

APPENDIX II

GLOSSARY

PRACTICE TEST 1

111. **aspiration:** strong desire to do sth
He has high aspirations and wants to get a postgraduate degree, perhaps even a PhD.
dedication: commitment
Her dedication and talent is what set her apart from the other pianists.
preparation: the process of getting ready for sth
How much preparation have you done for the exam?
indication: sign
The police have no indication that he was responsible for the accident.
112. **come down to:** (of a problem or difficult situation) be the most important part
It all comes down to funds, when you're trying to start a business.
bring about: make sth happen
The financial crisis brought about a number of social problems.
pick up: (of a situation) start to improve
Hopefully, the measures will help trade pick up.
keep up with: learn about the news
You can't succeed in the fashion industry unless you keep up with the latest trends.
113. **respect:** a particular aspect or detail of sth
In this respect, he cannot be blamed.
placement: putting sth in a position
I scored high in the placement test and was put in the advanced class.
by the same token: for the same reasons
She's a fast runner and, by the same token, she's very good at soccer.
coupon: a small piece of printed paper exchangeable for goods or services
Cut out and return this coupon to claim your free sample of the product.
114. **overtly:** openly
He has an overtly aggressive attitude to all reporters.
impulsively: rashly, without thinking of the consequences or dangers of sth
Impulsively, I reached out and hugged her.
excessively: too much, much more than reasonable
He's been drinking excessively since the divorce.
- conclusively:** in a way that shows there can be no doubt about sth
What you just said proves conclusively that she's telling the truth.
115. **wriggle:** wiggle, turn and twist your body
The baby was tired and kept wriggling uncomfortably in the safety seat.
be crawling with sth: be full of or completely covered with sth
The whole place was crawling with fans.
creep: move slowly, quietly so as not to attract attention
He crept up the stairs to his room, trying not to wake up the rest of the family.
burrow: dig
Caretta caretta sea turtles burrow into the sand to lay their eggs.
116. **grave:** serious and important
Newspapers expressed grave concern about the kidnapped tycoon's safety.
broad: including a wide variety
Students at this college are offered a broad range of subjects.
wide: including a large variety
He has wide experience in the field.
deep: serious
You're in deep trouble if you do this again.
117. **lever:** handle used to operate a piece of machinery
This lever will allow you to adjust the speed.
degree: amount or level of sth
I'd do anything to make her even the slightest degree happier.
unit: fixed quantity
Electricity is twenty cents per unit.
grade: level, quality
I bought three bags of top grade compost for the garden.
118. **disordered:** lacking in control or order
The filing cabinet was completely disordered.
disloyal: not faithful
It would be disloyal to abandon your best friend now that he needs your support.
disruptive: causing problems
Students with highly disruptive behavior will be referred to the Principal.
disrespectful: not showing respect, impertinent
I don't mean to be disrespectful, sir, but what you're saying is wrong.

119. **course:** direction, path
When it crashed, the plane was flying off course.
positioning: where sb/sth is positioned
What's your political positioning?
compass: the range or extent of how much can be achieved
The singer's compass of voice was absolutely amazing.
get/ find/ take your bearings: know how you are oriented and be familiar with your surroundings
The explorer climbed to the top of a hill to get his bearings.
120. **lake:** area of fresh water surrounded by land
The swim in the lake was wonderful!
force: group of people
One of the members of the peacekeeping force was injured during the raid.
ranks: members of a large group
I had never expected I would have to join the ranks of the unemployed.
ring: group of people working together (usually illegally)
The officer was suspended on suspicion that he was a member of a drugs ring.
121. **whatever:** anything
Do whatever you like, as long as you're back on time.
however: to whatever degree
However hard I tried, I couldn't beat her.
anyhow: in a careless, untidy way
She shoved the papers in her bag, just anyhow.
anytime: at a time which is not fixed
If you have a fever, call me anytime.
122. **shape:** have an important impact on the way sb/sth develops
Growing up in such a large family has definitely shaped his personality.
form: start to exist or develop
It wasn't until our meeting that the idea began to form in my head.
draw: form a particular impression
I don't want you to draw any hasty conclusions; this is just a trial.
make an impression: manage to make yourself memorable
I hope I made a good impression on the personnel manager; I really need the job!
123. **avenue:** large, wide street
When you get to New York, Fifth Avenue is a must!
gateway: means of achieving sth
Having good connections is the gateway to success.
channel: method of communication or getting information
The authorities must be notified through normal channels.
room: space
There is no room for error.
124. **fraudulently:** dishonestly, in order to cheat
Compensation for the fire damage was fraudulently claimed.
contemptuously: scornfully
They contemptuously dismissed the accusations.
selflessly: unselfishly
I admire him because he's selflessly devoted to helping the needy.
brutally: cruelly and violently
The prisoners were brutally treated and had to be hospitalized.
125. **firm:** strong, inflexible
He stands firm on his principles and has integrity of character.
hefty: with a lot of force
Suzanne gave Mark a hefty shove and he fell over.
earthy: concerned with the body in a rude, offensive way
What most critics found inappropriate was the movie's earthy language.
tardy: slow in acting or arriving
You should apologize for your tardy entrance!
126. **wrench:** pull suddenly and violently
I wrenched the aspirin tablet from the baby's grasp in the nick of time!
grip: hold tightly, grasp
While on the roller coaster, I gripped firmly at the arms of my seat.
grapple with: try to find a solution to a problem
His book grapples with the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle.
grasp: fully understand
She will have to grasp the harsh reality of unemployment sooner or later.

127. **tongue:** soft part inside your mouth used for tasting, eating and speaking
The taste of the cherry pie was still on my tongue.
talk: conversation
I had a long talk with my doctor to decide on the best course of treatment.
put sth on the street: tell openly
Please don't put this on the street, but I got a promotion.
by word of mouth: by speaking rather than writing
The news spread by word of mouth in less than a week.
128. **condemn:** express disapproval
The American President openly condemned the invasion.
confine: restrict
Let's confine our discussion to the problem of trafficking.
constrain: restrict, limit
Her family responsibilities were the major factor constraining her ability to leave her job.
contain: prevent sth harmful from happening
The firefighters struggled for five hours to contain the fire.
129. **boundary:** line marking the edge or limits of sth
They are in constant fighting with the neighbors over the hedge boundaries.
border: line dividing between countries
Millions of refugees fleeing the country are waiting to cross the border.
barrier: sth that prevents progress or makes sth else impossible
Disability should not be a barrier to a university education.
limit: restriction
He was fined for exceeding the speed limit.
130. **harshly:** severely, cruelly
The student was harshly criticized for his falling grades.
malignantly: malevolently, intending to do harm
It was a scary sight, the way he malignantly glared at everybody.
hardly: scarcely
Looking at her ridiculous outfit, I could hardly keep myself from laughing.
- atrociously:** extremely badly or cruelly
I think you behaved atrociously towards that poor girl.
131. **imply:** suggest sth without saying it directly
The article falsely implied that the politician had engaged in unethical conduct.
impel: (of an idea, feeling) force sb to do sth
What on earth impelled you to fire her?
implant: fix an idea in sb's head
A love of music was strongly implanted in him by his father.
implore: beg
She implored him not to leave her.
132. **crackdown:** strong action taken to stop crime, illegal activity
The police are planning a crackdown on people involved in drug dealing.
go-between: intermediary, mediator
The UN Secretary-General will act as a go-between for leaders of the two countries.
takeover: taking control of a company by buying most of its shares
A French firm is planning a takeover of the company.
comeback: resuming an activity and becoming popular again
She made one of the most miraculous comebacks in Hollywood history.
133. **expenditure:** spending money or the amount of money spent
Consumer expenditure has risen in the last few months.
expense account: money available to an employee so that they can pay for meals, hotels, etc. when traveling, or entertaining people for work
My expense account allows me to spend about \$14,000 a year on entertaining.
purchase: the act of buying
Your receipt acts as proof of purchase and guarantee at the same time.
deficit: difference between money needed and less money available
The company has run up a deficit of \$50,000.
134. **inherit:** get qualities, physical features from your ancestors
He has inherited his father's vulgarity.
bequeath: leave sb in a will
He bequeathed his entire property to his nephew.

- take:** accept, receive
Do you take credit cards?
- gain:** obtain
How did you gain entrance to the building?
135. **defective:** faulty, flawed
You're entitled to a full refund if the goods purchased prove defective.
- inferior:** of lesser quality
The artist's later works of art are slightly inferior in value.
- lucrative:** profitable
He decided to turn his hobby into a lucrative profession.
- successive:** consecutive
This was the team's fifth successive win.
136. **reside:** live
She resides at 55 Cypress street.
- contain:** have as a part
The envelope contained \$500 in two-dollar bills.
- include:** have as a part
It's \$25 including postage.
- inhabit:** live in a particular place
The island hadn't been inhabited since the 18th century.
137. **agonize (over/about sth):** worry excessively about a problem
I spent hours agonizing over the decision.
- torture:** mentally suffer from a feeling (e.g. guilt, remorse, jealousy)
She was tortured by the memory of the accident.
- twist:** turn your body around
She twisted slightly in her chair to address him.
- wrap:** cover completely
I wrapped myself in the towel and came out of the bathroom.
138. **artificial:** not natural, not real
The windows at the back are blocked up, so we rely on artificial light there.
- bland:** nondescript, without interest
He was criticized for his bland style of writing.
- listless:** lethargic, with no energy
The whole ordeal left her listless and numb.
- devious:** deceitful
I'm sick and tired of his devious tactics.
139. **concretely:** based on facts
You must deal with the problem more concretely.
- discretely:** separately
All issues must be discretely addressed.
- decisively:** in a way that shows you're capable of confident decisions
She decisively turned down the job offer to be a full-time mom.
- concisely:** briefly but clearly
The speaker concisely explained the basic principles behind his method.
140. **tip:** provide sb with useful or secret information
Someone tipped the police about the smugglers' plans.
- leak:** disclose
Classified information was leaked to the press.
- strain:** stretch to a limit
You're straining my patience with your constant wailing.
- lure:** entice, persuade by offering a reward
They hope to lure new customers with a reduction in prices.
141. **edition:** the total number of copies of a publication published at one time
My novel is now in its sixth edition.
- publication:** the act of printing sth and making it available to the public
I've got great news! My manuscript was accepted for publication by a major publishing house!
- extradition:** a legal process whereby sb guilty of a crime is sent back to the country where the crime happened so that they can be tried
An extradition order was issued for the terrorist.
- circulation:** the usual number of copies of a publication sold
The daily circulation of USA Today is about one and a half million.
142. **fallible:** able to make mistakes or be wrong
We are all fallible, whether we like it or not.
- feasible:** plausible
I'm afraid the plan is not considered economically feasible.
- durable:** hardwearing, able to last for long
Their dungarees are made of durable material.

- disposable:** that can be thrown away after use
I prefer disposable razors to electric ones.
143. **superficially:** on the surface, not profoundly or thoroughly
The solution seems superficially plausible.
strategically: in a carefully planned way to achieve a goal
I don't think it's a strategically sensible decision.
flexibly: in a way that allows changes to be made
The program allows doctors to flexibly respond to the needs of their patients.
intrusively: in a way that interrupts and annoys
I'm only trying to be helpful without acting intrusively.
144. **hold down:** succeed in keeping a job for a long time
Holding down a full-time job while being a mom and housewife can prove quite a challenging task.
lay out: (of a plan, argument) set out clearly
The two leaders laid out a plan for a treaty.
lean on: depend on sb for support at a difficult time
What are friends for if you can't lean on them?
put up: (of a fight, resistance, struggle, performance) present, engage in
The team put up an amazing performance.
145. **mere:** only
The mere thought of an interview was in itself intimidating.
sheer: (of weight, size, degree, amount) emphasizing such qualities
The sheer volume of work was overwhelming.
entire: whole, complete
I spent the entire evening thinking about how to apologize.
whole: entire, complete
Have you told me the whole truth?
146. **high-profile:** attracting a lot of attention
Nominating such a high-profile personality for the position is a wise choice.
long-lasting: durable
Research has shown that school bullying has long-lasting effects.
little-known: not known to many
Learning some little-known facts about body language will help you with your job interview.
- eye-catching:** easily noticeable
When applying for a job, make sure you prepare an eye-catching résumé.
147. **(finishing) touch:** detail added to improve sth
The artist spent the morning putting the finishing touches to his painting.
fixture: a piece of equipment that is fixed to a house and can't be removed
The apartment comes complete with modern brass bathroom fixtures.
stroke: (of a pen or brush) a mark made by moving a piece of equipment
Can you see the strokes of the artist's brush in the painting?
imprint: a mark made by pressing sth against a surface
The paleontologists discovered a fossil imprint of a mammoth's foot.
148. **hinder:** hamper, obstruct
The student's school progress is being hindered by a mild learning disability.
strive: try hard to achieve sth
Martin Luther King strived for equal rights for African Americans.
reform: (of a system, organization, service) change in order to improve
Our educational system must be drastically reformed.
precede: come before sb/sth else in order
World War II preceded the Greek Civil War.
149. **ill at ease:** anxious
Facing the renowned university professor made me feel ill at ease.
feel at home: feel comfortable, accepted
We will do whatever possible to make you feel at home.
sick at heart: depressed
Looking at the refugees made me feel sick at heart.
pale/blue/green around the gills: looking sick
What's the matter? You look a bit pale around the gills.
150. **exemplary:** providing a good example to be copied
The factory has an exemplary record on waste disposal.

explicit: clearly explained

There are explicit instructions to wait here until further notice.

exceptional: having a quality to an unusual degree, outstanding

She is woman of exceptional beauty.

expressive: allowing feelings to show in your voice or behavior

What characterizes him as an actor is his deeply expressive voice.

