

EXERCISE 1

A. *Preview and then read the passage. Do not stop to look up new words.*

A Closer Look at New York Subway Rats

The city of New York has had to face a number of tough issues with long histories—including traffic, unemployment, and homelessness. Now we learn, in a study just published, that they are searching for a way to solve a problem that is as old as the subway system: rats.

Scientists and subway officials examined the entire system for the presence of rats, which have regularly been sighted in subway tunnels and stations since the subway opened more than a century ago. According to some estimates, the rat population in the city of New York is over a million.

A joint project of the city and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the study looked at the system over a two-year period. The MTA has fought rats for decades, though the methods adopted so far, including the use of traps and poison, have not been effective.

The findings, revealed yesterday, contrast with popular myths. The rats do not live deep in the subway tunnels in vast rat cities. Said to be very intelligent animals, they apparently are aware of the danger of touching the electrified tracks. In any case, they have no reason to go out into the tunnels; what they want is food, and they can find all they want in the stations. They live in cracks or openings in the station walls, and emerge regularly to look for food.

The authors of the study did not offer any permanent solutions to the rat problem, but they did give some practical advice, beginning with better maintenance and cleanliness in the subway stations. Station and track cleaners sometimes do not do their

jobs as they should. More often, the fault is of the subway riders who leave food and trash in the stations.

Of the 18 stations examined in lower Manhattan, almost half received a rating of fair or poor. The main problem was litter¹ on the ground and overfull trash cans, particularly on weekends and holidays, when the trash quickly builds up.

The study also recommended keeping the storage rooms in the stations cleaner. Storage rooms filled with trash bags are like restaurants for rats. The study further recommended placing poison near the bags, removing full bags more often, and keeping the doors closed at all times. New high-tech systems for catching rats were also mentioned in the study, though with today's budget concerns it is unlikely that the city can afford to install them.

¹**litter** leave paper or trash on the ground

- B. Read the passage again. Circle all of the words and phrases from the target vocabulary list. Underline all of the words and phrases you don't know in the passage.**
- C. For each underlined word or phrase, look at the context (the words and sentences around it). Make a guess about the meaning. Write your guess in the margin in pencil.**
- D. Check your comprehension. Write T (True) or F (False) after each sentence.**
1. The study concerned health problems due to the presence of rats. ____
 2. Many rats live in the subway tunnels. ____
 3. According to the study, the rat population has grown recently. ____
 4. Putting poison on the tracks does not reduce the number of rats. ____
 5. According to the study, cleaner stations would mean fewer rats. ____
- E. Check the dictionary for the words and phrases you are not sure about. Compare the definitions with your guesses in Part C. Change your guesses if necessary.**
- F. Compare your work with another student.**

EXERCISE 4

- A. **Complete the passage with words from the box. Change the word to fit the sentence if necessary.**

apparently
build up

issue
myth

rating
recommend

reveal
unemployment

The new government has a number of major _____₁ it must deal with. If it can resolve these problems effectively, there is no doubt that voters will reward the president in the next election.

The most serious problem now is _____₂. Some economists believe that this problem will take care of itself. This is a dangerous _____₃. The reality is that jobs will not be created unless the government gives the economy a boost. At the moment, millions of people in this country are without a job. Feeling against the president and his government is _____₄.

The government needs to take effective measures soon. Already, it has lost a lot of its popularity. If it does not act rapidly, its approval _____₅ will go down even further.

According to the president, a new job creation plan will be _____₆ next week. Though the content of the plan is not known, it will _____₇ include significant amounts of money that will be invested in various sectors of the economy. This is a good start. We _____₈ that the government also invest in education and training programs to help workers find jobs in new fields.

- B. **Compare answers with another student.**

EXERCISE 5

- A. **Choose a word or phrase from the box that can be used with all the words or phrases in each group.**

adopt
build up

effective
emerge

issue
joint

reveal
vast

1. _____ + findings / a secret / the name of the winner
2. _____ + operation / action / account
3. _____ + method / strategy / measure
4. _____ + majority / area / hall
5. _____ + an attitude / a philosophy / a method
6. anger / trash / pressure + _____
7. the rats / the truth / the sun + _____
8. tough / major / key + _____

B. Compare answers with another student.

EXERCISE 6

A. Work with another student. Write different forms for each word. If you do not know a form, make a guess. Do not use the dictionary. (More than one answer is possible for some forms.)

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Negative adjective	Adverb
1.	adopt		X	X
2.	X	aware		X
3. concern				X
4.		effective		
5.	emerge		X	X
6. employment				X
7.		joint	X	
8. myth	X		X	X
9. presence			X	
10. rating				X
11.	reveal			
12.	recommend		X	X
13.	X	vast	X	