

it.226 Communication in STEM Professions

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"Good writing is good thinking" Professor John V. Lesko (retired), Harvard University & Bentley College

Vocabulary Scale 5760 to 5780

Chapter 11

Pretest



Each test word is printed in CAPITAL letters in a phrase. From the five choices on the next line, select the one which comes nearest in meaning to the meaning of the test word. Underline the one you select.

1. Real DEVOTION.
excitement trickery faithfulness dislike happiness
2. Similar CIRCUMSTANCES.
conditions accidents choices outlines changes
3. To ABOLISH it.
give in to be angry at make up for do away with dislike
4. DECEASED relatives.
new additional distant dead aged
5. Began to DOZE.
be tired dream sleep lightly go crazy wake up
6. The child BAWLED.
cried loudly coughed whispered played fought wildly
7. Caught the ASSASSIN.
physician disease kidnapper murderer bully
8. She ENCOURAGED her students.
urged on advised asked disappointed improved
9. CONVENIENT shelf.
new high handy broken big
10. Noticed the DEFECT.
foreigner scratch favor fault official
11. They CIRCULATED.
grew dark became hot stopped increased moved around
12. Brief ENCOUNTER.
story meeting walk trip stop
13. Recognized their AUTHORITY.
greatness weakness founder power service
14. Completely DEFORMED.
understood cured disfigured opposed destroyed
15. Very CONFIDENT.
mysterious worried sure happy clever

DEVOTION (di-vO'-shən) n.: faithfulness, dedication, loyalty

Someone who is DEVOTED is attached or dedicated to a purpose, cause, or person.

"They are DEVOTED to the idea of world peace."

DEVOTION is the quality of being DEVOTED; it is *faithfulness, dedication, loyalty*.

"Everyone admired her DEVOTION to her sick parents."

"He was fired because he didn't show enough DEVOTION to his duties."

Other forms of the word: DEVOTE, v.
DEVOTED, adj.

CIRCUMSTANCE (ser'-kəm-stans) n.: a condition, fact

CIRCUMSTANCES are the conditions or facts surrounding some event or situation.

"I cannot make a decision about this until I know all the CIRCUMSTANCES."

"We were unaware of the terrible CIRCUMSTANCES at his home; both parents were ill and there was no food in the house."

"Each CIRCUMSTANCE must be taken into account before we decide what to do."

"She died under mysterious CIRCUMSTANCES."

Usage: CIRCUMSTANCE is generally used in the plural: CIRCUMSTANCES.

ABOLISH (ə-bol'-ish) v.: to do away with, end

To ABOLISH something is to put an end to it or to do away with it. The word is used especially about laws, customs, and practices rather than about physical objects.

"President Lincoln ABOLISHED slavery in America."

"Our family voted to ABOLISH the tradition of giving expensive gifts on birthdays."

"Will mankind ever ABOLISH war?"

The noun from ABOLISH is ABOLITION.

"The student council voted for the ABOLITION of the dress code. They said students should wear whatever they like."

Other forms of the word: ABOLITION, n.

DECEASED (di-sEst') adj.: dead

DECEASED means *dead*. It is used only about people, and often refers to someone who is recently dead.

"The DECEASED man's will was read to his relatives a month after he died."

"Al Johnson is now DECEASED, but he was once the richest man in town."

DECEASED is also a noun and means the *dead person*.

"The wishes of the DECEASED must be respected in this matter."

DOZE (dOz) v.: to sleep lightly

To DOZE is to fall into a light sleep.

"He DOZED for a while, then awoke with a start and realized he had missed the TV show."

"I must have DOZED off while doing my homework."

DOZE is also a noun.

"The speech was so boring Joan fell into a DOZE after the first few minutes."

Usage: DOZE is often followed by *off*.

BAWL (bôl) v.: to cry loudly, shout

To BAWL means "to cry or shout loudly and continuously." Babies BAWL; animals BAWL; children who are very unhappy BAWL.

"We could hear the baby BAWLING in the next room."

"The cattle in the stockyard BAWLED in fear and confusion."

When you get "BAWLED out" you get a loud scolding; someone shouts at you for doing something wrong.

"Her mother BAWLED her out for coming home late."

ASSASSIN (ə-sas'-in) n.: a murderer, killer

An ASSASSIN is a *murderer* or *killer*, especially one who is paid for killing or who kills a public official.

"They caught the ASSASSIN of the president."

"The ASSASSIN prepared very carefully to murder his victim."

The verb from ASSASSIN is ASSASSINATE, which means to *murder* or *kill*.

"Several Roman emperors were ASSASSINATED."

"The madman ASSASSINATED the mayor."

Other forms of the word: ASSASSINATE, v.
ASSASSINATION, n.

ENCOURAGE (en-kuhr'-ij) v.: to put courage into, urge on, stimulate, hearten, foster

See *in-* under Prefixes. ENCOURAGE basically means "to put courage into."

