ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Basic vocabulary

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you understand what you read and say exactly what you mean. Reading a textbook, following instructions, or explaining an idea to a friend all depend on knowing the right words. A strong vocabulary means fewer misunderstandings and less time spent guessing at what a sentence is trying to say.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Work out what 'enormous' means in: The enormous dog filled the doorway.

SOLUTION

Look at the clue in the sentence: the dog filled the doorway.

A dog that fills a doorway must be very big.

So 'enormous' means very big.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Work out what 'tiny' means in: The tiny ant carried a crumb.

SOLUTION

Look at the clue in the sentence: the ant carried a crumb, and a crumb is a tiny bit of food.

That tells you the ant must be very small, so 'tiny' describes how small something is.

So 'tiny' means very small.

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Practice questions

1 What does 'brave' mean in: The brave girl spoke up?

- A Very fast
- B Very old
- C Not afraid; willing to act even when scared
- D Breaks easily

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2 What does 'swift' mean in: The swift runner won the race?

- A Very fast
- B Very old
- C Full of happiness
- D Empty

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What does 'gentle' mean in: Be gentle with the kitten?

A Strong and wild

B Very fast

C Breaks easily

D Soft and careful, not rough

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4

What does 'ancient' mean in: The ancient castle was built before cars were invented?

A Very fast

B Very old

C Tastes very good

D Empty

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What does 'delicious' mean in: The delicious soup was eaten quickly?

A Very old

B Wanting to learn; asking questions

C Tastes very good

D Strong and wild

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6

What does 'curious' mean in: The curious boy wanted to know how the clock worked?

A Wanting to learn; asking questions

B Very fast

C Full of happiness

D Soft and careful, not rough

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What does 'fierce' mean in: The fierce storm broke branches?

A Soft and careful, not rough

B Very old

C Tastes very good

D Strong and wild

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8

What does 'vacant' mean in: The vacant room had no furniture?

A Full of happiness

B Empty

C Very fast

D Breaks easily

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What does 'joyful' mean in: The joyful crowd cheered?

A Full of happiness

B Empty

C Very old

D Wanting to learn; asking questions

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10

What does 'fragile' mean in: The fragile glass broke into pieces when it fell off the table?

A Very fast

B Soft and careful, not rough

C Breaks easily

D Full of happiness

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ANSWER KEY

1. Not afraid; willing to act even when scared
2. Very fast
3. Soft and careful, not rough
4. Very old
5. Tastes very good
6. Wanting to learn; asking questions
7. Strong and wild
8. Empty
9. Full of happiness
10. Breaks easily

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