

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER

Context clues are hints in the writing that help you figure out what a word means. Each example below has hints within the passage or sentence to help you figure out the meaning of the word. Read each question CAREFULLY and bubble in the correct answer on your scantron. The word you are defining may be in bold, underlined or both.

1. No matter where you go, the Internet is following you. Almost every portable device is being made with an Internet connection. Most new TVs and many other appliances come with Internet connections as well. The Internet is truly **ubiquitous**.

If something is ubiquitous, _____.

- a. it is fuzzy and will bite you
- b. it is everywhere
- c. it costs too much money
- d. it causes rashes

2. Speaking rudely to the judges was **rash** behavior. You really hurt your chances of winning!

In the above context, what does "rash" mean?

- a. an itchy skin condition
- b. funny
- c. trying to hide or disguise a piece of cheese
- d. with little thought or consideration

3. Some people are always **bashing** the president just like others bashed the one before him. Wouldn't you think that everyone could find something to praise him for, at least once in a while?

What does "bashing" mean in the above selection?

- a. hitting hard with a heavy tool
- b. going to too many expensive parties
- c. speaking or writing harshly about
- d. voting for a different candidate

4. Wherever he goes, the **esteemed** Dr. Sanchez is applauded for his life saving research.

What does "esteemed" mean?

- a. held over boiling water
- b. very old
- c. unable to chew gum
- d. greatly admired

5. I believe that if you lower taxes so that people can keep more of the money they earn, it will be an **incentive** for them to work harder.

What is the meaning of "incentive"? _____.

- a. a reason to do something
- b. a small amount of money
- c. a tax
- d. a good job

6. Most of America's Founding Fathers did not believe in women's **suffrage**. Only men could vote in the United states until 1920.

What is "suffrage" ?

- a. something that causes physical pain
- b. an early flag
- c. skirts that did not cover ankles
- d. the right to vote

7. Some people are sure that the new health care law will mean better care for everyone. Others argue that the law will mean less care and longer waiting lines for those who need to see doctors. It's a **controversy** that will not go away soon.

A *controversy* is something that people _____.

- a. have strong disagreements over
- b. blow their noses into
- c. need to pay for a visit to a doctor
- d. eat with sweet candy

8. Removing seeds from cotton plants was a slow job until Eli Whitney invented the **cotton gin**.

What is a cotton gin?

- a. a drink
- b. a book
- c. a machine
- d. a cloth

9. In the early 1600s, a dangerous trip across the Atlantic Ocean was a **daunting** idea. The Europeans, who would someday be known as the Pilgrims, must have been a very determined and brave group of settlers.

A *daunting* task is one that would _____ someone.

- a. tickle
- b. amuse
- c. lose or misplace
- d. frighten or intimidate

10. The **original** Pilgrims called themselves the "Saints" and referred to others who joined with them for the voyage as the "Strangers."

In this context, "original" means _____.

- a. one of a kind
- b. first
- c. humorous
- d. musical

11. The Saints and Strangers argued about how they would live in the New World. After much discussion, they came together and signed the Mayflower **Compact**.

The *Compact* was _____.

- a. a container for makeup
- b. a small item
- c. a machine used for mashing corn
- d. an agreement

12. When the Pilgrims landed in what is now Massachusetts, they were fearful that the Native Americans would attack them. However, the people that they **encountered**, the Wampanoag Indians, were a peaceful and generous tribe.

To *encounter*, is to _____.

- a. meet
- b. note how many
- c. fight
- d. exchange text messages

13. As the summer sun sent scattered rays through the maple and oak leaves overhead, the young deer stood **frozen**, making it almost impossible for the hikers to see her.

In the above passage, the word "frozen" means _____.

- a. very cold
- b. visible
- c. not moving
- d. not melted

14. Christmas is a time when Dad **reverts** to his childhood. I really think he looks forward to Santa's visit more than any other member of the family. Mom says that he'll always be a child during this season.

What does "reverts" mean in the above passage?

- a. stands up straight
- b. peeks at presents
- c. drinks too much egg nog
- d. goes back to being what he was

15. Fortunately, the explosion **diverted** the asteroid from a course that would have sent it hurdling into our planet.

To *divert* is to _____.

- a. change the direction of
- b. look for really high waves
- c. jump into a dry river
- d. look through a telescope

16. A wonderful 98 year old woman is working day and night to knit scarves to send as gifts for the troops. What a **selfless** person she is!

A *selfless* woman _____.

- a. is selfish
- b. has no name
- c. likes to wear scarves
- d. cares more about others than herself

The United States has a vast amount of newly discovered clean geothermal (natural heat from the Earth's crust) energy. Tapping into this energy source could provide at least 10 times the energy that can be obtained from the nation's known coal reserves.

17. What does "vast" mean?

- a. a large amount
- b. not enough
- c. dangerous
- d. having no known use

18. Which word in the above paragraph means supplies that are available to be used?

- a. geothermal
- b. tapping
- c. continent
- d. reserves

Using IQ tests and MRI brain scans, researchers have found that the measurable intelligence of teenagers can rise and fall over time. We used to believe that intelligence was static. But now, because of new studies, we know that teens and even fully mature adults can grow more brain cells when needed.

19. What does "static" mean in the above selection?

- a. noise
- b. not changing
- c. moldy
- d. unreal

20. What are researchers?

- a. people who lose things
- b. people who search for knowledge
- c. creatures from Mars
- d. students who don't study