PRACTICE TEST 2

111. **repercussion:** the effect, usually bad, of an action, decision or event

The Prime Minister's resignation will have serious repercussions for the future of the country.

scruple: a feeling preventing sb from doing sth morally wrong

He has no scruples about lying, even to a priest!

result: sth caused directly by sth else
His accident was definitely the result of reckless driving.

outcome: a result or effect of an action or situation

The outcome of the elections was no surprise to anyone.

112. **paragraph:** a section of a piece of writing, indicated by indentation

The final paragraph must contain your conclusion.

regulation: an official rule that determines how things must be done

All employees have to comply with safety regulations.

term: condition under which an agreement is reached

Under the terms of the lease, you have to pay the rent on the first day of each month.

article: a separate part in a legal document
It's an offence under article 4 of the constitution.

113. **deny:** refuse to admit responsibility

I vehemently deny all allegations!

decline: politely refuse an offer or invitation
She was offered the position of managing director, but she declined.

pass up: to not take advantage of an opportunity

You must be crazy to pass up such an offer!

disapprove: to feel that sth is wrong or bad
I strongly disapprove of teenagers smoking.

114. **prevent:** to stop sb from doing sth or to stop sth from happening

The accident could not have been prevented.

restrain: prevent sb from doing sth
I really had to restrain myself from shouting at that rude man.

abort: to stop sth or cause it to fail before it begins

The mission had to be aborted due to technical problems.

thwart: prevent sb from doing sth or stop sth from happening

Her plans for a quiet night in were thwarted by their unexpected visit.

115. **enhance:** to improve the quality of
Taking exercise will definitely enhance the quality of your life.

embellish: make sth more beautiful by adding decorative or fictitious details

He embellished his account of the trip with some places he hadn't actually visited.

beautify: to make more beautiful
They intend to beautify the area by building a park.

adorn: to make sth more attractive by adding decorations

The bedroom walls were adorned with posters.

116. **confirmation:** a statement saying that sth is correct or true

I haven't received confirmation of your booking yet.

assurance: a feeling of being certain that sth is true

She gave me her assurance that she would be on time.

consent: permission from sb with authority or power

You can't leave the school without the principal's consent.

consensus: wide agreement among everybody concerned

The general consensus is that we should take action against vandals.

117. **errand**: a small job that involves going somewhere to collect, deliver or buy sth
I'd like you to run some errands for me.
task: sth that you have to do, esp. sth difficult
What you have to do is perform a few simple tasks on a computer.
chore: a boring or unpleasant job that has to be done regularly
I find correcting students' tests a real chore.
shopping: activity of buying
I do my weekly shopping on Fridays.
118. **comment**: express an opinion
I refuse to comment until a verdict is reached.
articulate: express thoughts and feelings clearly
I found it impossible to articulate my feelings after his betrayal.
vocalize: express sth in words
She keeps her feelings bottled up and finds it difficult to vocalize them.
voice: express feelings or opinions, esp. negative ones
The investors voiced doubts about the plan.
119. **(at one's) disposal**: available for use at any time
A car will be at your disposal during your stay.
availability: the state of being obtainable
Tickets will be subject to availability.
demand: strong request
We're positive that we can satisfy our customers' demands.
disposition: temperament
She is a person of a cheerful disposition.
120. **perplexed**: puzzled, unable to understand or think clearly
The teacher gave an explanation which left me thoroughly perplexed!
versatile: able to be used in a number of ways
It's a versatile garment, indispensable to every woman's wardrobe.
elaborate: detailed and complicated
They made elaborate preparations for the king's visit.
intricate: having a lot of small parts and details
What I really liked about the film was its intricate plot.
121. **deliver**: take sth to a place
The goods will be delivered to your doorstep.
- pronounce**: to state an official opinion
The court pronounced the defendant guilty on all charges.
render: cause to be
His injury rendered him unfit for work.
convert: persuade sb to change their beliefs
My brother is trying to convert me to rap music.
122. **dissatisfaction**: feeling of sth not being as good as it should be
The teacher expressed his dissatisfaction with the students' test results.
remorse: strong feeling of guilt or regret
The defendant showed no remorse for his crime.
reluctance: unwillingness
Her reluctance to participate was inexplicable.
unhelpfulness: unwillingness to help
The project was stagnant due to the unhelpfulness of the authorities.
123. **comply**: obey an order, rule or regulation
Refusal to comply with the regulation will result in severe penalties.
conform: obey a rule or law
The toilets must conform to hygiene regulations.
abide (by): follow a rule or direction
You've got to abide by the rules if you want to take part in the contest.
obey: follow an order or instruction
The soldiers had to obey the lieutenant's commands.
124. **costly**: expensive
Renovating your home can prove quite a costly business.
insensible: unable to feel or react to sth
You may hit him with all your might; he's insensible to pain.
illogical: unreasonable
Your fear of ants is absolutely illogical.
exorbitant: much higher than accepted
He asked for an exorbitant rent.
125. **solely**: only
The bus driver was held solely responsible for the accident.
alone: only
The dress alone cost \$200.
exclusively: limited to a specific group of people
The magazine exclusively addressed movie lovers.

- merely:** only, simply
What I'm merely saying is that you should study harder, not that you won't pass.
126. **call for:** require
The situation calls for immediate action.
give in to: allow oneself to do sth, succumb
She gave in to temptation and took a slice of the cake.
come in for (criticism, praise): receive, be subjected to
The police came in for a lot of criticism for failing to arrest the escapees.
lead up to: gradually end in
I want to learn all the events that led up to your final confrontation.
127. **assume:** believe that sth is true
I've always assumed that she's British.
consume: use a supply of sth
If you really want to be environmentally conscious, try to consume less energy.
resume: start sth again after stopping for a while
Road works will be resumed in the spring.
presume: believe that sth is true although it is not certain
I presume you've finished your homework if you're watching TV.
128. **inconceivable:** impossible to imagine
The idea of not passing the exam is inconceivable!
incomprehensible: extremely difficult to understand
It's incomprehensible why he would react like that!
incredible: extremely difficult to believe
It seems incredible that they broke up!
intolerable: too unpleasant to deal with
The heat was intolerable and we had to stay in.
129. **worthless:** with no practical or financial value
It turned out her engagement ring was a worthless fake.
meager: extremely small
It's difficult to make ends meet on such a meager salary.
insubstantial: not enough or not strong enough
The evidence was too insubstantial to convict him.
slight: small in degree
There was slight improvement in the patient's condition.
130. **notification:** official announcement
If you need to close your bank account, you must provide written notification.
announcement: statement providing information
The minister is expected to make an announcement any minute now.
protestation: strong statement that sth is true
Despite his protestations of innocence, he was found guilty.
assertion: forceful statement that sth is true
The scientist made the unlikely assertion that gravity affects climate change.
131. **reverse:** make sth/sb go in the opposite direction or order
The students are trying to convince the principal to reverse his decision.
withdraw: take back, remove
After her injury, she decided to withdraw from the race.
remove: take away from
This liquid detergent is great for removing fruit stains.
extract: remove or take out
You really must have that tooth extracted.
132. **uncalled for:** not fair
His rude remarks are really uncalled for.
unsought: not searched for or requested
I could do without your unsought advice!
unjustified: not fair or reasonable
His verbal attack was totally unjustified.
unprompted: without being told to say or do sth
She made an unprompted offer to help.
133. **passionate:** having strong feelings of enthusiasm or strong beliefs
He has a passionate interest in astronomy.
intensive: involving a lot of effort, energy or attention
The mountaineers were saved thanks to the rescuers' intensive efforts.
argumentative: tending to disagree and argue
You can't be part of a team if you keep on being so argumentative.
heated: with excited or angry feelings
They were engaged in a heated discussion about the problem.

134. **integrity**: respectful behavior according to strong moral principles
He was a man of great personal integrity.
responsibility: duty
Being a parent involves assuming responsibility for your children.
productivity: rate at which goods are produced or work is completed
Productivity is boosted in a pleasant working environment.
respectability: quality of being respectable
His expensive suit gave him an air of respectability.
135. **cause**: make sth happen
The disease can cause temporary deafness.
stimulate: encourage sth to happen or develop
The government must take new measures to stimulate the economy.
energize: fill sb with energy or enthusiasm
The politician's rousing speech energized the voters.
stipulate: state exactly how sth must be done
The rules stipulate that players must wear protective gear.
136. **hold a grudge against**: have a feeling of resentment against sb who treated you badly
I'm not going to hold a grudge against him, but I'm not going to be friendly, either.
have a soft spot for: have a strong liking for sth or sb
I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for my village.
play my heart out for: put a lot of effort into playing
The children all played their hearts out at break time.
keep my eye on: watch sb or sth to keep them out of trouble
Will you keep an eye on the baby while I dash to the supermarket?
137. **benefit**: advantage, good effect
What's the benefit of exercising if you keep eating so unhealthily?
excuse: explanation given for delay, bad behavior
What's your excuse for neglecting your homework this time?
incentive: motivation
It's no use going to school if you have no incentive to learn.
- consideration**: sth to be taken in account
Children's safety should be a major consideration when designing amusement park rides.
138. **emotionally**: with strong feelings
It's hard not to be emotionally involved when doing charity work.
frantically: in a great hurry and confusion
He was late already and had misplaced his keys, so he was frantically looking them.
uneasily: uncomfortably or anxiously
Kyle blushed and shifted uneasily in his chair.
fractionally: slightly
Your test results were fractionally better this time.
139. **in progress**: happening
Road works will be in progress, so drivers are requested to use the beltway.
develop: grow in a more advanced form
The tourist industry is steadily developing in the coastal areas.
undertake: take responsibility for sth
I undertook to help him improve his computer skills.
underway: beginning to exist
It's time to get the project underway.
140. **belief**: conviction
He has strong political beliefs and won't easily change his mind.
behavior: conduct
Unless you adapt your behavior, you are in for a lot of trouble.
stance: opinion, usually one expressed publicly
We need to take a tougher stance against bullying.
poise: calm, confident way of behaving
You have faced the whole ordeal with remarkable poise.
141. **fall**: a decrease in size, number or rate
There's been a 10% fall in sales this month.
diminution: a reduction in the size or amount of sth
A healthy diet can result in a diminution in cholesterol levels.
shrinkage: the act of becoming smaller
Cattle grazing in the area has led to a shrinkage of grasslands.

- plunge:** a sudden decrease in an amount or the value of sth
There's been a dramatic plunge in profits in the last few months.
142. **level:** a particular standard or quality
Pollution levels have risen within the last few months.
caliber: level of quality or ability
It's difficult to find an employee of his caliber these days.
benchmark: a standard against which things can be judged or measured
Your performance at this exam sets a benchmark for future improvement.
fidelity: quality of being loyal to sb or sth
In his sermon, the priest stressed the importance of marital fidelity.
143. **explain:** make sth clear and easy to understand
The teacher carefully explained the exercise.
account (for): be the reason why sth happens
Stress definitely accounts for his strange behavior.
associate: make a mental connection between two things or people
Most people associate his name with innovative teaching practices.
attribute (to): believe that a situation or event is caused by sth
She attributes her success to her refusal to take no for an answer.
144. **aggravate:** make an unpleasant situation worse
A sedentary lifestyle can aggravate a heart condition.
escalate: make a bad situation become much worse
His financial problems escalated after he was made redundant.
irritate: annoy or make angry
It really irritates me when he doesn't follow the instructions.
enlarge: make larger
A good way to enlarge your vocabulary is to read magazines.
145. **fragile:** easily broken
Be careful with that vase. It's quite fragile.
feeble: extremely weak
She was very feeble after her illness.
limited: not great in amount or extent
There are only a limited number of people interested in attending the lecture.
- inadequate:** not enough
I can't go on with my research on such inadequate information.
146. **tentatively:** experimentally, temporarily
Let's try these measures tentatively and we can decide based on their effectiveness.
experimentally: in a way that involves trying new ideas, forms or methods
They're going to try the new drug experimentally on some patients.
originally: from the beginning of a particular period or activity
The building was originally used as the Police Headquarters.
undeniably: definitely true
He is, undeniably, a brilliant actor.
147. **impermeable:** not allowing liquids or gasses to pass through
My anorak is made of a fabric impermeable to rain.
impervious: unaffected by
She's impervious to criticism and will persevere no matter what happens.
immune: exempt from
No politician should be immune from criticism by the press.
unaffected: not influenced by sth
Luckily, my salary will remain unaffected by the new pay policy.
148. **support:** provide everything necessary to sb
Liam has three children to support from his first marriage.
rely (on): depend on sb or sth
We rely heavily on your help to finish the project on time.
fend (for oneself): take care of oneself single-handedly
He got a job, rented an apartment and, in general, decided to fend for himself.
stand (up for oneself): speak up in defense of oneself
He had learnt to stand up for himself.
149. **unfortunate:** regrettable
It was unfortunate that he couldn't afford to go on the trip.
gloomy: without much hope of success, depressing

The report paints a gloomy picture of the levels of smog in the city.

optimistic: believing that good things will happen in the future

Economists are not optimistic about the country's economic future.

subdued: not very busy; with not much activity

Trading on the stock market is fairly subdued.

