



**FOCUS:** Figuring out the meaning of vocabulary from context.

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## Reading &gt; Lesson 2: Vocabulary Questions &gt; Exercise 2.1

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the sentences. Then select the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the **highlighted** word. Pay attention to the underlined context clues.

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- 1 The word *rhetoric* often has a **pejorative** meaning today--empty or ornamental words in contrast to action. In truth, however, the study of rhetoric has a distinguished history dating back to Greece in the fifth century B.C.

- ☐ profound  
☐ negative  
☐ superficial



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- 2 Although all industries are subject to some form of government regulation, some industries face especially **restrictive** regulations. For example, automobile and oil firms have been subject to increased environmental regulations.

- ☐ limiting  
☐ governmental  
☐ decreased



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- 3 Scholars have long debated the **antiquity** of humans in the New World. Some claim that the discovery of apparently crude stone tools demonstrates that humans have been in the New World for thousands of years, since the last phase of the Ice Age.

- ☐ importance
- ☐ existence
- ☐ age



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- 4 **Isolated** facts are difficult to remember. The best way to remember individual facts is to relate them to a theme, principle, or concept.

- ☐ complicated
- ☐ associated
- ☐ unconnected



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- 5 **Notwithstanding** the overall spirit of cooperation between the federal government and the broadcasting industry during the war, during this period the government regularly intervened in broadcast regulation.

- ☐ despite  
☐ because of  
☐ regarding



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- 6 Doodling at his desk one day, Thomas Jefferson drew up a list of character traits in which, he suggested, northerners and southerners differed. Northerners were hardworking, self-interested, and **devious**; southerners were lazy, generous, and sincere.

- ☐ dishonest  
☐ open  
☐ agreeable



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- 7 At first, the fossilized remains of elephants and giant saber-toothed tigers in Europe were interpreted according to religious **doctrine**.

- ☐ scholars  
☐ doctors  
☐ beliefs



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- 8 Although many speech acts are direct and involve the use of an **explicit** statement of intent, other speech acts are indirect.

- ☐ clear  
☐ unexpressed  
☐ diverse



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- 9 The Gaia hypothesis proposes that Earth's entire collection of living matter functions like a single organism. It further regards the atmosphere, oceans, soil, and other environmental factors as reacting to the presence of life in such a way as to **optimize** and maintain the physical and chemical conditions that life requires.

- ☐ alter
- ☐ improve
- ☐ enlarge



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- 10 The central theme of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* might be the idea that one's **personal** sense of right and wrong is superior to society's often-unattainable values.

- ☐ individual
- ☐ unusual
- ☐ secret



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- 11 Adult male skulls tend to be **more robust** than female skulls, with heavier brow ridges over the eyes, larger mastoid processes (two protrusions of bone on the bottom of the skull), and more rugged muscle attachments.

- ☐ livelier
- ☐ stronger
- ☐ rougher



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- 12 In some stories, no particular time or place is **specified** or even suggested, perhaps because the writer does not consider the setting to be important or because the writer wants the story's events to seem timeless and universal.

- ☐ recommended
- ☐ stated
- ☐ written



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13 If one could **characterize** in a few words the FCC's actions in this crucial initial period for television, they would be "restrict, delay, consolidate."

- ☐ criticize
- ☐ deny
- ☐ describe



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14 Managers may be able to complete large tasks efficiently by scheduling sufficient **intervals** of time to focus on those tasks. Within these blocks, managers can focus all of their attention on the large tasks.

- ☐ periods
- ☐ breaks
- ☐ plans





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15 The Democrats' New Deal policies of the 1930s aimed to relieve the economic hardships of the Great Depression and limit the harsh consequences of an **unrestrained** free market economy.

- ☐ unpopular
- ☐ uncontrolled
- ☐ unexpected



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16 Although at the end of the nineteenth century geologists generally understood how most kinds of rocks formed and could make crude estimations of their age, there was substantial **controversy** surrounding the origin of mountain belts, such as the Rocky Mountains and the Himalayas. A popular theory at the time, known as *contractionism*, suggested that Earth is slowly cooling, and contracting, thus forming mountains in the same way that wrinkles form on dried up apples.

- ☐ data
- ☐ disagreement
- ☐ discipline



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17 When **adapting** works of fiction for the medium of film, filmmakers have many decisions to make. For example, they may decide to cut out characters, or refocus the main story on a minor character or scene from the original work.

- ☐ modifying
- ☐ varying
- ☐ composing



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18 The production possibility curve illustrates every possible combination of outputs that can be made given a **fixed** quantity of resources used as inputs.

- ☐ substantial
- ☐ manufactured
- ☐ specific



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19 The military insignia worn by the various branches of the United States military services originated during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington **devised** a system of uniform patches to help distinguish the ranks of his officers on the battlefield.

- ☐ fought
- ☐ invented
- ☐ discriminated



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20 "What is the impact of advertising on society?" This question **elicits** sharply different responses.

- ☐ brings out
- ☐ collides with
- ☐ responds to



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21 One hypothesis held that the wetlands provided **an abundant**, high-quality food source and assumed that people would become sedentary due to the ready availability of food.

- ☐ a safe
- ☐ a nearby
- ☐ a plentiful



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22 Extracts from the Ginkgo bilboa tree have been used for thousands of years to **treat** headaches, dizziness, hearing loss, and conditions related to aging.

- ☐ take care of
- ☐ be concerned about
- ☐ have knowledge of



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23 The source of much of David Ricardo's success in the stock market was his brilliant ability to **predict** public reaction to economic events.

- ☐ forecast
- ☐ prevent
- ☐ cause



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24 In the 1970s, the TV series *Roots*, **inspired** by Alex Haley's book of the same name, sent millions of Americans in search of their ancestors.

- ☐ announced
- ☐ copied
- ☐ influenced



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25 In photography, the **term** "depth of field" refers to the range of distances from the lens within which a subject must be located to produce a sharply focused image.

- ☐ picture
- ☐ phrase
- ☐ reflection



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26 Language is often used to **enhance** a story's other elements. It may, for example, help to create an atmosphere that is important to the story's plot.

- ☐ say about
- ☐ add to
- ☐ make up for



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27 The growth and distribution of bottom-dwelling aquatic communities is heavily influenced by both the size and the chemical **composition** of organic and inorganic sediment particles found in the immediate environment.

- ☐ attachment
- ☐ reaction
- ☐ structure



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28 While it may be easy to distinguish a human being from a chimpanzee on the basis of physical **characteristics**, it is considerably harder to tell them apart according to their genes.

- ☐ habits
- ☐ features
- ☐ barriers



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29 The jazz style known as be-bop originated with alto saxophonist Charlie Parker, pianist Thelonious Monk, and trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie--innovative musicians who **broke with** the traditional jazz styles of the late 1930s and early 1940s.

- ☐ sounded similar to
- ☐ played like
- ☐ moved away from



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30 The best information on consumer products comes from independent testing groups, because they are **unaffiliated** with any manufacturer.

- ☐ unprofessional
- ☐ no longer produced
- ☐ not associated