tongue out of his mouth gave him a sort of _____ look.
a. canine b. bovine
c. plaintive d. awkward
3. Cassie was being _____ when she said, "I can't wait to go have my wisdom teeth pulled. It will be more fun than Disneyland!"
a. sarcastic b. adverse
c. fanatic d. overt
4. During the student council elections, my opponent handed out tons of pamphlets filled with lies and twisted stories about me and my plans as student council president, but most students knew it was just a bunch of _____ and I won the election anyway.
a. agenda b. embargo
c. propaganda d. media
5. The military overthrew the government in a bloody _____.
a. resignation b. coup d'etat
c. feud d. upheaval
6. During the holiday, Margie _____ donations of canned goods from her neighbours for her school food drive.
a. solicited b. comprehended
c. contemplated d. denounced
7. Sheldon was not usually a troublemaker, but when the lunchroom served gruel for the fourth day in a row, he _____ a riot in the cafeteria, and led a crowd of students to the secret supply of chocolate pudding the cook had been keeping for herself.
a. sabotaged b. clamored
c. gaped d. instigated

8. Genghis Khan was a powerful _____ who ruled with an iron fist and crushed anyone who tried to disobey or disagree with him.

- j. ambassador b. orator
- c. tyrant d. patriarch

9. Mr. Spalding, our social sciences teacher, is a _____ man who has taught at our school for forty years and is respected and liked by the whole town.

- a. vulnerable b. omnipotent
- c. disparate d. venerable

10. Ambassador Black hosted a big party at the American _____ in Tokyo.

- a. domain b. embassy
- c. camouflage d. bureaucracy

11. Jacob was _____ in his efforts to get Samantha to date him – he asked her out five times before she finally gave in.

- a. repulsive b. dubious
- c. atrocious d. relentless

12. Mindy sent me a Valentine's Day card that said "Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet, and so are you," which I thought was pretty _____, but it was nice of her anyway.

- a. similar b. clichéd
- c. obese d. bleak

B) RELATIONSHIPS

Decide what relationship the following pairs of words have to each other. If they have similar meanings, write "S" next to the pair of words. If they have opposite meanings, write "O" next to the words.

1. ___ pacifists :: belligerent
2. ___ dissenting :: unanimous
3. ___ radical :: traditional
4. ___ servile :: haughty
5. ___ disdain :: scoff
6. ___ dogmatic :: flexible
7. ___ disparage :: praise
8. ___ paranoid :: trusting
9. ___ autonomous :: independent
10. ___ pensive :: boisterous
11. ___ feigning :: pretending

C) SENTENCE COMPLETION

Fill in the blanks with the help of the word bank below. Do not use any word more than once.

anarchy	autonomous	haughty	relinquish	relentless
feigned	stealthily	repulsive	yield	appease

1. Her husky voice and somewhat _____ tone contrast with her writing, which is intimate, reflective and inviting.
2. Concerts often lasted for hours, but they included encores to _____ the roaring applause.
3. One of the robbers _____ injury as a victim of his own robbery by escaping in an ambulance.
4. When a country is _____, it has the freedom to govern itself.
5. After the war, there was widespread _____ in this country because there were no leaders to govern the people.
6. The tyrant finally decided to _____ some control over his subjects who did not stop rebelling against his authority.
7. She was _____ in her fierce pursuit of her goals. Nothing will stop her from accomplishing her goals.
8. The bridge started to _____ when the people using it exceeded its weight limit.
9. The submarine moved _____ before suddenly surfacing in the ocean to sink and destroy the flight carrier.

10. Although the smell is _____ to people, it attracts flies and other insects, which the carnivorous plant then feeds upon.

D) CREATING SENTENCES

Create your own sentence for each of the following words. Make sure that the sentences show that you really understand the meanings of the words.

1. Dogmatic: _____

2. Dubious: _____

3. Feigned: _____

4. Belligerent: _____

5. Prejudice: _____

THE END