150. **contain:** control

Scientists are trying hard to contain the Ebola epidemic.

compose (oneself): manage to control one's feelings

I had to take several deep breaths to compose myself.

regulate: control an activity or process, especially by rules

Parents should regulate how much TV their children can watch.

hamper: obstruct

An attempt to reach the island has been hampered by bad weather.

PRACTICE TEST 3

111. **grimace:** (of a face) make an ugly expression to show pain or disgust

The boy grimaced in pain, pointing to his bleeding knee.

gesture: (usually of the hand or head) make a movement to express an idea

The teacher gestured to the student to approach.

glimpse: catch sight of sb/sth

I only managed to glimpse at the figure of a man coming out of the room.

guzzle: eat or drink greedily

Isn't it time you stopped? You've been guzzling sweets all evening.

112. **indefinable:** not able to be described or defined

What I find attractive about Brooke is this indefinable air of mystery around her.

irresistible: impossible to resist

I suddenly felt this irresistible impulse to give her a kiss.

integral: essential, fundamental

Fruit and vegetables should be an integral part of a child's diet.

formidable: impressive, generating fear

Being a champion, he is a formidable opponent.

113. **hope:** have a desire for sth to happen

There's nothing else to do now but wait and hope.

bear: have a negative feeling

I have a grudge against my teacher for giving me a C, while I deserved an A.

stand a chance: have a prospect to be successful

If I had a postgraduate degree, I'd stand a much better chance of getting the job.

hold: keep

All I saw in the museum to hold my attention was a statue of Venus.

114. **raving(s):** incoherent talk

Do you believe her? It's just the ravings of a madwoman!

craving: very strong desire

I've been on a diet for a week now and I have this desperate craving for ice cream.

tasting: a social event during which people taste food or drink

There's going to be a wine and cheese tasting during the culinary festival.

leaning(s): tendency, inclination

His political leanings have long been known to everybody.

115. **lead up to:** gradually end in

The festival will start with performances by local bands leading up to Madonna's concert on Sunday.

narrow down (to): reduce the number of things or people to choose from

The list of candidates for the post has been narrowed down to ten people.

set out for: begin a journey towards

We set out for the capital at daybreak.

count toward: be part of the final score or result and influence it

The four assignments you'll have to do during the course of the school year will count toward your final grade.

116. **contemplate:** consider

I'm seriously contemplating emigrating.

meditate: think deeply

Now that you're a graduate, you must seriously meditate on your future.

scheme: make secret, devious plans intending to harm or deceive, plot

I'm afraid my colleagues are scheming against me.

imagine: create a picture in your mind

Can you imagine what it must be like to get married to a woman 30 years your junior?

117. **patch:** small area of sth

Have you noticed the small bald patch on Jason's head?

plot: a small piece of land used for a particular purpose

Ms Jackson's students enjoy taking care of the vegetable plot they have on the school grounds.

stake: a wooden or metal post used to support sth or mark a place

You'd better secure the plant by tying it to a stake.

hold: a place to put your hands or feet when climbing

There's nothing to it; just put your foot firmly in the hold and pull yourself up.

118. **unconcerned (about/by):** not interested, worried or anxious

He was really unconcerned by his failure to get the job.

insensible (of): unaware of

Are you insensible of the consequences of your decision?

insensitive (to): unaware of change and, as a result, not responding

The gadget is relatively insensitive to small changes in the temperature.

unconscious (of): unaware of, oblivious to

The teacher was unconscious of the effect of her remark on the student.

119. **veteran:** sb with wide experience on sth

The veteran actor received an honorary award in recognition of his contribution to the film industry.

expert: sb with extensive knowledge or special skill in sth

Experts agree that a daily regimen of exercise is the key to great health.

wizard: sb specially skilled in a particular field

Messi is definitely a soccer wizard.

professor: college or university teacher

She is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois.

120. **racing:** moving fast

Anxiety can cause you to have racing thoughts that you cannot seem to control.

current: happening at the present time

With current prices, it seems impossible to rent my own apartment.

torrential: (of rain) falling rapidly and in large amounts

The race was called off because of the torrential rain.

plunging: (of prices, rates) decreasing uncontrollably

The company's plunging profits were the reason behind the recent layoffs.

121. **paradox:** sth with contradictory features

It's a paradox that such a rich person would be dressed in rags.

contradiction: disagreement between two or more opinions or facts that makes it impossible for both or all of them to be true

There is an apparent contradiction between the two reports.

coincidence: an instance of two things happening simultaneously by chance

It was pure coincidence that they both applied for the same post.

inconsistency: a situation in which two things do not match

It's not hard to spot the inconsistencies between the two witnesses' statements.

122. **self-assured:** confident

The statesman sounded self-assured in his speech.

self-made: having become successful and rich through hard work

You deserve to be so proud of yourself; after all, you're a self-made man.

self-reliant: independent

Studying away from home will definitely help you become self-reliant.

self-sufficient: able to support oneself

Unless the country becomes agriculturally self-sufficient, industry cannot develop.

123. **elaborate:** very complicated and detailed in design

They made elaborate preparations for the Queen's visit.

consistent: happening or behaving in the same way

The figures are fully consistent with the research findings.

constant: fixed, not changing

It's imperative that the temperature be kept constant.

equable: not easily upset

I've never seen Gina get angry; she has a really equable temperament.

124. **hard:** putting in great effort

In preparation for the Olympic Games, she's been training hard.

close: near

I tried to get close enough to see.

tight: firmly, not loosely

Make sure that the rope is stretched tight.

firmly: securely

The door must be kept shut at all occasions.

125. **support:** corroborate, help prove sth

The research findings strongly support his claims.

maintain: insist

The suspect maintained that he had an alibi.

convince: persuade sb that sth is true

None of the jurors was convinced that the defendant was guilty.

doubt: feel uncertain that sth is true

I never doubted her sincerity.

126. **longing:** wanting sth very much

She gave a longing look at the cake.

envious: jealous

Listening to her description of their vacations made me feel really envious.

objective: unbiased

If you want an objective opinion, it's not the right time to consider retirement.

possessive:

Her intensely possessive love was what finally separated us.

127. **insertion:** putting inside

Treatment may include the insertion of a tube down the patient's throat.

injection: putting medicine in a person's body with the help of a syringe

The nurse gave the patient a cortisone injection.

interruption: a temporary pause or break in activity

It was impossible to work with the constant interruptions.

interjection: abrupt remark, exclamation

A series of angry interjections greeted the teacher's announcement that we were going to have a test.

128. **ironically:** in a sarcastic manner, playfully, ridiculously

"Lovely day!" said Kristen ironically, looking out at the pouring rain.

sardonically: mockingly

She smiled sardonically when she heard of his unfortunate incident with the manager.

emphatically: said forcefully and clearly

He has always emphatically refused to accept the accusations.

insincerely: untruthfully

He apologized, but you could tell that he was talking insincerely.

129. **be one's thing:** be sb's special interest

I've tried jogging, but it's not my thing.

sort: (of a person) kind

I am not the sort of person who enjoys jogging.

type: person with particular characteristics

I like her, but she's not really my type.

kind: sort, type

Please get me a drink – any kind will do.

130. **irrational:** unreasonable

Afraid of butterflies? I've never heard of such an irrational fear!

irresistible: too appealing or powerful to resist
With such a salary, it's definitely an irresistible job offer.

irreversible: too great to change

I'm afraid humans have done irreversible damage to the environment.

irritable: bad-tempered

The long wait made us more and more irritable.

131. **sentence (sb to):** decide and announce what punishment sb will receive for a crime

The defendant was sentenced to serve five years in the state penitentiary.

charge (sb with): formally accuse sb of a crime

He was charged with theft.

convict (sb of): officially state that sb is guilty of a crime

The jury convicted them of first-degree murder.

persecute (sb for): treat sb cruelly because of their race, political beliefs, etc.

She claims she has been persecuted because of her political beliefs.

132. **intently:** with great attention

The audience was listening intently to the speaker.

intensely: extremely

Professional tennis has become an intensely competitive sport.

intensively: with total focus on one area

To pass her bar exam, she studied intensively for a year.

intentionally: on purpose

I would never intentionally hurt you.

133. **thread:** a thin string of a fiber used for sewing or making cloth

A thread is hanging from the hem of your skirt.

strand: A single thin piece of sth such as thread, fiber, hair or wire

A single strand of hair found at the crime scene was enough to convict her.

line: a long thin mark on a surface

Cut the paper along the dotted line.

bunch: number of things of the same kind fastened or growing together

He gave her a huge bunch of daisies.

134. **final:** happening at the end of a process or a series of events

The final version of the report will be submitted on Friday.

ultimate: final

The problem of the ultimate disposal of toxic waste is a most pressing one.

terminal: found at the end of sth

Have you started studying for the terminal exams?

chronic: (of a disease) lasting for a long time or recurring

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is a medical condition which is becoming more and more common nowadays.

135. **hold:** a grip

Take hold of the handle and give it a hard push.

handle: the part of a door, drawer, window that you use to open it

I turned the handle but, still, the door wouldn't open.

grasp: a person's understanding of sth difficult
The Math problem was beyond my grasp.

fist: tightly closed hand

He clenched his hand into a fist and left the room swearing.

136. **inevitable:** unavoidable

The scandal rendered the minister's resignation inevitable.

systematic: methodical

You don't stand a chance of winning unless you do some systematic training.

unfortunate: coming as a result of bad luck

It's an unfortunate chain of events that led to his resignation.

sporadic: irregular

Sporadic efforts to lose weight will not help; you need to see a dietician.

137. **ration:** a particular amount of food given to an animal or person daily

Small children should receive at least one ration of fruit a day.

boundary: a line marking the edge or limits of sth

They are in constant fighting with the neighbors over the hedge boundaries.

restriction: sth that limits the amount of freedom available

My parents didn't put any restrictions on me.

sanction: an official order that limits trade, contact with a country, as a way of making it obey international law

International sanctions were imposed on Russia during the Ukrainian crisis.

138. **stagger:** walk or move unsteadily

He was staggering under the weight of the suitcase.

stumble: hit your foot against sth, so that you almost fall, trip

In her hurry she stumbled and all her books spilled from her schoolbag.

meander: wander

The tourists meandered around the town admiring the sights.

toddle: (of a very young child) walk with short, unsteady steps

The little girl toddled across the room and into her mother's arms.

139. **donor:** sb who gives to charity
An anonymous donor has given \$10,000 to the charity organization.
- patron:** sb who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause, or activity
The festival enjoys great support from local organizations and patrons.
- savior:** a person who saves sb or sth
The clean politician was expected to be the savior of his political party.
- backer:** a person that gives financial support to sb or sth
The multimillionaire was one of the backers of the Democratic candidate's presidential campaign.
140. **arbitrary:** not based on reason or a plan
The selection of the conference venue was completely arbitrary.
- defensive:** aiming at protecting or defending
The defensive wall around the city was built in the 5th century BC.
- elusive:** difficult to catch or find
A solution to the problem of landfills remains elusive.
- random:** (of a decision, selection) not planned or chosen
Applicants will come in for an interview in random order.
141. **exercise:** use
It's such an important decision; you must definitely exercise caution.
- involve:** include
Living in the suburbs involves having to commute.
- inflict:** make sb experience sth unpleasant
They look so cute but are capable of inflicting a painful bite.
- impose:** (of a tax, fine, rule or punishment) force to be accepted
The judge imposed a heavy sentence.
142. **disposition:** personality, character
She has a lovely sunny disposition.
- implication:** sth meant without being explicitly said
He said he could manage on his own, but the implication was that I'd let him down.
- conviction:** strongly held belief
It is my conviction that we can never achieve peace without compromise from both sides.
- prosecution:** legal procedure of finding sb guilty of a crime
His prosecution is inevitable given all the evidence against him.
143. **dazzling:** so bright it hurts the eyes
The midday sun was dazzling.
- glowing:** shining with a steady soft light
We watched the glowing coals after the flames of the fire died down.
- hazy:** hard to see due to smoke, fog, etc.
It was hot, and the air above the lake was hazy.
- glitzy:** glittery, glamorous
She wore a glitzy evening gown, covered in sequins.
144. **inspiration:** mental stimulation
He gets inspiration for his paintings from nature.
- observation:** comment, remark
He smiled, and made some observation about how beautiful she looked.
- thought:** consideration, process of thinking
Not unless you've given the matter careful thought should you decide.
- reflection:** careful thought (for a long time)
On further reflection, we've decided not to go on with the plan.
145. **unfold:** spread sth open from a folded position
He unfolded the newspaper to look in the classified ads section.
- unload:** remove cargo from a truck, ship, container, etc.
If Henry hadn't helped us unload, we would have taken ages to finish the move.
- untangle:** make sth difficult or perplexing easy to understand
Untangling the mystery of his murder will be a challenging task for the police.
- unwind:** relieve tension and relax
I really needed to unwind after a hectic week at work.
146. **packet:** paper or cardboard container
I bought a packet of envelopes and some notepaper.
- pile:** number of things placed on top of each other
She arranged her books in a neat pile.
- bundle:** a number of things wrapped or tied together

He noticed what looked like a bundle of clothes behind the desk.

cord: thick string or thin rope

The priceless pendant was hanging on a cord around her neck.

