

Study Island

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Tidal waves are gigantic sea waves known as tsunamis. They are often devastating, destroying entire towns. Tsunamis are caused by submarine movements such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides. They can reach speeds up to 450 miles per hour and a height of 100 feet.

1. Using its context, select the best definition of devastating.

- A. large and crashing waves
 - B. extremely difficult to manage
 - C. to bring physical or financial ruin
 - D. large and unstoppable storm
-

Karen thought she was going to get the big bedroom with the private bathroom when Kareem, her older brother, left for college. Minutes after Kareem had pulled out of the driveway, she began moving her things across the hall, only to have her grandmother stop her.

"Karen," her grandmother said, "don't go thinking you're going to get that empty room. I'm saving it for Mr. Holloway, the new boarder. With Kareem gone, we're gonna need a new source of money around here. Mr. Holloway is gonna pay one-hundred fifty dollars a week for the room."

Shortly after Mr. Holloway arrived, he introduced himself to Karen. She was surprised by his appearance. He was much younger than she expected. In fact, he was not much older than Kareem. After introducing himself to Karen, Mr. Holloway told her that he wanted to go somewhere fun. He asked her what kind of amusements the town had. Karen drew a blank. She could not think of anything to tell him other than that he had just moved to the most boring town in the universe.

2. Read the following sentence from the passage.

He asked her what kind of amusements the town had.

What does the word amusements mean?

- A. entertainment
- B. refreshments

C. population

D. carnivals

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

I'm saving it for Mr. Holloway, the new boarder.

What does the word boarder mean?

- A. a relative
 - B. an old person
 - C. a renter
 - D. a division
-

Gabe was dreading the moment he had to walk into English. For him, today was going to make him or break him. Mr. Sullivan had made the entire class write a poem of their choosing. When Gabe had heard the assignment, he knew exactly what he was going to write. He wanted to write an epic poem. However, he didn't think about how long it would take him to write one. It would take pages upon pages to write a story as a poem. Plus, Gabe wanted to add a lot of alliteration to the poem. The repeating sounds at the beginning of the words in the same line just seemed to add more to the narrative. Now, he looked at his 10-page poem and was scared to read it aloud.

4. In the passage, what does the word alliteration mean?

- A. a line of poetry that adds to the story of an interesting poem
 - B. the repetition of the same sound at the beginning of words
 - C. the sound that a person makes when he or she is very nervous
 - D. a comparison made between two things that are different
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5. What does the term epic poem mean in the passage?

- A. a narrative poem that is very lengthy
 - B. a poem with a story that takes 10 pages
 - C. a poem that takes a long time to write
 - D. a rhyming poem written for English class
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6. Pie was on the mind of Brian as he started to make the dough for the crust. He began to knead the dough to combine all of the ingredients. Brian folded, pushed, and turned the dough. This made the dough stretchy and easy to spread into the pie pan.

Based on the context of the passage, what does the word knead mean?

- A. to create a pie easily by using flour, eggs, milk, and vanilla
 - B. to make something workable by folding, pushing, and turning it
 - C. to combine all of the ingredients in a pie pan by using both hands
 - D. to spread dough into a pie pan so that it can make a flaky crust
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7. The new video game *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3* is up and running. It is set to hit stores in time for Christmas. In addition to body-language taunts, if two skaters collide, the one moving faster pushes the other to the ground. The blood stains stay on the ground for an embarrassingly long time.

What is the meaning of the word collide in the passage above?

- A. to skate together in a single line
 - B. to move together side by side
 - C. to move apart at different speeds
 - D. to come together with direct impact
-

8.



Bart had a reputation for doing perilous activities. For instance, he loved to climb steep mountains without a safety rope, and he enjoyed diving among sharks.

Looking at the passage above, what is the definition of perilous?

- A. dangerous
 - B. childish
 - C. boring
 - D. safe
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9. Imagine a place where it rains every day. Tall trees loom above you. Branches form a green ceiling high in the sky. Plants, vines, and brightly colored flowers fill every inch of space. You are in a Costa Rican tropical rain forest. Rain forests fringe the low lying areas of the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. Costa Rica lies close to the equator, which means that temperatures stay warm—around 80 degrees—all year.

Looking at the information presented above, which of the following is the meaning of loom?

- A. to form a protective barrier
 - B. to be green and brown
 - C. a group of branches and vines
 - D. to appear large and overwhelming
-

10. In colonial times, the man of the house made sure that the fire was carefully banked so it would burn all night. In the morning, he would blow the glowing embers into flame again with a bellows. If the fire went out, one of the children would be sent to a neighbor's for hot coals.

Using context clues from the paragraph above, what is the meaning of the word bellows?

- A. a room in the cellar of a building
 - B. a device used to call someone
 - C. a device used for blowing air on a fire
 - D. a person shouting very loudly
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11.

Adversities such as poverty, poor grades, and a weak family background can be overcome with hard work.

Looking at the sentence above, what is the meaning of adversities?

- A. obstacles
 - B. pleasures
 - C. obligations
 - D. confusion
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12. Of all the dance classes Steven attended, his favorite class was for the classic box step. The dance was the simplest to learn. All it required was for the feet to step in the pattern of a square. Therefore, there was nothing much to it. It was definitely no ballet.

What is a box step according to the passage?

- A. a dance that is performed on different boxes
 - B. a simple dance that uses a square pattern
 - C. a class that does not require much work
 - D. a square that is used for dancing lessons
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13.



If you grew up with Abraham Lincoln, you would have seen great changes from the time Lincoln was born in Kentucky to the time he was president in Washington, D.C. Important changes took place in transportation. When Lincoln was a boy, there were no trains at all. It took a long time to send a message by stagecoach. By the time Lincoln was a grown man, the telegraph was invented. Messages could be sent very quickly.

In the reading above, what is the meaning of telegraph?

- A. when people talk with their thoughts
 - B. an invention that helps people travel
 - C. a machine used to communicate at a distance
 - D. a machine that graphs data
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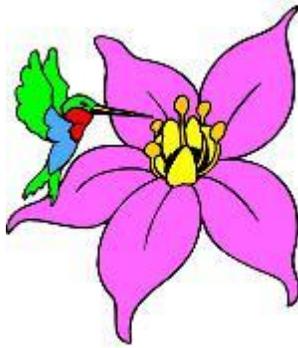
14.

Pungent odors, including those from onions, garlic, and ammonia, can cause allergic reactions in some people.

Looking at the sentence above, what is the definition of pungent?

- A. strong
 - B. mild
 - C. old
 - D. friendly
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15.



Hummingbirds feed on insects and the nectar of flowers. Their long, slender bills are specially adapted to suck the nectar out of the flowers.

Looking at the context, what is the definition of nectar?

- A. small insects that pollinate flowers
 - B. the long stem in the middle of a flower
 - C. a sweet liquid secreted by flowers
 - D. the bill of a bird that feeds on flowers
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