

Mixed Context Clues Multiple-Choice Test

Here are 25 multiple-choice questions for English students, combining **definition clues** and **contrast clues** to determine the meaning of unknown words.

Test Items

Instructions: Read each sentence carefully. Use the clues in the sentence to choose the best meaning for the boldfaced word.

Definition Clues (Items 1-12)

1. The scientist studied **ichthyology**, which is the branch of zoology that deals with fish.
A) the study of birds
B) the study of fish
C) the study of insects
D) the study of the weather
2. A **misanthrope**, or someone who dislikes people in general, is not someone you want at your party.
A) a person who loves parties
B) a person who likes people
C) a person who dislikes people
D) a person who enjoys a good book
3. The **dermatologist**—a doctor who specializes in skin conditions—recommended a new cream.
A) a foot doctor
B) an eye doctor
C) a bone doctor
D) a skin doctor
4. My brother is an **introvert**; he is a shy person who prefers to be alone most of the time.
A) someone who loves crowds
B) a person who is very outgoing
C) a shy person who prefers to be alone
D) someone who likes to dance
5. The **flora** of the region, specifically its plant life, is diverse and beautiful.
A) animal life
B) rock formations
C) plant life
D) weather patterns
6. He was suffering from **insomnia**, the inability to sleep, and looked very tired.
A) a bad dream
B) the inability to sleep
C) a strange illness
D) a feeling of hunger

7. The **equilateral** triangle has three sides that are all equal in length.
- A) having three unequal sides
 - B) a shape with curved sides
 - C) having three sides that are all equal in length
 - D) an angle that is greater than 90 degrees
8. The team's **momentum**, meaning the force or speed with which it moves, shifted in the second half.
- A) a feeling of sadness
 - B) the force or speed with which it moves
 - C) a new player
 - D) a change in the rules
9. We must stop this **xenophobia**, which is an intense fear of people from other countries.
- A) a love for new foods
 - B) an interest in travel
 - C) an intense fear of people from other countries
 - D) a desire to learn new languages
10. A **creditor** is a person to whom money is owed.
- A) a person who owes money
 - B) a person who earns money
 - C) a person who counts money
 - D) a person to whom money is owed
11. The **dudeen**—a short-stemmed clay pipe—is found in Irish folk tales.
- A) a type of hat
 - B) a long coat
 - C) a short-stemmed clay pipe
 - D) a traditional song
12. The veterinarian treated the dog for **rabies**, a viral disease that causes madness and death.
- A) a broken leg
 - B) a common cold
 - C) a viral disease that causes madness and death
 - D) an allergic reaction

Contrast Clues (Items 13-25)

13. The manager was loved for his **compassion** toward his employees, unlike the previous manager who was cruel and uncaring.
- A) cruelty
 - B) kindness and understanding
 - C) wealth
 - D) strictness

14. Most people love the duke; however, the baron is an **obnoxious** fellow.

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| A) very pleasant | C) extremely intelligent |
| B) rich and powerful | D) extremely unpleasant |

15. John is a very **gregarious** person, but his brother Sam is quiet and shy.

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| A) shy and quiet | C) wealthy and important |
| B) outgoing and social | D) hardworking and serious |

16. Although some students were **diligent** and studied every night, others were lazy and rarely opened their books.

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| A) lazy and unmotivated | C) confused and unsure |
| B) careful and hardworking | D) athletic and strong |

17. The first part of the movie was boring, but the **climax** was exciting and dramatic.

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| A) the boring part | C) the most intense or exciting point |
| B) the beginning | D) the ending credits |

18. Mary is always **punctual** for meetings, but John always arrives late.

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| A) early | C) late |
| B) on time | D) unprepared |

19. Unlike the **frivolous** spending of her youth, the woman became very frugal in her old age.

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| A) serious and important | C) careful and smart |
| B) wasteful and not serious | D) necessary and essential |

20. The athlete was feeling **invincible** until she lost her first race.

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| A) easily beaten | C) hungry |
| B) tired and weak | D) impossible to defeat |

21. I thought the play was magnificent, but my friend found it **mediocre**.

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| A) amazing and wonderful | C) only average; not very good |
| B) very funny | D) very confusing |

22. The desert is very **arid**, while the rainforest is wet and humid.

A) wet and humid

C) very dry

B) full of life

D) very cold

23. While the early 1900s were a time of great **affluence** for some, many others lived in extreme poverty.

A) sickness

C) happiness

B) wealth

D) sadness

24. Most of the critique was **adverse**, but the final comments were favorable.

A) positive and good

C) confusing and unclear

B) negative and unfavorable

D) long and detailed

25. The little boy was **jubilant** about his new bike; conversely, his sister was sad that she didn't get one.

A) sad and depressed

C) extremely happy and joyful

B) quiet and shy

D) angry and frustrated