147. **profusely:** in very large amounts

It was a small cut, yet he was bleeding profusely.

pronouncedly: noticeably

He was limping pronouncedly.

profoundly: in a way that has a great effect on
His resignation could prove profoundly damaging to the government.

profitably: in a way that provides a financial gain

I'm surprised they closed down; I thought they had been operating profitably.

148. **peak:** reach the top

Right after the Oscar nomination, the actress's popularity peaked.

mount: climb up

They mounted the stairs to the upper floor in a hurry.

top: be at the highest place

The band's latest album topped the charts.

heighten: make higher

The arrival of his ex-wife and his lover heightened the drama further.

149. **application:** practical use

What are the practical applications of such an invention?

facilities: equipment, installations, etc. that make it possible or easier to do sth

The summer camp offers a wide range of facilities for teenagers and children alike.

utilities: services provided to the public

One of the symptoms of the financial crisis is that many people have their utilities shut off for nonpayment.

amenities: basic things necessary

No one can live on the island unless basic amenities are provided.

150. **backward:** towards the back

She took a small backward step in an effort to avoid bumping into him.

underground: artistic, sophisticated, alternative or radical

She had her first exhibition in an underground art gallery.

foreseen: expected, predicted

Problems that are foreseen are easy to solve.

predestined: predetermined by God or fate

He felt he was predestined to become famous sooner or later.

PRACTICE TEST 4

111. **encroach (on/upon sth):** cover more and more of an area

Housing developments soon encroached on the countryside surrounding the town.

trespass: enter sb's private land without their permission

She was arrested for trespassing on private property.

intrude: become involved in a situation where you're not welcome

Would I be intruding if I called you at home?

infringe: do sth against the law or sb's legal rights

Make sure you quote your sources so that you won't be accused of infringing copyright.

112. **overblown:** exaggerated

After the earthquake there were overblown reports of damage.

overwhelming: much larger than anything else

An overwhelming majority voted against the proposed measures.

oversized: too big

She wore a pair of leggings and an oversized sweater.

overpowering: intense

I felt an overpowering desire to kiss her.

113. **bogus:** false

He was arrested and charged with carrying a bogus driver's license.

deceitful: dishonest

The deceitful salesman deliberately lied about the car's condition.

pretentious: trying to seem important in order to be impressive

It's so pretentious of her to claim she is related to the Queen.

insincere: saying things that you don't really believe

- He apologized but I know he was insincere.*
114. **prevailing**: accepted or practiced by most people
The prevailing view seems to be that she will be acquitted.
pressing: urgent
Child abuse is a more pressing concern than pollution.
prominent: important or famous
She plays a prominent role in the company.
prevalent: common, widespread
Such attitudes are prevalent among the younger generation.
115. **relentless**: unrelenting, not stopping or getting weaker
Her relentless determination to succeed earned her the Oscar.
resolute: determined
He became even more resolute in his decision to oppose the plan.
unrelieved: continuing without changing
As a child, he had to go through years of unrelieved poverty.
diligent: hardworking and careful
He's such a diligent student that he's definitely going to get an 'A'.
116. **plentiful**: abundant
Jobs in the petroleum industry seem to be in plentiful supply.
luxuriant: characterized by abundant growth
Masses of rock were rising out of the luxuriant vegetation.
resourceful: good at solving problems, enterprising
Resourceful teachers can always find ways to maintain their students' interest.
fertile: producing new ideas
The best-selling author put his fertile imagination to good use.
117. **bustling**: full of noise, activity or energy
The market is a bustling hive of activity 24 hours a day.
hectic: busy, full of activity
It can get pretty hectic at the office at times.
deranged: mentally disturbed
The actress claimed her life was threatened by a deranged stalker.
vigorous: energetic
The decision came after vigorous debate.
118. **unfairly**: unjustly
He sued the company on the grounds that he had been unfairly dismissed.
immoderately: excessively
His new business venture made him immoderately rich.
unduly: to an undesirable degree
I don't want you to be unduly alarmed, but I think we're being followed.
disproportionately: too much when compared with sth else
Unemployment among women is disproportionately high compared to men.
119. **resume**: begin and activity after an interruption
She resumed her career after her son went to kindergarten.
progress: advance
The good thing about this course is that it allows students to progress at their own pace.
reiterate: repeat to emphasize
The government has reiterated its commitment to combat tax evasion.
proceed: continue doing
You don't have to proceed with the purchase unless you're sure it's what you want.
120. **pierce**: make a small hole in sth using a sharp object
I want to have my ears pierced.
penetrate: go into or through sth
I could feel the cold penetrating my bones.
infiltrate: enter an organization secretly, in order to get information
The undercover agent tried to infiltrate the gang.
permeate: spread to every part of an object or a place
The smell of rotten eggs permeated the air.
121. **let out**: express strong feelings
When stressed, crying is a great way to just let it all out.
throw out: get rid of sth unwanted
Have you thrown out yesterday's paper?
give off: produce a smell, heat, light, energy or a sound
The flowers gave off a wonderful smell.
send away: ask sb to leave a place
We can't discuss it unless you send the kids away.

122. **clutch**: grip, hold tightly
He stood in the middle of the room, the bouquet still clutched in his hand.
grasp: take a firm hold of
I grasped his hand and shook it cordially.
attach: fix one object to another
Don't forget to attach your résumé to your application.
cling: hold tightly, especially in order to feel safe
The boy started crying and clung to his mother.
123. **comeback**: return to a former good condition or (of a person in public life) enjoy popularity again
The species was severely threatened but is now making a comeback.
boost: increase in amount
Hopefully, the measures will give a much-needed boost to the economy.
boom: sudden increase in business activity
The boom in the market will hopefully create job opportunities.
return: giving or sending back
Now that he's out of hospital, his life will return to normal.
124. **fall**: reduction
There has been a fall in petrol prices.
plummet: steep and rapid fall
The bird's carefree flight was followed by an earthward plummet.
plunge: sudden decrease
There's been a dramatic plunge in profits since last March.
descent: change to a worse state or condition
His divorce marked the beginning of his slow descent to a life of alcohol abuse.
125. **practically**: almost
I've read practically all of her novels.
absolutely: completely
The meal was absolutely delicious.
entirely: completely
The reasons behind his resignation were not entirely clear.
reasonably: to a satisfactory degree
He's doing reasonably well at his exams.
126. **close**: likely to happen
We're close to finalizing the deal.
narrow: happening by only a small amount
The party won a narrow victory in the elections.
- tight**: close together
She wore her hair in a tight bun.
slight: small in degree
Because of the bad weather, there's been a slight change of plan.
127. **ignorant**: lacking knowledge
I'm completely ignorant of economics.
unaware: not knowing
He was completely unaware of the problem that came up.
illiterate: not knowing how to read or write
Today only a small percentage of the population is illiterate.
mindless: done without thinking
He was an alcoholic who often became involved in acts of mindless violence.
128. **dubious**: doubtful
I was rather dubious about the success of the plan.
obscure: little known
The origins of the tradition are obscure.
mysterious: strange, of unknown cause
A mysterious illness is affecting vines.
abstruse: difficult to understand
You're not the only one who finds mathematics abstruse.
129. **familiarity**: good knowledge
My familiarity with the area is pretty limited.
expertise: special skills or knowledge
Fortunately the staff possesses the level of expertise required for this job.
acknowledgement: accepting that sth is true
We want an acknowledgement of responsibility for the accident.
command: knowledge, ability to use
He studied in the US and has an excellent command of English.
130. **series**: several similar actions happening consecutively
There's has been a series of attacks on women in the last month.
instance: example, case
In most instances, there will be no need for medication.
streak: a series of successes or failures
The team continued its nine-game winning streak.
occurrence: sth that happens
Snowstorms in the area are a common occurrence.

131. **disregarding**: ignoring
They went on their way disregarding the risks.
despite: although
Despite his efforts, he didn't manage to pass.
discounting: disregarding a doubt
Discounting rumors of inefficiency, he decided to hire her.
irrespective (of): regardless of
All applicants will be interviewed, irrespective of qualifications.
132. **strengthen**: make or become stronger
Crunches are supposed to strengthen your stomach muscles.
convalesce: recover, recuperate
Grandpa is convalescing at home after his operation.
improve: make sth better
I'm sure your English will improve if you go on this trip to New York.
augment: increase the amount or value of sth
I'm trying to find a way to augment my income.
133. **wishful thinking**: when you believe or hope that sth you want to happen will happen, but this is not likely
I think I'm going to get a raise, but then it may only be wishful thinking.
lost cause: sth that cannot succeed
When the score reached 5–0, the game looked like a lost cause.
long shot: sth not likely to be successful but worth trying
It's a long shot, but you can always try it.
glimmer of hope: very small sign of hope
The statistics report a glimmer of hope for the small business sector.
134. **pool**: combine
I suggest you work individually, then pool your ideas in groups of four.
share: use together
There are not enough photocopies, so you'll have to share.
combine: join two or more things together
A number of factors have combined to create this uncomfortable situation.
merge: join together to form one thing
The company plans to merge with a multinational conglomerate.
135. **hardly**: barely
It was so funny, I could hardly keep myself from laughing.
austerely: strictly and seriously
She lived austerely and with no luxuries whatsoever.
acutely: very strongly
I am acutely aware of my inefficiencies.
severely: seriously
Many buildings were severely damaged by the earthquake.
136. **come apart**: separate into pieces
The book was so old it just came apart when I opened it.
stand out: be very easy to notice
They painted the exit red, to make it stand out.
pull away: separate from sth
Some of the pages of the notebook have been pulled away.
split off: become separated
A branch was split off the main trunk as a result of the storm.
137. **avert**: prevent sth unpleasant from happening
The disaster could have been averted if the organizers had taken safety measures.
restrain: stop sb from moving
The convict had to be restrained by the police.
deter: persuade sb not to do sth by describing the difficulties or dangers involved
The security camera was not enough to deter customers from shoplifting.
prohibit: forbid
Smoking is strictly prohibited in the school.
138. **indecisive**: unable to make decisions
She blamed her indecisive personality for her failure to exploit opportunities.
unfounded: not based on facts
Unfounded rumors began circulating that he had been bribed.
speculative: based on guessing
The report is highly speculative and should not be taken into consideration.
inconclusive: not leading to a definite decision
The defendant was acquitted as the evidence was inconclusive.
139. **imminent**: likely to happen soon
They must be warned of the imminent danger.
forthcoming: about to happen, come out soon
He's a candidate in the forthcoming elections.

