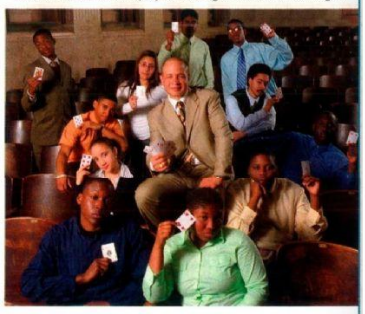
A | **Meaning from Context.** Read and listen to the information about memory. Notice the words in blue. These are the words you will hear and use in Lesson B.

Memorizing the order of playing cards helps high school students in New York's South Bronx prepare for tougher academic challenges.



The amount of information that the human brain can hold is virtually limitless. Most people do not have an aptitude for remembering complex lists or numbers. Some people, however, use their memory much more than the average person. A person who is able to remember long lists of data such as names and numbers is called a *mnemonist*. This word is derived from the word *mnemonic*, which originated from an ancient Greek word meaning "of memory."

Each year, mnemonists participate in the World Memory Championships. This championship is a series of games that test a person's memory. Contestants are expected to behave in an ethical way at all times: there must be no cheating, no help from others, and no use of drugs that enhance the memory. Some of the events include memorizing numbers, words, faces, or images. There is also a "Speed Cards" event in which individuals must memorize the exact order of 54 cards as quickly as possible. The world record is 21.90 seconds.

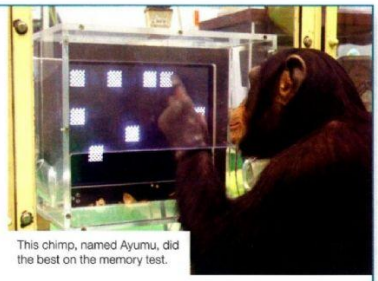
One of the most successful mnemonists in the world is a British man named Dominic O'Brien. He has won the World Memory Championship an unprecedented eight times. O'Brien uses his own memorization method. He uses information he already knows as a framework, and adds new facts to this information. He says that practicing memorization techniques can result in a dramatic increase in almost everyone's memory.

B | Write each word in blue from exercise **A** to complete its definition below.

1. To _____ means to improve in some way.
2. A person's _____ is a special ability to learn a task quickly and do it well.
3. A _____ is a structure that supports something else.
4. You can use _____ to mean "very nearly."
5. If an event is _____, it has never happened before.
6. A _____ is a particular way of doing or completing a task.
7. If a word _____ from another word, it got its meaning from that word.
8. If something is _____, it means that every detail is correct.
9. A _____ change happens suddenly and is very noticeable and surprising.
10. An _____ person is morally right or correct.

A | **Understanding Collocations.** The article below contains six collocations. Read the article and complete each collocation in blue using a vocabulary word from the box. *(See page 208 of the Independent Student Handbook for more information on building your vocabulary.)*

dramatic ethical exact method unprecedented virtually



This chimp, named Ayumu, did the best on the memory test.

Who has a better memory: a chimpanzee (chimp) or a college student? The answer may surprise you. During a recent science experiment, Japanese researchers tested the short-term memory[1] of young chimpanzees against the short-term memory of college students. The (1) _____ result surprised everyone: the chimpanzees won. Many of the researchers believed that this result was (2) _____ impossible, because the human mind is superior to the chimpanzee mind.

Chimpanzees beating humans in a memory test had never happened before—it was completely (3) _____. "No one can imagine that chimpanzees—young chimpanzees at the age of five—have a better performance in a memory task than humans," said researcher Tetsuro Matsuzawa of Kyoto University.



The participants of the experiment were five-year-old chimpanzees and 12 college students. The chimps were taught the numbers 1 through 9 and their order. The testing (4) _____ was as follows: Both humans and chimps saw nine numbers displayed on a computer screen. When they touched the first number, the other eight numbers turned into white squares. The test was to touch the squares in the order of the numbers that used to be there.

Often, neither humans nor chimps were able to remember the (5) _____ location of the numbers. However, to everyone's surprise, the results showed that the chimps could do the task faster. People who support animal rights feel that this type of experiment raises (6) _____ questions. They do not believe that scientists should do research on the chimps at all.

[1]**Short-term memory** is information that we remember only for a short period of time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS