

## LESSON 2D. VOCABULARY QUESTIONS

### PRACTICE

#### Exercise 1

Read the passages and choose the best answer to each question.

#### Question 1

Although the sensory receptors and brain pathways for taste and smell are independent, the two senses do interact. A great deal of what we consider taste is actually smell. If the sense of smell is **obstructed**, as by a head cold, the perception of taste is sharply reduced.

1. The word **obstructed** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. involved            B. increased            C. developed            D. blocked

#### Question 2

A water molecule consists of two hydrogen atoms attached to a single, larger oxygen atom. The angle between the two hydrogen atoms is 120 degrees - the same angle as the angles of a hexagon - which **accounts for** the characteristic six-sided structure of ice crystals.

2. The phrase **accounts for** in the passage means  
A. explains            B. decreases            C. connects            D. summarizes

#### Question 3

Reports on an organization's projects may fill several major functions at the same time. A report can be used to educate and gain support from key people and groups, to facilitate and inform decision-making about current and future projects, and to provide documentation for the organization's records. The employees who are responsible for preparing the report must have a clear understanding of how the report will be used before they **compile** it.

3. The word **compile** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. agree with            B. put together            C. ask about            D. look forward to

#### Question 4

The evolutionary origins of music are wrapped in mystery. There is ample concrete evidence of musical instruments dating back to the Stone Age and much presumptive evidence about the role of music in organizing work groups, hunting parties, and religious rites. Many scholars suspect that musical and linguistic expression had common origins but then **split off** from one another several hundred thousand years ago.

4. The phrase **split off** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. separated            B. borrowed            C. evolved            D. learned

#### Questions 5-6

Modern tourism began with the transition from a rural to an industrial society, the rise of the automobile, and the expansion of road and highway systems. Before the Second World War, travel for pleasure was limited to the wealthy, but since then, improved standards of living and the availability of transportation have allowed more people to **indulge**. In the 1960s, improvements in aircraft technology and the development of commercial jet airlines enabled fast international travel. The tourism industry **exploded**. Today, airports in nearly every country can accommodate jumbo jets full of tourists seeking exotic destinations.

5. The word **indulge** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. participate      B. migrate      C. survive      D. change
6. The word **exploded** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. was competitive      B. expanded rapidly      C. was expensive      D. became dangerous

### Questions 7-8

At the college level, the best preparation for management is a liberal arts education. Individuals who will guide the future of their companies must broaden and deepen their understanding of the world. This means covering the whole range of the liberal arts, from science to literature to mathematics to history. Today's executives must have some **grasp** of economic realities and the political process, as well as some comprehension of the basic framework within which scientific and technological changes take place. They must gain an understanding of human nature, including its negative aspects, such as the sources of human conflict and the **pitfalls** of power.

7. The word **grasp** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. understanding      B. communication      C. criticism      D. prediction
8. The word **pitfalls** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. benefits      B. stages      C. causes      D. hazards

### Questions 9-10

It is a popular notion that autumn leaves are tinted by freezing temperatures. In truth, the **foliage** is dulled, not colored by frost. Red leaves such as maples are brightest when sunny days are followed by cool - but not freezing - nights. Under such conditions, sun-made sugars are trapped in the leaves, where they form the red pigment anthocyanin. Leaves that appear yellow in autumn are no less yellow in spring and summer. However, in spring and summer the yellow pigments - carotenoid and xanthophyll - are **masked** by the green pigment chlorophyll, which breaks down with the diminishing sunlight of fall.

9. The word **foliage** in the passage means  
A. season of year      B. type of chemical      C. mass of leaves      D. species of tree
10. The word **masked** in the passage is closest in meaning to  
A. created      B. colored      C. captured      D. concealed

### Exercise 2

Read the passages and choose the best answer to each question.

### Questions 1-2

Earthshine - the faint light that allows us to see the dark side of the moon when the moon is a thin crescent - is sunlight reflected from the earth to the moon, then back again. Earthshine is variable because the earth's reflectivity changes as large cloud masses come and go. The moon with its earthshine acts as a **crude** weather satellite by reporting, in a very simple way, the general state of terrestrial cloudiness. Because the amount of light reflected from the earth depends on the amount of cloud cover, the brightness of the dark side of the moon varies.