- approaching:** coming near
I could hear the sound of an approaching motorcycle.
- anticipated:** expected
Our guests' anticipated arrival time is 22.30.
140. **promptly:** at the right time
Correspondence must be dealt with promptly and efficiently.
- rashly:** recklessly, not sensibly
I had rashly promised to lend him my car.
- straightforwardly:** in a simple way that is easy to understand
I can't put it more straightforwardly.
- impulsively:** rashly, impetuously
Impulsively, he reached out and kissed her.
141. **register:** put sb's name on a list
I registered for the Spanish class last week.
- file:** give a document to a court so that it can be officially recorded
She filed for divorce in April.
- plead:** ask for sth in a serious way
He pleaded to be given more time to finish the test.
- log:** record
The police log all phone calls made from his number.
142. **poignant:** moving, making one feel sad
Mark's absence was even more poignant with the rest of the family present at the celebration.
- pungent:** with a strong smell or taste
The air was pungent with the smell of garlic.
- protruding:** sticking out
Her protruding teeth made her look like a rabbit.
- preordained:** decided by God or by fate
Has my life followed a preordained path?
143. **quest:** long and difficult search for sth
A quest for gold drove pioneers to the West.
- aspiration:** strong desire to do sth, ambition
He has always had an aspiration to earn a lot of money.
- pursuit:** trying to get sth determinedly
He moved to LA in pursuit of a career in the film industry.
- chase:** following sb/sth in order to catch them
He led the police on a high-speed car chase.
144. **plain:** simple
She looked absolutely adorable in her plain white dress.
- basic:** most important or simplest
The hotel provided only basic facilities.
- pure:** not mixed with anything else
The T-shirt is made of 100% pure cotton.
- spartan:** simple, lacking comfort
The soldiers had to get used to the spartan life of the training camp
145. **entrance:** door used for entering
The entrance to the museum was flanked by two statues.
- admission:** permission given to sb to enter a building
Admission fees to the museum are very high.
- entry:** act of entering
The actress made her entry on stage to the sound of applause.
- access:** way of entering a place
The burglar gained access through an unlocked door.
146. **melted:** (of sth solid) made into liquid
Spread melted chocolate over a baking sheet in a thin layer.
- molten:** (of metal or rock) made into liquid
Lava is the molten rock expelled by a volcano during an eruption.
- dissolving:** becoming part of a liquid when mixed with it
Dissolving aspirin works quite well for headaches.
- dripping:** very wet
Get out of your clothes right away! They're dripping wet!
147. **disgraced:** having lost public respect
After the scandal, the disgraced politician had to leave the country.
- humiliated:** embarrassed, ashamed
I was deeply humiliated by the lies she told about me.
- shamed:** made to feel ashamed
He felt shamed by the actions of his children.
- degraded:** being treated without respect
Women are deeply degraded in this movie.
148. **ominous:** foreboding
There were ominous dark clouds gathering in the distance.
- alarming:** making you feel worried
There has been an alarming increase in instances of bullying in schools.
- bleak:** without hope

The medical prognosis was rather bleak.

dismal: gloomy

Christmas will be dismal with Dan being away at college.

149. **compatible:** (of machines, computers) able to be used together

This new software is not compatible with my operating system.

convergent: becoming more similar

Parents must have convergent opinions regarding the upbringing of their children.

conducive: enabling sth to be easy, possible or likely

A classroom should be an environment conducive to learning.

congenital: existing since or before birth

The baby was born with a congenital heart defect.

150. **account (for):** explain

I'm afraid I can't account for the error.

stand (for): represent, be short for

EU stands for European Union.

blame (for): say that you think sb is responsible for sth

I still blame myself for the accident.

excuse (for): forgive

Please excuse me for my bad behavior.

PRACTICE TEST 5

111. **wash:** clean with water and soap

Wash your hair thoroughly with the shampoo.

stream (with): be wet with a flowing liquid

Her face streamed with tears.

flood: receive large amounts of

The TV station was flooded with complaints.

pour: cause a liquid to flow in a steady stream

Pour heavy cream on top of the coffee.

112. **obscene:** too large, outrageous

An expensive wedding is an obscene waste of money, in my opinion.

wealthy: rich

Our governor is one of the wealthiest people in the state.

vulgar: not showing good taste, good manners or politeness

I will not tolerate such vulgar language in my classroom.

lucrative: profitable

The shares he bought proved quite a lucrative investment.

113. **prohibition:** forbidding sth

Is the prohibition of smoking in public areas enough to protect non-smokers?

exclusion: non-inclusion of sb

Social exclusion is unacceptable in our multicultural societies.

elimination: (of a team, athlete, contestant) being knocked out

Elimination for Rossmoor High came in the initial rounds.

disqualification: preventing sb from taking part in sth because they have broken a rule

His attempt to cheat in the match earned him a disqualification.

114. **contentiously:** controversially

They debated contentiously for quite a long time before agreeing to disagree.

consistently: invariably

You are consistently ignoring school rules!

contemporarily: in a way that follows modern ideas

The director decided to approach the Shakespearean play contemporarily.

conclusively: in a way that shows there can be no doubt about sth

What you just said proves conclusively that she's telling the truth.

115. **effect:** a look or impression given by a painting, book or film

The artist used multiple paint layers to achieve a variety of effects.

disconnect: lack of connection

Ever since I came to work in this school, there has existed a huge disconnect between the principal's perspective and the teachers' approaches.

dismay: sad feeling caused by an unpleasant surprise

Much to my dismay, he was not available when I needed him the most.

empathy: ability to understand sb else's feelings

I felt real empathy for the refugees and what they'd been through.

116. **unsustainable**: not able to continue at the same level or rate
Experts warn that, because of recession, current housing price levels are unsustainable.
non-committal: not showing commitment to a course of action or opinion
The Chair listened to all views, but remained non-committal, saying that all options would be considered.
disingenuous: insincere
I know you don't have a pet, so saying that your dog ate your homework is the most disingenuous excuse ever!
inconspicuous: not easily seen or noticed
The film star tried to remain as inconspicuous as possible to avoid the paparazzi.
117. **roughly**: approximately
There were roughly 3,000 people at the concert.
wildly: extremely
That's a wildly exaggerated claim.
toughly: in a difficult way
The race was toughly fought.
densely: thickly
India is a densely populated country.
118. **imitation**: intended to copy or simulate
How can I tell the difference between real leather and imitation leather?
artificial: not natural, not real
Surely you can't expect to lose weight simply by substituting sugar with artificial sweeteners!
bogus: false
He was arrested and charged with carrying a bogus driver's license.
counterfeit: fake
Are you sure the money you exchanged in the street is not counterfeit?
119. **exhaustion**: extreme tiredness
His eyes were red, his skin pale and he seemed very close to exhaustion.
ridicule: mockery
After his affair with the starlet, the politician became an object of ridicule.
add insult to injury: worsen an already bad situation
I got up really late this morning, and to add insult to injury, my car wouldn't start.
profanity: blasphemous language or behavior
The stand-up comedian was criticized for using too much profanity.
120. **primary**: basic, prime
The primary aim of this course is to teach learners some basic computer skills.
authentic: real, genuine
The signature on the document is definitely not authentic.
exact: correct and accurate
The exact cause of the accident is still not known.
prime: (of an example) typical
The city hall is a prime example of 19th century architecture.
121. **clap**: sudden loud noise
A flash of lightning followed by a clap of thunder marked the beginning of the storm.
slap: noise made by sth hitting on a flat surface
From my window, I could hear the gentle slap of waves against the rocks.
snap: sharp sound
There was a snap as I stood on the twig.
bang: sudden loud noise
There was a loud bang as he left, slamming the front door.
122. **claim**: demand a right
He entered the lost property office claiming ownership of the briefcase.
bring: (of a profit, money) help sb receive
The Ming vase sold at the auction brought \$1,000,000.
shoulder: accept responsibility
If you decide to get a divorce, you'll have to shoulder the burden of childcare alone.
invoke: (of a person, law, theory) mention in support of
He invoked Plato in support of his argument.
123. **the long and the short of it**: the whole story
The long and the short of it is that we're going to be late, unless we hurry.
far and wide: over a large area
We searched far and wide for the lost ring but it was nowhere to be found.
broad: wide
She turned and gave me a broad smile.
few and far between: very few
Job offers like that are few and far between.
124. **way**: method

The only way to succeed is work hard.

method: way

Teachers must always update their teaching methods.

route: a way to achieve sth

I may have taken a different route, but still arrived to the same conclusion.

a means to an end: sth done so that a result can be achieved (not because you want it)

I don't like the job, but I have to make a living; it's only a means to an end.

125. **regardless:** paying no attention, no matter what the situation is like

We knew we wouldn't get paid, but we carried on working, regardless.

relentless: not stopping or becoming less strong

They continued walking despite the relentless downpour.

anytime: at any time

You should be here anytime between 7 and 8 p.m.

otherwise: or else

You'd better do well at the test; otherwise I'll have to notify your parents.

126. **receptive:** willing to accept new ideas

Thank you for being such a receptive audience.

perceptive: showing an ability to understand
The article contains quite a perceptive analysis of the problems.

deceptive: misleading

Appearances can be deceptive; she's so beautiful, yet she's a compulsive liar.

susceptible: likely to be affected by a particular problem or illness

Children are more susceptible to infections.

127. **in the right place at the right time:** being somewhere at the right time for sth good to happen

I got the job because I happened to be in the right place at the right time.

peace of mind: being free of worries

Until they came back from their climbing expedition, I couldn't have any peace of mind.

of sound mind: mentally healthy

He was found to be of sound mind when he committed the murder, that's why he was convicted.

frame of mind: mood or mental state

I'm in such a relaxed frame of mind after this long weekend, I could work non-stop for three days.

128. **deficiency:** lack of sth necessary

We've got to run some tests and ensure you don't suffer from a severe vitamin deficiency.

insufficiency: inadequacy

The insufficiency of evidence led to her acquittal.

detriment: causing injury or damage

It's OK to work hard as long as it's not to the detriment of your married life.

undertone: hidden quality, feeling or meaning

The novel is full of sexist undertones.

129. **sketch sth out:** outline, describe briefly

Will you sketch out an itinerary for our tour around the city?

talk sth out: discuss a problem thoroughly to find a solution

If you have problems with your roommate, you'd better sit down and talk things out.

play sth out: (of feelings) act out

By taking part in the reality show I got to play out my fantasy of being on TV.

stress out: feel stressed or worried

There's no need to stress out; you'll do fine in the exams.

130. **distinct:** clearly different

The two courses are quite distinct from one another.

finite: having limits

Even the best computer has finite possibilities.

miniature: tiny

The baby looks like a miniature version of her sister.

mediocre: of average quality

Although direction was good, on the whole it was a mediocre film.

131. **full:** not at all limited

I need your full attention.

whole: complete

I couldn't put it down; I read the whole book in two days.

wide awake: fully awake

It was 11.00 p.m. but the children were still wide awake.

open: not closed

I'm so tired I can't keep my eyes open.

132. **seal off:** (of a place) prevent sb from entering a place

The crime scene was instantly sealed off.

haul off: depart

I grabbed my things and hauled off to my cubicle.

stop off: interrupt a journey and go somewhere

I'll stop off at the supermarket to pick up some fruit.

lock: fasten with a lock

Lock the lab door when you're done cleaning up.

133. **reproduction:** producing offspring

My term assignment is on butterfly reproduction.

fertilization: (of a plant, animal) the process of making life

In vitro fertilization is a method of assisted reproduction.

sterilization: the process of depriving a person or animal of the ability to have children

The gynecologist refused to proceed to the sterilization without the patient's consent.

vaccination: the process of giving a person or animal a vaccine to prevent infection

Only if you're sick should you delay vaccination.

134. **successive:** consecutive

Some African countries have suffered from drought for two successive years.

succeeding: following

Facial features can be passed on through seven succeeding generations.

successor: sb or sth that comes after sb or sth and takes their place

Let's hope that the new manager will prove a worthy successor to his predecessor.

successional: sequential

Make successional sowings of cabbage, carrots, lettuce, and cucumbers.

135. **installation:** fitting a machine, equipment, etc. somewhere

The installation of a new heating system will be quite costly.

improvisation: performing without preparation

His speech was pure improvisation, as he had forgotten his notes.

interruption: stopping sth from happening for a while

It was really hard to study with the constant noise and interruptions.

conscription: compulsory drafting into the armed forces

He emigrated to Canada to avoid conscription.

136. **complication:** problem that makes a disease or health problem more difficult to cure

She had to be readmitted to hospital due to complications from the surgery.

complexion: (appearance of the) skin

She has a dark complexion.

contraceptive: drug or device preventing pregnancy

Teenagers need to be informed about the use of reliable contraceptives.

constitution: condition of a person's or animal's health or body

Only animals with tough constitutions are able to survive life on the poles.

137. **subconsciously:** without realizing sth

Subconsciously, he was looking for the mother he had never known.

superficially: not deeply or seriously

Fortunately, the building was only superficially damaged by the explosion.

underhandedly: in a secret and dishonest way

I thought he was a friend; I never expected him to behave so underhandedly.

downheartedly: with depressed, sad, unhopeful feelings

"I'm a complete failure," he said downheartedly, and left the room.

138. **serve:** spend time in jail

He's serving a nine-year sentence for armed robbery.

pay: be punished for doing sth wrong

You'll pay dearly for what you did to me!

lay: place sth along a surface

The foundation for the surgery addition to the hospital was laid last week.

earn: deserve to get sth (because of sth you've done)

The way he spoke to Mr Thompson earned him a one-day suspension.

139. **secure:** not threatened, safe

With the new alarm the house will be completely secure against intruders.

safe: not likely to prove wrong, not risky
A bank savings account is, no doubt, the safest investment.

confident: certain that sth will happen
We are confident that conditions in the economy will soon improve.

wild: not based on facts
If you're not sure of the answer, take a wild guess.

140. **fallback:** emergency plan, course of action
If your initial plan doesn't work out, you can always resort to your fallback.

tip-off: information given in a confidential way

The police arrested the kidnappers acting on a tip-off they received from an informer.

run-through: rehearsal, quick check
The professor gave his lecture a quick run-through.

crackdown: severe measures to contain illegal behavior

The government's crackdown against juvenile delinquency is finally paying off.

