L5 VOCABULARY ITP

STUDENT NAME:_____

TASK: Read the target words. Practice using them by means of the exercises presented here.

LESSON 5

Time Efficiency

Target Words

1. adjust
2. arbitrary
3. denominator
4. exponentially
5. infinitesimal
6. maximize
7. parallel
8. proportion
9. rate
10. sequence

Definitions and Samples

1. **adjust** *v.* To change; to get accustomed to something

   Travelers are advised to **adjust** their watches before arriving in the new time zone.

   Parts of speech adjustment *n*, adjustable *adj*

2. **arbitrary** *adj.* Chosen simply by whim or chance, not for any specific reason

   The decision to build a school in Blackberry Township was **arbitrary,** without any thought to future housing patterns.

   Parts of speech arbitrate *v*, arbitrator *n*, arbitrarily *adv*

3. **denominator** *n.* The number written below the line in a fraction

   In the fraction ½, the number 2 is the **denominator.**

   Usage tips The phrase *lowest common denominator* means "the most basic and unsophisticated things that most people share."

   Parts of speech denominate *v*, denomination *n*, denominational *adj*

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4. **exponentially** *adv.* At a very fast rate

In Turkey, the value of the lira has decreased **exponentially** in the last several decades.

Usage tips *Exponentially* is taken from mathematics, where an exponent is a number indicating how many times something is multiplied by itself. For example, 4^3 contains the exponent "3," indicating $4 \times 4 \times 4$.

Parts of speech exponent *n,* exponential *adj*

5. **infinitesimal** *adj.* Immeasurably small

The number of contaminants in the water was **infinitesimal,** so the water was safe to drink.

Parts of speech infinitesimally *adv*

6. **maximize** *v.* To increase or make as great as possible

A coach helps each athlete **maximize** his or her potential.

Parts of speech maximum *n,* maximum *adj*

7. **parallel** *adj.* Being an equal distance apart everywhere

The street where I live runs **parallel** to the main road through town.

Usage tips *Parallel* is often followed by *to.*

Parts of speech parallel *n,* parallel *adv*

8. **proportion** *n.* A part in relation to the whole

The average employee spends a large **proportion** of each workday answering e-mails.

Usage tips *Proportion* is often followed by *of.*

Parts of speech proportionate *adj,* proportionally *adv*

9. **rate** *n.* The cost per unit of a good or service; the motion or change that happens in a certain time.

Postal **rates** in Japan are among the highest in the world.

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Some grasses grow at the **rate** of one inch per day.

Parts of speech rate *v*, rating *n*

10. **sequence** *v.* To organize or arrange in succession

Volunteers have been asked to **sequence** the files and organize the boxes.

Parts of speech sequence *n*, sequentially *adv*

TOEFL Prep I Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the best word from the list. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

adjust ***arbitrary*** ***denominator*** ***infinitesimal*** ***rate***

1. Students felt that the exam was unfair and the grading system was rather _____.
2. The _____ of increase in prices made it difficult for people to afford basic goods.
3. Politicians promised great changes in the coming year, but any improvement in people's lives was _____.
4. She quickly overcame her culture shock and found it easy to _____ to the new country.
5. You can add two fractions that have the same _____.

TOEFL Prep II Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

_____ 1. arbitrary	(a) mix up
_____ 2. maximize	(b) intersecting
_____ 3. sequence	(c) minimize
_____ 4. infinitesimal	(d) huge
_____ 5. parallel	(e) planned out

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TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

Time is, **as we all know**, money. Such valuation of time leads people to extreme efforts to *maximize* their use of time. Some people obsess over knowing the exact time. They buy clocks and watches that automatically *adjust* themselves over the Internet or by radio waves. These measurements allow them *infinitesimal* accuracy in dealing with time. Regardless of how one tracks time, most people share a common goal: They want to use time effectively. Since about 1982, this efficiency has increased *exponentially* each year, thanks to computers and their ability to multitask. In multitasking, a computer executes several different tasks in *parallel*. Rather than being set *arbitrarily*, each task is given a priority in the computer's operating system, and time is spent in *proportion* to the priority of the task. The computer executes different <u>*sequences*</u> of tasks at different clock cycles, thereby increasing the *rate* of output from a process.

Bonus Structure— **As we all know** *is a writer's device for appealing to common knowledge.*

1. Why does the author mention computer multitasking in this article?
   a. because it is new
   b. because it measures time better than any clock
   c. because it helps people to arrange their activities sequentially
   d. because it is a good example of the efficient use of time

2. The underlined word <u>*sequences*</u> in the passage is closest in meaning to
   a. styles
   b. lengths
   c. orderings
   d. difficulty levels

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