As the phase of the moon progresses beyond a thin crescent, earthshine fades in a day or two. This is because the amount of sunlit earth available to make earthshine diminishes as the moon orbits the earth. Also, there is the increasing **glare** of the moon's growing crescent, which causes a loss of visibility by irradiation.

1. The word **crude** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to  
A. fake      B. stormy      C. random      D. simple

2. The word **glare** in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to  
A. cloud cover      B. bright light      C. wave frequency      D. dark sphere

### Question 3-4

*Cool* has withstood the **fleeting** nature of most slang. As a modifier, as a noun, and as a verb, cool has been around a long time. Shakespeare used *cool* as a verb, and the word later evolved into other parts of speech. It has been used as an adjective since 1728 to describe large sums of money, as in "worth a cool ten million."

Cool, meaning "excellent" or "first-rate" was popularized in jazz circles, and jazz musicians and jazz lovers still refer to great works as "cool." As long as Miles Davis' classic 1949 album, *Birth of the Cool*, remains one of the best-selling jazz recordings of all time, *cool* will stay cool - it will **carry the same weight** as it did more than 50 years ago. One reason for the endurance of *cool* is that its meaning continues to evolve. While it meant "wow!" two decades ago, today it is more often used to mean, "That's OK with me," as in "I'm cool with that."

3. The word **fleeting** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to  
A. temporary      B. youthful      C. emotional      D. popular
4. The phrase **carry the same weight** in paragraph 2 means  
A. refer to great music      B. refer to a large sum of money  
C. have the same importance      D. have the same meaning

### Questions 5-6

The dominant feature on the map of Canada is the two-million-square-mile mass of ancient rock known as the Canadian Shield. The shield sweeps in a great arc around Hudson Bay from far northwest to far northeast, touching the Great Lakes on the south and extending eastward deep into Quebec. The rock of the shield consists mainly of granite and gneiss formed nearly four billion years ago. During the ice ages, huge glaciers advanced and retreated over the region, **scouring** the surface, removing most of the existing soil, and hollowing out countless lakes.

Clay soils exist in a few areas on the shield's southern edge, but attempts to bring them into agricultural use have been largely unsuccessful. However, the region's mineral wealth has **sustained** both temporary and permanent settlements during the past century, and more recently, some of its vast potential for hydroelectric power has been tapped.

5. The word **scouring** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to  
A. freezing      B. uplifting      C. improving      D. scraping
6. The word **sustained** in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to  
A. prevented      B. protected      C. supported      D. ruined

### Questions 7-10

A growing number of companies are finding that small-group discussions allow them to develop healthier ways to think about work. People at all levels of the corporate structure are starting groups that meet weekly or monthly to **talk over** ways to make workplaces more ethical and just.

Several factors must be present for small-group discussions to be successful. First, it is important to put together the right group. Groups work best when they consist of people who have similar duties, responsibilities, and missions. This does not mean, however, that everyone in the group must think in **lockstep**.

All participants should agree on the group's purpose. Finding the right subject matter is essential. There are several ways to **fuel** the discussion: by using the company's mission statement, by finding readings on work and ethics by experts in the topic, or by analyzing specific workplace incidents that have affected the company or others like it.

Finally, the dynamics of the group should be balanced and the discussion leader must not be allowed to **overwhelm** the conversation or the agenda. Groups work best when the same person is not always in charge. It is better to rotate the leadership for each meeting and let that leader choose the material for discussion.

7. The phrase **talk over** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to  
A. demand                      B. overlook                      C. explore                      D. remove
8. The phrase in **lockstep** in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to  
A. alike                      B. critically                      C. aloud                      D. quickly
9. The word **fuel** in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to  
A. categorize                      B. stimulate                      C. sequence                      D. conclude
10. The word **overwhelm** in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to  
A. dominate                      B. plan                      C. summarize                      D. contradict