141. **identical:** exactly alike
Our apartment is identical to the one directly above ours.

definitive: final
I need a definitive answer to my proposal.

synonymous: meaning exactly the same
"Cancel" and "call off" are synonymous.

parallel: similar and happening at the same time

The two movie stars are married to twin brothers and enjoy parallel careers.

142. **cargo:** goods carried by boat or plane
The oil slick was caused by a tanker that began to spill its cargo of oil.

freight: goods transported by ships, trains, trucks, or airplanes

The delicate freight arrived by plane.

bulk: the largest part of sth
The great bulk of the work was done over the weekend.

load: cargo
The trucks picked up a full load of sand at the warehouse.

143. **return:** give back

Books must be returned to the library within two weeks.

retrace: go back along the same course or path

To find your wallet, try retracing your steps from the parking lot to the supermarket.

receive: be given

I received an email from Sue yesterday.

retrieve: bring sth back from a place
The police managed to retrieve some of the stolen jewels.

144. **vacant:** empty, unoccupied
Excuse me, is this seat vacant?

hollow: with no real value
Unless you're going to keep them, don't make hollow promises to the kids.

blank: not yet written in or filled out
Fill out your name on the blank line.

void: empty
Her eyes were void of all expression.

145. **observe:** notice
In the mosque, she observed that everyone had removed their shoes.

demonstrate: (of a quality, feeling) clearly show
So far he has demonstrated a high level of technical competence.

interpret: perform in a way that shows thoughts and feelings
Lawrence Olivier was outstanding in the way he interpreted Shakespearean roles.

appear: become visible
A bus appeared out of nowhere.

146. **costume:** clothes worn by actors
The actors put on their costumes for the dress rehearsal.

unit: single thing
At the scene of the crime, the police force broke up into smaller units.

outfit: set of clothes worn together
She bought her daughter a riding outfit as a birthday present.

coating: thin layer of sth
The cake was covered in a thin coating of chocolate.

147. **prolong:** extend the duration of sth
The treatment will only prolong her life by a few weeks.

extend: make longer

The Ministry of Education is thinking of extending the school year to mid July.

expand: make bigger or increase in amount or range

We're planning to expand the business by opening two more stores.

compound: worsen sth bad

He compounded his mistake by refusing to apologize.

148. **impulse:** sudden strong desire to do something

Can you resist the impulse to go shopping at the sales?

repulsive: disgusting

She found the idea of eating octopus deeply repulsive.

addict: sb who is passionate about sth

Being a video game addict, he spends hours in front of the computer screen.

hesitant: uncertain, slow in responding

Why are you hesitant to accept the job? It's a great offer.

149. **anemic:** feeble, weak

The renowned actor gave an anemic performance.

nervous: worried, stressed

Finding myself in a doctor's waiting room always makes me feel nervous.

fragile: delicate

We need to protect the ecologically fragile rainforest of the Amazon river.

momentary: lasting a very short time

There was a momentary hesitation before he picked up the phone.

150. **spacing:** amount of space that is left between things

Double spacing is the norm for all essay assignments.

margin: blank border on each side of a printed page

Write your name in the right-hand margin of the page.

opening: hole or empty space

The dog escaped through a narrow opening in the fence.

chasm: (of attitudes) major difference between people or groups of people

It's impossible to bridge the chasm between the two political parties.

PRACTICE TEST 6

111. **newly:** recently

As a newly appointed director, I wish to share my plans for the future with you.

anew: from the beginning

They emigrated to Canada and started life anew there.

alternatively: as a second choice or possibility

You can go to a fancy restaurant or alternatively stroll down the bustling city center.

freshly: recently

I was woken up by the smell of freshly brewed coffee.

112. **painstakingly:** very carefully and with a lot of effort

The old building was painstakingly renovated.

predominantly: mainly

The community is predominantly Christian.

markedly: noticeably

This year's sales have dropped markedly.

factually: in a way that is based on facts

I like factually based novels.

113. **exhausted:** extremely tired

He was exhausted by the long journey.

exhaustive: extremely thorough

The police carried out an exhaustive search.

exhausting: making you feel extremely tired

After so many hours of shopping, it's been quite an exhausting day.

exhaust: pipe on a car or machine that sends out waste gases

I need to have the exhaust on my car changed.

114. **impressionable:** easily influenced

Teenagers are at an impressionable age.

impressionistic: giving a general idea rather than details

You should examine the details and not make an impressionistic assessment.

inexperienced: with little or no experience

The middle-aged teacher was inexperienced in modern teaching methods.

uninitiated: with no knowledge or experience

Classical music may not appeal to the uninitiated listener.

115. **rebound:** increase again after decreasing

Oil prices rebounded this week after last week's losses.

- confound:** confuse because not unexpected
His research findings confounded the medical community.
- abound:** exist in very large numbers
Examples of metaphor abound in this book.
- resound:** be filled with a sound
The theater resounded with applause.
116. **complacent:** oversatisfied with oneself
Winning all those games made the team become complacent.
- compelling:** making sb feel certain that sth is true
There was compelling evidence that the accused had murdered the victim.
- compulsory:** mandatory
Your presence at the meeting is compulsory.
- compatible:** able to be used or exist together
The scanner is compatible with most PCs.
117. **bare:** empty
The only furniture in the tiny bare room was a bed.
- sparse:** existing in small amounts
The population in rural areas was sparse.
- scant:** not enough
There was scant information about the plane crash.
- deprived:** not having enough for a comfortable life
Deprived children tend to drop out of school.
118. **exonerate:** state officially that sb is not guilty
The accused was totally exonerated of the crime.
- contradict:** say the opposite of sth
The article contradicts the scientists' claims.
- console:** to make sb sad feel better
No one could console him when his dog died.
- endorse:** express formal support or approval
The manager is unlikely to endorse this proposal.
119. **gauge:** judge how people feel or will react
He looked at me trying to gauge my reaction.
- guess:** try to find an answer without being sure
I'd say she's around 40, but then I'm only guessing.
- judge:** form an opinion
Never judge by appearances.
- estimate:** try to judge the value, age, size, speed or cost of sth
The monument is estimated to be at least 300 years old.
120. **consequently:** as a result
I was really upset and, consequently, I couldn't concentrate.
- concurrently:** at the same time
I had to deal with many problems concurrently.
- concisely:** briefly but clearly
Your summary must be written as concisely as possible.
- coincidentally:** happening by chance
Coincidentally, I live next door to my ex.
121. **ahead of time:** earlier than expected
The train arrived about twenty minutes ahead of time.
- in due time:** at the right time
I'll pay you back in due time.
- at no time:** never
At no time did I give my consent.
- in the nick of time:** just before it is too late
Luckily, the rescuers arrived in the nick of time.
122. **belittle:** make sb or sth seem small or unimportant
The critic belittled the director's work.
- condescend:** behave as if you think you are better than others
Try not to condescend to the poor.
- delegate:** give a responsibility to sb in a lower position
Knowing when to delegate is a basic quality of a good manager.
- dwarf:** be so big that other things are made to seem very small
The hotel is dwarfed by the surrounding skyscrapers.
123. **mannerism:** way of speaking or moving characteristic of sb
She has the same mannerisms as her mother.
- behavior:** conduct
Students will be penalized for bad behavior.
- attribute:** quality or feature
What attributes should a good teacher possess?
- aspect:** a part or feature of sth
The book aims to cover all aspects of the problem.
124. **premise:** a statement or idea accepted as true

His reasoning is based on the premise that all people are equal.

commitment: a promise to do sth

The company has a strong commitment to provide quality products at reasonable prices.

foundation: a principle or idea that sth is based on

The charges against him were completely without foundation.

occurrence: sth that happens

Laughter was a frequent occurrence in the classroom.

125. **weaken:** become less strong

She was weakened by her long illness.

wane: become less strong

My enthusiasm for the project was waning.

reduce: make smaller or less

My salary has been reduced by half.

dilute: make a quality or belief weaker or less effective

Shortage in nursing staff dilutes the quality of health care available.

126. **sacrifice:** give up sth important to get sth that seems more important

The designers have sacrificed fuel economy for luxury.

dedicate: devote

She dedicated her life to helping the needy.

squander: waste in a stupid way

It's a shame to squander your talents in such silly films.

spare: give sth because you have enough available

Can you spare a few minutes?

127. **call it a day:** stop working for the day

It's late and I'm tired; let's call it a day.

call the shots: be the one who controls a situation

You're the boss; you call the shots.

call in sick: telephone to say you can't work because of illness

I woke up with a fever and decided to call in sick.

call it quits: agree to stop work, end a relationship, etc.

He decided to call it quits after five years in the same position.

128. **crude:** simply and roughly made

The mountaineers made a crude shelter to protect themselves from the cold.

crisp: dry, hard and easily broken

I like my cornflakes crisp, rather than soggy.

rigid: stiff and not easy to bend

The tube was made of rigid plastic.

soggy: wet and soft

The ground was soggy after the rain.

129. **indefinitely:** for a period of time with no fixed limit

The construction of the mall has been postponed indefinitely.

considerately: in a caring way, thoughtfully

You should drive carefully and considerately.

appreciably: considerably

His chances of winning have risen appreciably.

thoroughly: completely

Rinse your hair thoroughly.

130. **commit (oneself to):** promise to definitely do sth

You must think about it carefully before you commit yourself to the task.

familiarize (oneself with): acquaint oneself with

You'll need some time to familiarize yourself with the procedure.

resign (oneself to): accept sth unpleasant

After the accident, she resigned herself to the fact that she'd never be a ballerina.

compose (oneself): try hard to calm down after feeling very upset

I took several deep breaths and managed to compose myself.

131. **vulnerable:** physically or emotionally weak
- She was really vulnerable after her divorce.*

apt: with a natural tendency to do sth

Keep an eye on the children; they are apt to become really naughty.

receptive: willing to listen to new suggestions

At the company we are receptive to new ideas at all times.

susceptible: likely to be affected by a particular problem or illness

Children are more susceptible to infections.

132. **live through:** experience a difficult situation or event

Both my grandfathers lived through World War II.

live in: live in the place where one works

Does your nanny live in?

- live off:** get money from sth and use it to live
With all the money he's made from the stock market, he can now retire and live off his investments.
- live with:** accept an unpleasant event
There is no known cure for the disease, so you'll have to live with it.
133. **out of one's depth:** beyond sb's capabilities
I'm completely out of my depth when it comes to organic chemistry.
- out of bounds:** forbidden, not acceptable
Your behavior is completely out of bounds!
- out of line:** improper
His remark was totally out of line.
- out of place:** inappropriate
That kind of behavior is out of place at a dinner party.
134. **spurious:** not based on facts
His well-mannered behavior created the spurious impression that he came from a noble family.
- shrewd:** clever at making judgments
The teacher was shrewd enough to guess who was responsible.
- genius:** showing great intelligence
What a genius idea!
- deductive:** using available knowledge to form an opinion
It's a conclusion based on deductive reasoning.
135. **spectacular:** breathtaking
That was quite a spectacular goal!
- sensational:** thrilling
The explorers made a sensational discovery.
- sumptuous:** very impressive and expensive
We had a sumptuous meal.
- staggering:** astounding
The film star paid a staggering \$12 million for the house.
136. **replenish:** fill again
Let me replenish your glass.
- replicate:** duplicate
It's difficult to replicate the original experiment.
- reciprocate:** behave towards sb exactly as they behave towards you
How can I reciprocate their hospitality?
- compensate:** make up for
Her diligence more than compensates for her lack of experience.
137. **in a scrape:** in a dangerous, or unpleasant situation
He got into a few scrapes with the police in his twenties.
- in a rut:** in a boring situation
My job's so boring; I feel I'm in a rut.
- in a nutshell:** in very few words but clearly
To put it in a nutshell, we're at a dead end.
- in a bind:** in trouble
With our money running out and two mortgage payments overdue, we're in a serious bind.
138. **stance:** position, viewpoint
The newspaper has adopted an anti-war stance.
- commitment:** a promise to do sth
The company has a strong commitment to providing quality products at reasonable prices.
- demeanor:** the way sb behaves
I was really comforted by his calm, reassuring demeanor.
- poise:** calm and confident behavior
For a moment he felt embarrassed, but soon recovered his poise.
139. **impair:** damage
Her hearing is badly impaired.
- provoke:** cause a particular reaction
The article provoked a storm of protest.
- muster:** summon enough courage, support to do sth
Finally I mustered the courage to ask for a raise.
- contaminate:** pollute by putting chemicals in sth
The drinking water was contaminated with radioactive material.
140. **implement:** carry out
The reform will be difficult to implement.
- enact:** pass a law
Congress agreed to enact the bill.
- execute:** carry out, perform
The robbery was skillfully executed.
- promulgate:** spread an idea
The campaign has been widely promulgated on the Internet.
141. **intimidating:** frightening
A driver's test is a really intimidating experience.

intimate: having an extremely close friendship

We're on quite intimate terms with our neighbors.

formidable: impressive, generating fear
Being a champion, he is a formidable opponent.

dreadful: very bad or unpleasant
The weather is really dreadful this time of year.

