

Read the words in the box aloud. Then read the statements. Circle the best definition for the boldfaced word or phrase.

achieve

focus

positive attitude

pressure

waste

1. Anita wants to graduate from college. She is a good student, so I'm sure she will **achieve** her goal.
 - a. to want to do something
 - b. to succeed in doing something you want
2. When you are in class, it's important to **focus** on what the teacher is saying. You should pay attention so you can remember the important points.
 - a. to direct your attention or effort
 - b. to remember what someone told you
3. This history class is challenging, but I have a **positive attitude**, and I think that I can do well if I work hard.
 - a. a hardworking person
 - b. a hopeful way of thinking
4. At my school, there is a lot of **pressure** to get good grades. Some parents and teachers even expect you to get straight A's.
 - a. getting good grades in school
 - b. feeling of stress because people expect you to do something
5. My roommate **wastes** a lot of time talking on the phone when she should be doing her homework. Then she never has enough time to finish.
 - a. to use something in a way that is not useful or effective
 - b. to do something quickly

2 Who would say these statements? Check (✓) Annie, Sam, and / or Justin. Some statements may be true for more than one student. Use your notes to help you.

	ANNIE	SAM	JUSTIN
a. My grades aren't very good.			
b. I want to go to medical school.			
c. My parents pressure me to get straight A's.			
d. I multitask while I'm studying or in class.			
e. I listen to music and chat with friends while I study.			
f. I surf the web while I'm working on the computer.			
g. Sometimes it's hard for me to focus in class.			
h. I don't think multitasking is so bad for you.			
i. I put off assignments that are hard.			
j. I put off assignments I don't like to do.			
k. It's important to me to achieve my goals.			
l. I want to set goals and schedule my time better.			
m. I plan to put my phone away during class.			
n. I plan to give myself rewards for getting my work done.			

1  Read and listen to the conversation. Notice the boldfaced words and phrases. Try to guess their meanings.

A: Hey, how's it going?

B: Not bad. So what's up?

A: Oh, I'm on my way to the library. I need to **hit the books**. I've got a biology midterm tomorrow.

B: Biology? That should be easy.

A: Yeah, easy for you to say! You **aced** biology, right? My problem is I **cut class** a lot at the beginning of the semester, and I didn't study much because my roommate kept asking me to **hang out** with him. I really **fell behind**. Now I have to try to catch up on everything before tomorrow's test.

B: Ouch. Sounds like you really put it off to **the last minute**.

A: Tell me about it. I think I'm going to have to **pull an all-nighter** tonight.

B: I don't know. If you ask me, that's not such a good idea. I pulled a few all-nighters to study last semester, and I **bombed** the tests because I was too tired. It's just too hard to focus without enough sleep.

A: Yeah, well, I guess I'll learn the hard way. So, how about you? What are you up to?

B: I'm just on my way to my chemistry professor's office. There's a homework problem I can't **figure out**, and I need to get some help.

A: OK, well I'd better get to the library. I need to **cram** for that test!

B: Good luck!

2 Match the phrases on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. hit the books | a. to stay up all night working on something |
| ___ 2. ace | b. the last possible time that something can be done |
| ___ 3. cut class | c. to study |
| ___ 4. hang out | d. to understand or solve by thinking |
| ___ 5. fall behind | e. to receive a grade of an "A," or to complete something easily and successfully |
| ___ 6. the last minute | f. to fail to do something as quickly as planned or as required |
| ___ 7. pull an all-nighter | g. to quickly prepare right before a test |
| ___ 8. bomb | h. to skip a class or day of school without an excuse |
| ___ 9. figure out | i. to fail a test |
| ___ 10. cram | j. to spend time in a certain place or with people |

Questions

1. What _____ (be) your professional goals?
2. What _____ (be) your favorite class?
3. _____ your parents _____ (pressure) you to do well in school?
4. How often _____ you _____ (go) to the library?
5. _____ your roommate ever _____ (have) a negative effect on you?
6. When _____ you _____ (hang out) with friends?
7. _____ you _____ (get) enough sleep? You should get at least seven hours every night.
8. We _____ (not have) much time left today. _____ you _____ (have) any questions for me?

Answers

- a. After class and on the weekends. We sometimes _____ (cook) dinner together or _____ (watch) a movie.
- b. Yes, she _____ (do). She _____ (throw) a lot of parties. She _____ (make) a lot of noise, and she _____ (not clean) the apartment!
- c. Not very often. I _____ (prefer) to study in my room.
- d. No, not usually. I _____ (be) often really tired during the day because I _____ (stay up) late.
- e. Yes, _____ you _____ (know) any good time management strategies?
- f. I _____ (want) to become a lawyer. I _____ (think) I can do it.
- g. Yes, sometimes they _____ (do). But I _____ (not listen) to them! It's too stressful.
- h. It _____ (be) definitely my music class. My professor _____ (create) really interesting lessons.