

EXERCISE R2 Choosing the best synonym

Read each passage. Choose the letter of the word or phrase that best completes each of the sentences that follow it.

The horse has played a little-known but very important role in the field of medicine. Horses were injected with toxins of diseases until their blood built up immunities. Then a **serum** was made from their blood. Serums to fight both diphtheria and tetanus were developed in this way.

The word “**serum**” is closest in meaning to

- (A) ointment
- (B) antitoxin
- (C) blood
- (D) acid

According to the passage, horses were given toxins to which they became immune. The blood was made into serums, which acted as antitoxins against the toxins of diseases. Therefore, you should choose **B**.

Questions 1–6

The fork, which did not become a standardized item in Europe until the eighteenth century, was almost unheard of in America. With the absence of forks, it can be assumed that colonists used a spoon instead. The knife was probably held in the right hand, generally the preferred hand for manipulating **utensils**. The spoon would have been held in the left hand with the concave part of the bowl facing downward. In this position, the diner would be more **adept** at securing a piece of meat against a plate while the cutting took place. Once the meat was cut, the down-turned spoon would not have been suitable for picking up the **morsel**. Probably the diner would have put the knife down and shifted the spoon to the right hand. This action would bring the spoon into the correct position for **scooping up** the bite of food.

This practice of shifting utensils back and forth between hands continued when the fork made its way to America and replaced the spoon as the tool to secure the food being cut. The fork kept the food against the plate more adequately, and its curving **tines** served the same function as the bowl of the spoon. The custom of shifting the fork from the left hand to the right was no longer necessary, but people continued to use the style that they were used to. This American style of handling eating utensils **persists** to this day.

1. The word “**utensils**” is closest in meaning to

- (A) gadgets
- (B) cutlery
- (C) hammers
- (D) weapons

2. The word “**adept**” is closest in meaning to

- (A) cultivated
- (B) agreeable
- (C) cumbersome
- (D) proficient

3. The word "morsel" is closest in meaning to
 - (A) piece
 - (B) meat
 - (C) food
 - (D) spoon
4. The phrase "scooping up" is closest in meaning to
 - (A) packing up
 - (B) hoisting up
 - (C) messing up
 - (D) picking up
5. The word "tines" is closest in meaning to
 - (A) handles
 - (B) blades
 - (C) prongs
 - (D) bowls
6. The word "persists" is closest in meaning to
 - (A) continues
 - (B) operates
 - (C) traces
 - (D) impresses

Questions 7–12

When Jessye Norman's parents were knocking on the wall of their young daughter's room as a signal for her to stop singing and to go to sleep, little did they dream that this small child who seemed to have been born singing would grow up to be an internationally renowned opera singer.

It is not surprising that Jessye loved to sing. Music was an integral part of her family's lifestyle. Although Jessye remembers her mother singing spirituals, it was her grandmother who was always singing. Every hour of her day and every mood was highlighted with a song that fit the occasion. As Jessye was growing up, her piano-playing mother and trumpet- and trombone-playing brothers accompanied her when the family was called upon to provide special music for church services, parent-teacher meetings, and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

During her childhood, Jessye knew only three operatic songs: one that she learned from a recording and two others – the only opera scores she could find at the local music store. Although singing was in her blood, it was not until she attended Howard University that Jessye Norman took her first voice lesson with Carolyn Grant, who recognized her talent and knew how to channel it. It was almost immediately after leaving the university in 1968, on her first visit to Europe, that Jessye won the singing prize in the International Music Competition of German Radio. The following year, she was invited to go to Berlin to perform at the Deutsche Opera. Since that time, Jessye Norman has become a world superstar whose singular voice reaches audiences all over the world.

7. The word "renowned" is closest in meaning to
 - (A) infamous
 - (B) celebrated
 - (C) notorious
 - (D) precocious

8. The word "integral" is closest in meaning to

(A) demanding
 (B) persistent
 (C) essential
 (D) intuitive

9. The word "highlighted" is closest in meaning to

(A) emphasized
 (B) contradicted
 (C) conveyed
 (D) belittled

10. The word "scores" is closest in meaning to

(A) points
 (B) experts
 (C) voice lessons
 (D) sheet music

11. The word "channel" is closest in meaning to

(A) station
 (B) irrigate
 (C) exploit
 (D) direct

12. The word "singular" is closest in meaning to

(A) flattering
 (B) exceptional
 (C) fluctuating
 (D) different

Questions 13–18

Many laws that were passed in the various states of the United States over the years are now out of date or seem **ludicrous**. For example, the laws in one state make it illegal for women to **expose** their ankles and for men to go without their guns. Obviously, these laws are broken daily. With current trends in fashion, every woman who walks down the street or goes to a beach or public swimming pool is committing a crime. While it was once considered of utmost importance that a man be armed and ready for action on the frontier, it is hardly necessary for a man to tote guns to work today. However, a man without a gun is also technically breaking the law.

On the other hand, other laws aren't ever likely to be broken. For example, another law makes it illegal to **tether** one's horse to the fence surrounding the capitol building. It is hard to imagine anyone riding a horse into the city and leaving it tied outside of the capitol building today. One would have to go to great lengths in order to break this law.

These outdated laws remain on the record because the time needed for state legislatures to **debate** the issues and make changes in the existing laws would keep the members from attending to more important current and **relevant** issues. It would be hard to calculate the cost to the taxpayers for these laws to be **purged** or updated. Consequently, it is likely that these laws will remain on the books.

13. The word "ludicrous" is closest in meaning to

- (A) insipid
- (B) demeaning
- (C) ridiculous
- (D) incomprehensible

14. The word "expose" is closest in meaning to

- (A) sprain
- (B) conceal
- (C) decorate
- (D) display

15. The word "tether" is closest in meaning to

- (A) gallop
- (B) fasten
- (C) saddle
- (D) conduct

16. The word "debate" is closest in meaning to

- (A) challenge
- (B) contemplate
- (C) discuss
- (D) overturn

17. The word "relevant" is closest in meaning to

- (A) pertinent
- (B) fashionable
- (C) extraneous
- (D) inadequate

18. The word "purged" is closest in meaning to

- (A) eliminated
- (B) restored
- (C) remedied
- (D) amended