142. **let go of sb:** release

Let go of me; you're hurting me!

let sb in on sth: tell sb a secret
Shall I let you in on sth? Pat and I are moving in together.

let up on sb: stop treating sb severely
The newspaper let up on the relentless criticism against the politician.

let sb off: not punish
Luckily, the officer let us off with a warning.

143. **highlight:** emphasize

The article highlights the major problems facing modern society.

focus: give attention to one particular subject
The professor's lecture focused on three main problems.

pinpoint: provide the exact reason for sth
Researchers weren't able to pinpoint exactly the cause of the accident.

investigate: examine the facts of an event to find out how it happened
The FBI has been called in to investigate the murder.

144. **downplay:** make sth seem less important than it really is

The government tried to downplay the Minister's role in the scandal.

avert: prevent sth bad from happening
Thanks to the captain's cool-headed reaction, the disaster was averted.

confront: face up to
I know I have to confront my fears.

prohibit: forbid
A law was recently passed prohibiting smoking in all public places.

145. **indulge (in):** allow oneself to have sth (especially sth bad)

Your vacations are a perfect opportunity to indulge in leisure activities.

incite: deliberately encourage people to fight, argue

He was accused of inciting workers to strike.

implicate: incriminate
The allegations implicated the treasurer, so he was forced to resign.

impeach: formally charge with a serious crime
The governor was impeached for embezzling state funds.

146. **sedentary:** spending a lot of time not moving or exercising

Her health problem was mainly attributed to her sedentary lifestyle.

stagnant: not changing or making progress
Unless our stagnant economy is revived, the country's facing default.

strand: leave someone in a place from which there is no way of leaving
Hundreds of tourists were left stranded at the airport because of the strike.

suspend: officially stop sth for some time
After the accident, production has been suspended.

147. **take issue (with):** disagree with

It is difficult not to take issue with such an analysis.

take exception (to): be angry or upset because of sth
I take great exception to the fact that you consistently lied to me.

take account of sth: consider particular facts before making a decision about sth
I hope my coach takes into account the fact that I was ill last week.

take sth for granted: expect sth will always be available or happen in a particular way
When I lost my job, I realized that we must never take anything for granted.

148. **durable:** that can last for a long time
Steel is an extremely durable material.

discernible: perceptible
The differences between the products are barely discernible.

detestable: that deserves to be hated
Rape is a detestable crime.

distinctive: characteristic
The female bird has distinctive black markings on its feathers.

149. **oncoming:** approaching

Always watch out for oncoming traffic when walking in the street.

untimely: premature

James Dean met a tragic and untimely death at 24.

abrupt: sudden and unexpected

The scandal brought the politician's career to an abrupt end.

upcoming: going to happen soon

The band's upcoming album is expected to be a hit.

150. **contempt:** a belief that sb or sth deserves no respect

The bullies treated their victim with contempt.

conduct: behavior in a particular situation

The officer's conduct during the inquiry is being investigated.

combat: war, fighting

Corporal Smith was killed in combat.

conflict: serious disagreement or argument

She was in conflict with her parents over her studies.

PRACTICE TEST 7

111. **carefree:** without any worries or problems

As a teacher, he has a very carefree attitude towards discipline.

mainstream: basic, most common

Students with special difficulties must be included in mainstream education.

open-minded: unprejudiced, broad-minded

Although he claims to be open-minded, he's opposed to same-sex marriage.

straightforward: uncomplicated

The answer to the question is by no means straightforward.

112. **glare:** strong and bright light

He closed his eyes against the glare of the sun.

glimpse: momentary sight of sb/sth

I only managed to catch a glimpse of the figure of a man coming out of the room.

glow: soft, steady light

The bedroom was dimly lit by the soft glow of a bedside lamp.

glimmer: soft, unsteady light

Through the window I could see the first faint glimmer of dawn.

113. **mock:** laugh at, make fun of
- If you didn't mock my accent, I would speak French more often.*

refuse: not accept

The job offer was one I simply couldn't refuse.

defy: refuse to obey

I could never imagine my daughter defying her teachers.

deny: say that sth isn't true

It's no use denying you did it – we saw you.

114. **laborious:** requiring a lot of effort and time
- Cleaning the whole house proved quite a laborious task.*

strenuous: requiring a lot of effort and energy

Avoid all strenuous exercise until the pain completely subsides.

tenuous: uncertain, weak

The link between cancer and lack of exercise is a tenuous one.

industrious: hard-working

An industrious employee will always be rewarded.

115. **with open eyes/with eyes (wide) open:** totally aware of what is happening

You came into this deal with your eyes open; you can't blame others.

see eye to eye (about/on sth with sb): agree about sth with sb

We agree on a lot of things, but we don't see eye to eye when it comes to politics.

an eye for an eye: avenging the harm done to you

In a civilized justice system an eye for an eye mentality has no place.

straight in the eye: in the direction of sb's eyes

He looked at her straight in the eye and apologized.

116. **fabled:** famous
- I'd like some of your mum's fabled apple pie.*

legendary: very well-known

I very much admire the legendary footballer Pelé.

storybook: like something described in a storybook

How they met and fell in love is material of storybook romance.

anecdotal: based on hearsay and possibly not true

The article is based on anecdotal evidence rather than scientific research.

117. **miss:** fail to use

It's not an opportunity you should miss.

lose face: become less respected

She feared she would lose face in front of her students if she admitted her mistake.

fail: not succeed

She failed to finish the test in time.

drop: become weaker or less

The temperature dropped by 10 degrees Celsius overnight.

118. **drop off:** fall asleep

He dropped off and missed the beginning of the play.

wipe out: completely destroy

At least two villages were wiped out by the invading army.

shut down: (of a business, factory or machine) stop working (for a long time or permanently)

The restaurant had to shut down following complaints of poor hygiene.

pass away: die

When her husband passed away, she found it difficult to pick herself up.

119. **pungent:** with a very strong smell or taste

The air inside the Egyptian bazaar was pungent with the smell of spices.

fragrant: with a pleasant smell

In the spring, the garden is full of wonderfully fragrant flowers.

morbid: relating to sad or unpleasant things (especially death)

She has a morbid interest in how the cremation process works.

malodorous: having a bad smell

He eats garlic for breakfast? No wonder he has such malodorous breath!

120. **outstay (or overstay) sb's welcome:** stay as a guest longer than originally decided or wanted

After staying for a week, she felt she had outstayed their welcome.

outlive: live longer than

She outlived her husband by 20 years.

outlast: last longer than

The young couple won first prize by outlasting their opponents in the dancing competition.

outweigh: be greater, more important than

The advantages of the proposal far outweigh the disadvantages.

121. **blunt:** expressing sth openly and directly and upsetting others

To be perfectly blunt, I find your behavior inexcusable.

rough: violent

The prisoners complained of rough handling by the guards.

short: having less than needed

She's a good teacher but a little short on patience occasionally.

sharp: harsh, critical or hurtful

The teacher was very sharp with the late student.

122. **compound:** worsen sth bad

He compounded his mistake by refusing to apologize.

impound: confiscate sth (because sb has broken the law)

He had parked illegally and his car was impounded.

resound: (of a sound, voice) to fill a place

The auditorium resounded with the students' applaud and cheers.

found: establish

The college was founded in 1947.

123. **premium:** very high or higher than usual

All hotels on the island charge premium rates during the tourist season.

exemplary: admirable, good enough to be used as an example

Everybody in the office congratulated him on his exemplary report.

leading: foremost, most important

The leading cause of infant mortality in the country is HIV/AIDS.

dominant: more important or powerful than others

Tourism plays a dominant role in the local economy.

124. **guarantee:** make certain

We can't guarantee the politician's safety.

enforce: (of a law, rule, regulation) make effective

Unless the vote is unanimous, the new measures cannot be enforced.

- estimate:** provide a general idea about the cost, age, value or size of sth
It is estimated that no less than 2,000 people died in the earthquake.
- retrieve:** get and bring sth back from a place, recover
The goalkeeper tried to retrieve the ball quickly and return it to the midfielder.
125. **backhanded:** not direct or sincere
In a backhanded compliment, he said I looked quite young for my age.
- reverse:** opposite to what has been stated
Can you spell 'backhanded' in reverse order?
- dubious:** (used ironically of an honor, a distinction, a benefit, an advantage, value) uncertain, probably not good
I had the dubious distinction of being the first student to fail such an easy test.
- mistaken:** wrong
If you think I'm going to forget what you said, you are mistaken.
126. **flourish:** be very successful, thrive
Few businesses are flourishing in the financial crisis.
- abound:** exist in large numbers
Stories abound of the generosity of donors following Hurricane Katrina.
- gather:** bring together, collect
Gather your belongings and follow me.
- muster:** (of courage, support) summon
He mustered whatever dignity he had left, excused himself and left the room.
127. **incessantly:** non-stop
It's been raining incessantly for two hours now.
- invariably:** always, without fail
No matter how often you request his help, he's invariably helpful.
- inconsolably:** too sadly to be comforted
The boy was weeping inconsolably when he lost his ball.
- incompetently:** without ability or skills
The search was carried out incompetently.
128. **scramble:** try hard, compete with others to get sth
During the sales, shoppers were scrambling to get the best bargains.
- scurry:** move with quick, short steps
Mom opened the door, welcomed the guests and scurried back to the kitchen.
- scrap:** get rid of sth old, damaged, useless
He scrapped his motorcycle after the accident.
- creep:** move slowly and quietly to avoid being heard or seen
I crept downstairs, careful not to make any noise, and left the house.
129. **beginning:** start
He has been working in this position since the beginning of the year.
- origin:** point or place that sb/sth comes from
The story had its origin in the myth of Hercules.
- outset:** beginning
The new teacher made it clear at the outset that he is not going to tolerate disobedience.
- onset:** (usually of sth unpleasant) beginning
I need reading glasses. Is it the onset of old age?
130. **convoluted:** complex and difficult to understand
Although quite reasonable, the argument was so convoluted that it was hard for us to grasp.
- prolonged:** lasting longer than expected or usual
Elderly people should avoid prolonged exposure to the sun.
- extended:** unusually long
Her extended hospitalization must have cost a fortune.
- distended:** made larger or swollen because of pressure from inside
The sight of starving children with distended bellies breaks my heart.
131. **through thick and thin:** through good and bad times
We've been through thick and thin, and would never think of deserting one another.
- high and dry:** helpless, abandoned
Sam's failure to support me in the confrontation with my boss left me high and dry.
- tried and tested:** proved reliable and effective as a result of trial
Thorough revision for exams is a tried and tested method for success.
- hot and bothered:** upset
It's a great horror movie; don't miss it unless you're the kind of person that gets all hot and bothered at the sight of blood.
132. **purposes:** what is necessary in a particular situation

For the purposes of the experiment, the subjects are split in two groups.

reason: cause

The reason for his resignation is not yet known.

necessity: sth necessary

If you spend time in the sun, wearing sunblock is a necessity.

intention: aim, purpose

I have no intention of interrupting, but your sister just called and says it's urgent.

133. **crank out:** produce sth quickly or carelessly
The factory cranks out hundreds of cookers every day.

lay out: explain the details of sth

The details of the contract are laid out in the email I sent you.

ease off: become less serious or strong

You'd better wait till the rain eases off.

come round: occur in the usual way as time passes

I always feel a little sad when the end of vacation time comes round.

134. **gently:** in a kind and mild way
Apply the lotion and massage gently.
strictly: carefully obeying the rules
Smoking is strictly forbidden.

steeply: sharply

Since the price of the tickets was increased admissions dropped steeply.

harshly: cruelly and severely

Treating your students harshly will not make you popular.

135. **chop:** hitting sth with the sharp edge of a knife or ax

He cut the log in two with a single chop.

snatch: small part of a conversation or a piece of music

I was in a distance and only caught snatches of the conversation.

shift: a change in the way sth is done

The new measures represent a radical shift in the company's policy.

switch: sudden and complete change from one thing to another

My switch from part-time to full-time work really did wonders for the family budget.

136. **stationary:** not moving
The car crashed into a stationary bus.
immobile: unable to move

The injury in his back left him totally immobile.

immovable: firmly fixed somewhere, not able to be moved

Something immovable, like a railing, would be an ideal place to lock your bike.

sedentary: (of life, job, lifestyle) involving very little physical activity and a lot of sitting
Many health problems can be attributed to a sedentary lifestyle.

137. **blanket:** cover
The field blanketed with flowers was a beautiful sight.

flank: be located on both sides of sb/sth

The gangster left the courtroom flanked by bodyguards.

smother: cover sth to stop it from growing or spreading

She smothered the fire with a wet dish towel.

engulf: flow over and cover

The city was engulfed in a thick fog.

138. **coherent:** (of ideas, arguments, thoughts) logical and well organized
He was so furious he was incapable of coherent thought.

continual: repeated many times in a way that is annoying

I'm sick and tired of your continual nagging!

successive: consecutive

This was the team's fifth successive win.

succinct: concise, expressed in a few words

He provided a succinct outline of the building project.