"The soldiers needed to be ENCOURAGED before the battle."

As the word is used today it means to *urge* or *help* someone to do something, through words or example or in some other way.

"Her presence ENCOURAGED him to try again."

"My parents ENCOURAGED me to be a doctor."

What is ENCOURAGED can be either good or bad.

"His early success ENCOURAGED him in his life of crime."

It doesn't have to be a person who is ENCOURAGED.

"The plan was designed to ENCOURAGE small businesses."

Other forms of the word: ENCOURAGEMENT, n.
ENCOURAGING, adj.

CONVENIENT (kən-vən'-yənt) adj.: handy, useful, suitable

Something that is CONVENIENT is near at hand or easy to use. It is well suited for your comfort or ease.

"He found a CONVENIENT spot near the river and pitched his tent there."

"I don't care when you come. Pick the time that is most CONVENIENT for you."

"The soap comes in a CONVENIENT new package that we're sure you'll like."

The noun from CONVENIENT is CONVENIENCE.

"He arranged the schedule for his own CONVENIENCE. He didn't care if it caused problems for other people."

Other forms of the word: CONVENIENCE, n.

DEFECT (dE'-fekt) n.: a fault, flaw, imperfection

A DEFECT is something wrong or damaged, a *fault*.

"The DEFECT in the jacket was hardly noticeable. It was just a tiny hole near the button."

"The DEFECT in his plan was that there was no way we could get the money to carry it out."

"He admitted that his quick temper was a DEFECT in his character."

The adjective from DEFECT is DEFECTIVE. DEFECTIVE means *damaged*, "having flaws or faults."

"The lamp was DEFECTIVE: sometimes it would light and sometimes it wouldn't."

"We didn't realize the air conditioner was DEFECTIVE until we tried to use it."

Other forms of the word: DEFECTIVE, adj.

CIRCULATE (ser'-kyə-lat) v.: to move around, spread, flow freely

CIRCULATE is related to the word *circle*. It means "to move around and around."

"Blood CIRCULATES in our bodies; it takes about ten minutes for a complete cycle."

"We could hear the water CIRCULATING in the pipes."

CIRCULATE also means "to go freely from one place to another," to *spread*. In this sense the word can be used about ideas, information, and the like.

"The news of her arrival CIRCULATED through the waiting crowd within a few moments."

"They CIRCULATED a petition asking that there be less homework on the weekends."

Other forms of the word: CIRCULATION, n.

ENCOUNTER (en-kown'-tər) n.: a chance meeting; a battle, conflict

An **ENCOUNTER** is a meeting, especially a face-to-face meeting. There are two different uses of **ENCOUNTER**. The first is for any casual, unplanned meeting.

"John had an unexpected **ENCOUNTER** with his old friend yesterday."

The second and more common use is for a sudden and perhaps violent coming together of enemies.

"The bloody **ENCOUNTER** left six men injured."

ENCOUNTER is also used as a verb, and means to *come upon, meet, confront*.

"The two old enemies **ENCOUNTERED** each other in the middle of the battle."

AUTHORITY (ə-thôr'-ə-tē) n.: power, right

AUTHORITY is the power or right to make people do something.

"He received the **AUTHORITY** to collect taxes in his district."

"The **AUTHORITY** of the laws was disregarded by the rebels."

"As they grew older, Mrs. Smith's children resisted her **AUTHORITY** more and more."

Another meaning of **AUTHORITY** is "a person who has expert knowledge of something."

"He became the **AUTHORITY** on the development of young children."

"She is an **AUTHORITY** on Shakespeare."

DEFORMED (di-fôrm'd) adj.: disfigured, misshapen

To **DEFORM** something is to take it out of its natural form or shape. See *de-* under Prefixes. When something is **DEFORMED**, then, it is not shaped properly; it is disfigured.

"His leg was **DEFORMED** as a result of the accident."
"The baby survived, but it was permanently **DEFORMED**."

DEFORMED usually suggests something that is ugly or offensive.

"When he was very upset, his face would become **DEFORMED** with rage."

In the Pretest, many people choose *destroyed* as the meaning of **DEFORMED**. Something that is **DEFORMED** still exists, it is just misshapen; it has not been *destroyed*.

Other forms of the word: **DEFORM**, v.
DEFORMITY, n.

CONFIDENT (kon'-fə-dənt) adj.: sure, assured

Someone who is **CONFIDENT** firmly believes that he is right or that he can do something. He doesn't have any fears or doubts about himself.

"I am **CONFIDENT** that I will succeed. No one can stop me now."

"She was **CONFIDENT** she had passed the exam, but she hadn't expected an A."

"The salesman walked **CONFIDENTLY** up to them and told them why they should buy this car."

A person who is **CONFIDENT** has **CONFIDENCE**.

