Reading 2

PREPARING TO READ

A **The words in blue below are used in the reading passage on pages 32–33. Read the paragraph. Then match the correct form of each word or phrase to its definition.**

BUILDING VOCABULARY

There are a few ways you can learn new words and improve your vocabulary **skills**. One way is to look up the meaning of words in a dictionary, then **record** them in a notebook. If there are words with **similar** meanings, such as *small* and *tiny*, grouping them together can make them easier to remember. It may be difficult at first to remember so many new words, but it's important to keep practicing and not **give up**!

1. _____ (n) an ability
2. _____ (adj) almost the same
3. _____ (v) to stop doing something halfway
4. _____ (v) to write or keep information for the future

B. Match the words with their definitions

skill (n)

give up (v)

similar (a)

record (v) /rɪˈkɔːrd/ (5)

(n) /ˈrek.ɚd/

solve (v)

Solve a problem => solution (n)

program (n)

advice (n) ➔ advise (V)

develop (v) ➔ (2) development

1. opinion given about what to do
2. to make into something more complete, greater or bigger
3. to stop doing something halfway
4. a list of related activities and events
5. to write or keep information for the future
6. almost the same
7. an ability/ something you are able to do well
8. to find an answer for a problem

Complete the sentence with the correct form of the words

solve	program	advice	develop

1. Schools have many different _____ that teach students different skills.
2. If you need help with choosing a college, you can ask a teacher for _____.
3. A lot of time and effort is needed to _____ the problem of illiteracy in poorer countries.
4. Private schools are usually allowed to _____ and design their own courses.

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5. After ten minutes trying to get the answer, I _____.

6. I bought some new shoes which are very _____ to a pair I had before. I chose the same patterns and color.



4

A In the late 1990s, a New York City schoolteacher named Angela Duckworth made a surprising discovery. Some of the smartest kids in her math classes were getting the lowest grades, and some of the kids with lower IQ scores[1] were getting the highest. Why was this happening?

SOLVING THE PUZZLE

B To try to **solve** this mystery, Duckworth entered a PhD **program** in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. She began to research people in a variety of fields—salespeople, college students, army cadets,[2] and teachers in poor neighborhoods. She asked people to rate themselves using a list of statements—for example, "I finish whatever I begin." In another study, she **recorded** people's responses to questions such as, "Would you rather have a dollar now or two dollars tomorrow?"

C From her research, Duckworth realized that many successful people—salespeople who made the most money, or teachers who improved their students' grades the most—have **similar** personality traits. First of all, they have self-control—the ability to avoid distractions[3] and get things done. A person with self-control has the patience to wait for something better to happen in the future.

D In addition, Duckworth noticed that successful people have determination, or "grit." People with grit work hard and don't **give up**. They stay with a task even if it's hard, or if it takes a long time.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

E Is it possible to **develop** self-control and grit? Duckworth believes so. One way, she suggests, is to follow the "Hard Thing" rule: Choose a **skill** that is hard for you, such as learning a new language, or

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playing a musical instrument. Practice it daily, even if you don't feel like it. Don't give up! To be successful, you need to stay with it. Duckworth also advises changing habits to avoid distractions. For example, put your phone away when you're studying. "Children know these tricks," she says, "but adults sometimes forget them."

To be successful at what you do, Duckworth has this advice: Decide on something you really want to achieve, and find people who will support you. You also need to practice, practice, practice. As she says in her book *Grit*, "... if you create a vision[4] for yourself and stick with it, you can make amazing things happen in your life."

[1]**IQ scores:** the results of a test that measures ability to understand and learn things
[2]**army cadets:** people who are training to become soldiers
[3]**distractions:** things that take your attention away from important tasks
[4]**vision:** an idea of the future



A. Choose the best answer to each question

1. What did Duckworth find out in her math classes?
A. Some of the kids didn't do as well as she expected.
B. All the kids with lower IQ scores got high grades.
C. Most of the kids got low grades on the IQ test.

2. How many of Duckworth's studies are mentioned in the passage?
A. 1 B. 2 C. 3

3. What did people do in Duckworth's research?
A. They answered some questions. B. They took an IQ test. C. They tried a study method.

4. What did Duckworth find out from her studies?
A. People who are successful are smarter than those who are not.
B. People get distracted easily when doing tests.
C. Successful people have the same qualities.

5. According to Duckworth, which personality traits are necessary to become successful?
A. determination and self-control B. patience and ambition C. confidence and determination

6. What is Duckworth's advice?
A. Try different skills to find the one you are good at.
B. Choose an easy skill so that you won't give up.
C. Concentrate on what you're doing.

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B. UNDERSTANDING PURPOSE

Match each of these paragraphs from the passage to its purpose.

_____ 1. Paragraph A	a. to summarize what Duckworth discovered
_____ 2. Paragraph B	b. to show why Duckworth did her study
_____ 3. Paragraphs C–D	c. to explain how Duckworth tried to find an answer
_____ 4. Paragraphs E–F	d. to give advice to people who want to become more successful

CATEGORIZING

C **Read the quotes below. Which of them are examples of someone with grit, and which are of someone with self-control? Write G for *grit* and S for *self-control*.**

_____ 1. "My friends asked me out to a concert today, but I said no because I need to study for a test tomorrow."

_____ 2. "I failed my driving test several times, but I managed to pass on the fifth time after practicing a lot."

_____ 3. "I wanted to go to art school, but my parents didn't like the idea. However, I spent time talking to them about my dream and they understood how important it was to me."

_____ 4. "I wanted to buy a new laptop, but I decided to save the money since my laptop is still working."

CRITICAL THINKING: INFERRING

D **Which advice below would Duckworth probably give?**

a. Only do the things that you like most.
b. Challenge yourself and don't give up halfway.
c. Start with an easy skill first before trying something harder.

CRITICAL THINKING: APPLYING

E **Think of two people you know who have the characteristics Duckworth describes.**

Who?	Characteristic	Example
my uncle	determination	started learning the violin at 50, took lessons, and practiced every day

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