"Every success he had gave him a little more **CONFIDENCE** that he could do the job."

"All Jim lacks is **CONFIDENCE**. He just doesn't think he's good enough."

The most commonly chosen incorrect answer is *mysterious*. This may be because **CONFIDENT** looks like *confidential*, which means *secret*.

Other forms of the word: **CONFIDENCE**, n.

Exercise 1

Answer each question with a YES or NO. Put a check in the space for YES or NO next to each question.

EXAMPLE

Is a speck of dust TINY?

Yes No

☒ ☐

1. Would a DEVOTED musician enjoy playing music? ☐ ☐
2. Are the CIRCUMSTANCES of a decision the results of it? ☐ ☐
3. Would most students like to have summer vacations ABOLISHED? ☐ ☐
4. Are you DECEASED? ☐ ☐
5. Can cats DOZE? ☐ ☐
6. Would a baby BAWL if it hadn't been fed for a day? ☐ ☐
7. Was Abraham Lincoln ASSASSINATED? ☐ ☐
8. Would a coach ENCOURAGE his team to win? ☐ ☐
9. Would most people find it CONVENIENT to go to school next door to where they live? ☐ ☐
10. Would most people want to buy a DEFECTIVE watch? ☐ ☐
11. Can ideas be CIRCULATED? ☐ ☐
12. Can an ENCOUNTER be friendly? ☐ ☐
13. Do children usually have AUTHORITY over their parents? ☐ ☐
14. Are all DEFORMED people evil? ☐ ☐
15. Would a CONFIDENT person worry that he was going to fail? ☐ ☐

Exercise 2

Each sentence contains a test word in CAPITAL letters. Decide whether the test word is being used correctly or incorrectly in the sentence. Put a check in the space for RIGHT or WRONG next to the sentence.

EXAMPLE

After working hard all day Bill felt TINY and wanted to sleep.

1. No one could match the lawyer's DEVOTION to the cause of justice for all. ☐ ☐
2. These are not the proper CIRCUMSTANCES in which to discuss your problems. ☐ ☐
3. The teacher ABOLISHED them not to talk so loud. ☐ ☐
4. The children always became very sad when they spoke about their DECEASED uncle. ☐ ☐
5. She DOZED the baby by singing softly to it. ☐ ☐
6. Pete lost his balance and BAWLED down the stairs. ☐ ☐
7. The ASSASSIN followed his victim for days before killing him. ☐ ☐

Right Wrong

☐ ☒

- | | Right | Wrong |
|---|-------|-------|
| 8. We were ENCOURAGED by the favorable response to our request. | _____ | _____ |
| 9. It costs more, but Mrs. Jones likes the CONVENIENCE of having her groceries delivered right to her door. | _____ | _____ |
| 10. There was only one DEFECT in the engine, but it was enough to keep the car from running. | _____ | _____ |
| 11. He CIRCULATED the right answer with his pencil and went on to the next question. | _____ | _____ |
| 12. A quick ENCOUNTER showed that we were missing six dollars. | _____ | _____ |
| 13. Who gave you the AUTHORITY to close the school? | _____ | _____ |
| 14. Larry DEFORMED his letters the way the teacher taught him to. | _____ | _____ |
| 15. Everyone on the team was CONFIDENT that we would win. | _____ | _____ |

Exercise 3

Each test word is followed by three other words. Decide which of the three words is LEAST CLOSELY RELATED in its meaning to the meaning of the test word. Put a letter for the word you choose in the space at the end of the line.

EXAMPLE

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| TINY: | a) small | b) short | c) angry | C |
| 1. DEVOTION: | a) faithfulness | b) truthfulness | c) love | _____ |
| 2. CIRCUMSTANCE: | a) condition | b) situation | c) difference | _____ |
| 3. ABOLISH: | a) stop | b) give in | c) end | _____ |
| 4. DECEASED: | a) dead | b) ill | c) lifeless | _____ |
| 5. DOZE: | a) nap | b) sit | c) rest | _____ |
| 6. BAWL: | a) yell | b) argue | c) cry | _____ |
| 7. ASSASSIN: | a) robber | b) murderer | c) poisoner | _____ |
| 8. ENCOURAGE: | a) urge | b) help | c) wonder | _____ |
| 9. CONVENIENT: | a) close | b) sudden | c) easy | _____ |
| 10. DEFECT: | a) break | b) fault | c) ache | _____ |
| 11. CIRCULATE: | a) drop | b) move | c) spread | _____ |
| 12. ENCOUNTER: | a) battle | b) party | c) meeting | _____ |
| 13. AUTHORITY: | a) power | b) knowledge | c) beauty | _____ |
| 14. DEFORMED: | a) lost | b) twisted | c) misshapen | _____ |
| 15. CONFIDENT: | a) certain | b) happy | c) assured | _____ |