139. **enforce:** (of a law, rule, regulation) make effective

Unless the vote is unanimous, the new measures cannot be enforced.

strengthen: make or become stronger

These exercises are specially designed to strengthen your back muscles.

burden: give sb a responsibility or duty that creates worries or problems

I hate to burden you with my problems.

back up: support

Unless you back up your arguments with written evidence, they're not going to accept them.

140. **window:** time (usually short) during which something can happen

The final window for submission of applications is between May 4 and 15.

door: (usually with **open** or **unlock**) opportunity

The experimental medicine may open new doors to a cure for the disease.

opening: opportunity to do or say sth
The reality show was the opening he needed for his singing career.

entrance: right to enter a place
He was denied entrance to the club.

141. **discomfit:** make sb confused, upset or embarrassed

The politician was clearly discomfited by the question.

enamor: make sb loved or admired
His bad temper did not enamor him to his colleagues.

palpitate: (of the heart) beat rapidly and/or irregularly
My heart began to palpitate when the exam results were announced.

puncture: (of arguments, feelings) suddenly weaken, damage, or destroy
Their critical comments punctured his pride.

142. **immaturely:** not showing maturity, intellectual development

You're 21 now; isn't it time you stopped behaving immaturely?

immeasurably: greatly
Since the end of the civil war life in the country has improved immeasurably.

immaterially: irrelevantly
He talked immaterially about the weather.

immaculately: perfectly
Her long hair was immaculately tied up in a tight bun.

143. **gesture:** move your hands, arms to express an idea or feeling

He gestured to his wife that it was time to go.

lobby: try to get sth you want by talking to politicians or the people who make decisions
Women's groups are lobbying to get more public money for single-parent families.

distance: become or show that you are less involved with sb/sth
The politician wanted to distance himself from the scandal.

insure: buy insurance

You'd better insure your car against fire and theft.

144. **vigorous:** energetic

The decision came after vigorous debate.

cogent: convincing
She put forward some cogent arguments for abandoning the project.

intensive: involving a lot of effort, energy or attention

The mountaineers were saved thanks to the rescuers' intensive efforts.

dynamic: having or showing a lot of energy
The award-winning actor gave an exciting and dynamic performance.

145. **confer:** discuss sth and make a decision

I'll confer with my lawyer and let you know as soon as possible.

infer: reach a conclusion based on facts
It is difficult to infer anything from such insubstantial evidence.

defer: put off
We agreed to defer the decision until further data was available.

refer: mention
Although I used no names, everyone knew who I was referring to.

146. **tuck away:** hide sth in a safe place

She kept his love letters tucked away in a drawer.

dig out: find sth hidden or forgotten about
I looked in the attic and dug out my childhood toys.

echo down: be heard, resound
The music echoed down the church aisle.

worm into: gradually get oneself into a position or situation cleverly or dishonestly
I did my apprenticeship there and I wormed my way into a job with the firm.

147. **dispatch:** send sb/sth to a destination (for a particular purpose)

Rescue teams were dispatched to the area only hours after the attack.

displace: remove sb from a job or position
Closing down the factory has resulted in many workers being displaced.

deport: (of sb who is not a citizen of a country) force to leave a country
The illegal immigrants were deported instantly.

detach: separate oneself from sb/sth

Being a war correspondent, it's difficult to detach oneself from the harsh reality of life.

148. **advent:** arrival of sth important

The advent of the printing press revolutionized the publishing process.

dawn: the very beginning of sth

People have been interested in art since the dawn of time.

imprint: mark made by pressing sth against a surface

The paleontologists discovered a fossil imprint of a mammoth's foot.

influx: (of people, money) arrival in large numbers or amounts

In August the town experiences a massive influx of tourists.

149. **essentially:** basically, fundamentally

The birth rate has remained essentially unchanged within the last decade.

necessarily: unavoidably

Due to limited space, the number of guests is necessarily limited.

appreciably: significantly

Since the facelift, her appearance has changed appreciably.

conventionally: traditionally, in a way that is accepted by everybody

You wouldn't call her conventionally attractive, but she has an interesting appearance.

150. **resources:** supply of sth to be used when needed

Her financial resources are extremely limited since she lost her job.

appetite: desire or liking for sth

Indiana Jones has an unparalleled appetite for adventure.

intention: aim, purpose

I have no intention of interrupting, but your mother just called and says it's important.

initiative: ability to act on your own

I finally summoned the courage and took the initiative of introducing myself to her.

PRACTICE TEST 8

111. **mushroom:** grow and develop extremely quickly

New housing developments have mushroomed on the outskirts of the city.

spiral: (of a debt or prices) increase uncontrollably

The price of gas is spiraling out of control.

tumble: (of prices, figures) suddenly decrease by a large amount

Stock market prices have been tumbling within the past few weeks.

plummet: suddenly go down in amount or value

Property prices have plummeted as a result of the financial crisis.

112. **tangible:** easy to see so that there is no doubt

There is no tangible evidence to link the suspect to the robbery.

tentative: uncertain and temporary

We've made a tentative agreement and we'll fix things later.

tranquil: peaceful and pleasantly calm

I thoroughly enjoyed my holidays at the tranquil village.

turbulent: violent and with sudden changes

The post-war period has been one of the most turbulent ones in contemporary history.

113. **emphatic:** expressed in a strong way

His denial of the accusation was quite emphatic.

vociferous: loudly and strongly expressed

He was a vociferous opponent of the government.

outspoken: expressing opinions honestly

The leader of the opposition has been outspoken about his support for political reform.

outright: direct and clear

He responded with an outright refusal.

114. **perspective:** way of thinking

My recovery gave me a grand new perspective on life.

outlook: general attitude to life

He has a very pessimistic outlook on life in general.

notion: idea

I haven't the faintest notion of his whereabouts.

- stance:** a publicly stated opinion
We need to adopt a tougher stance on terrorism.
115. **immerse:** put sth or sb in a liquid
Immerse your hand in cold water to reduce the swelling.
plunge: suddenly fall forwards or downwards
The mountaineer slipped and plunged to his death.
dip: put sth in a liquid and lift it again
Dip your finger in the bowl and taste the sauce.
inundate: receive too much of sth to be able to handle it
The famous actor was inundated with letters from fans.
116. **adopt:** start to use a particular method or approach
The principal decided to adopt a stricter policy towards bullies.
adjust: gradually get used to a new situation
Adjusting to the tropical heat in the region was an ordeal.
convert: make sb change their opinion
I've converted to non-alcoholic drinks.
embrace: accept and use a new idea, system or change
The new policy has been embraced by all employees.
117. **by virtue of:** as a result of
She became an American citizen by virtue of her marriage.
in view of: taking into consideration
In view of the fact that he's got very limited experience, he's done quite a good job.
with respect to: in relation to
With respect to your proposal, I'll give you my answer next week.
with regard to: concerning
With regard to the question, I can't provide an answer yet.
118. **overvalued:** considered more valuable than it really is
Her contribution in the project has been highly overvalued.
exorbitant: (of prices, demands) higher than reasonable
It's a fine restaurant, but the prices are exorbitant.
exaggerated: described as better or more important than it really is
Such exaggerated claims could never be believed.
- overrated:** overvalued
The critic's review is extremely overrated.
119. **blow up:** exaggerate
The scandal was blown up by the media.
touch off: (of a difficult situation) cause to begin
The government's action touched off a round of violence.
finish off: end an event by doing the final thing
We finished off our meal with the tastiest cake.
wrap up: complete a job, meeting
They wrapped up the meeting by agreeing to disagree.
120. **palatable:** tasting pleasant
I added lots of herbs to make the soup more palatable.
edible: that can be eaten
Those mushrooms are edible, but the other ones are poisonous.
agreeable: pleasant or enjoyable
There's nothing more agreeable than a stroll in the countryside.
pleasing: giving pleasure or enjoyment
His songs are quite pleasing to listen to.
121. **foremost:** most important and respected
The speaker is one of the country's most foremost medical scientists on child obesity.
be in/at the forefront: have a leading position
The institution has been at the forefront of medical research for years.
foresight: the ability to see into the future and take proper action
Luckily I had the foresight not to invest in those shares!
be in the foreground: be regarded as very important
There is another problem that has been in the foreground the last few years.
122. **coincide:** happen at the same time as sth else
The exhibition coincides with the 30th anniversary of the artist's death.
correspond: relate and be connected with sth else
You will be given a number that corresponds to the order you will appear on stage.

- amount:** (of a remark, situation) have the same effect
I suppose your reluctance to answer amounts to a confession.
- approximate:** be similar to sth else
Your account only approximates what really happened.
123. **intrusion:** disturbing sb by entering a private place or conversation
She considered her mother's presence in the kitchen an intrusion.
- burden:** hard or worrying responsibility
Her death was an unbearable burden on her husband.
- imposition:** an unreasonable request
I considered his request for a raise quite an imposition.
- involvement:** taking part in an activity
Her involvement in the crime is questioned.
124. **explicitly:** clearly
Everything is explicitly explained in the manual.
- extensively:** covering a wide range of details or items
The issue has been extensively discussed in his book.
- evidently:** obviously
Evidently, she was delighted with the news and couldn't stop smiling.
- exceptionally:** in a way that shows you have a quality to an unusual degree
She is an exceptionally good tennis player.
125. **perilous:** very dangerous
It's a perilous mountaineering expedition.
- vigorous:** using a lot of energy or strength
You need at least 20 minutes of vigorous exercise daily if you want to stay healthy.
- frivolous:** not serious or sensible
I realized it was a frivolous decision to become an actress.
- meticulous:** very careful and with great attention to detail
His report was prepared with meticulous attention to detail.
126. **hard-and-fast:** (of rules, laws) strict and rigid
It's not a hard-and-fast rule, but you're expected to obey it nonetheless.
- open-and-shut:** simple and straightforward
With a suicide note next to the body, it seemed like an open-and-shut case of suicide.
- tried-and-true:** tested and proven to be correct
I have a tried-and-true remedy for your cold.
- rough-and-ready:** useful for the job without being sophisticated
It was a rough-and-ready raft, but it floated.
127. **profoundly:** with strong feelings
The only time we profoundly disagreed was over the children's education.
- unequivocally:** absolutely clearly
We have not yet unequivocally identified the source of the contamination.
- glaringly:** (of sth bad) extremely noticeably
I thought the judge's ruling was glaringly unfair.
- blatantly:** (of sth bad) clearly
Their claim was blatantly false or, at least, misguided.
128. **friable:** (of rocks or soil) easily broken
The house had a neglected appearance, mainly because of the friable stone of which it was constructed.
- flawed:** with a mistake or weakness
You've made a series of fatally flawed judgments.
- flimsy:** (of an argument, excuse or evidence) not believable
The defendant was acquitted due to the flimsy evidence provided by the prosecution.
- fragile:** easily broken or damaged
The Amazon Rainforest is one of the world's most fragile habitats.
129. **indignant:** angry because you feel you've been unfairly treated
She grows indignant if anyone tries to contradict her choices.
- indefinite:** with no definite or arranged end
He took an indefinite sick leave.
- indefinable:** difficult to describe or explain
He felt an indefinable sadness at the reunion.
- indulgent:** permissive (especially about sth bad)
He's been a caring father, but indulgent as well.
130. **appropriate:** take sth for yourself without the right to do so
The mayor was suspect of appropriating municipal funds.
- snatch:** grab

The robber snatched \$25,000 from a post office.

confiscate: officially take sb's property as punishment

Pete felt devastated when his driving license was confiscated.

impound: take sb's possessions until claimed
The van was impounded as part of the police investigation.

131. **immature:** behaving insensibly or irresponsibly

Marrying at such a young age was an immature decision.

irresponsible: acting carelessly or without thinking

It was highly irresponsible of you to leave the kids alone at home!

impulsive: acting without thinking of the consequences

In a burst of impulsive big-heartedness, I offered to help with the cleaning.

thoughtless: showing disregard for the feelings of others

It was thoughtless of her to remind him of his failure to pass the exam.

132. **asset:** great advantage

The professors are the university's biggest asset.

advantage: sth that helps sb be in a better position

In coastal areas, plastic has obvious advantages over wood as a building material.

value: importance or usefulness

The second half of the show was much better than the first in entertainment value.

resource: money, property or skills available
Every available resource went towards the conservation effort.

133. **brush sb off:** deal with sb in a way that shows you don't care about them

I tried calling their customer helpline about the problem, but they just brushed me off.

rub sb out: kill sb

The gangsters tried to rub out the witness.

take sb apart: beat sb up

Don't you dare talk to me like that, or I'll take you apart.

put sb down: degrade sb

It hurts my feelings when you put me down all the time.

134. **hindrance:** sth that makes success difficult
Higher interest rates will prove a hindrance to economic recovery.

defiance: behavior that shows unwillingness to obey

They organized a protest in defiance of the government ban.

encumbrance: sth that makes movement or progress difficult

We were rushing to the check-in desk and our suitcases were an encumbrance.

hostility: extreme unfriendliness

The proposal was met with hostility and was turned down outright.

135. **get ahold of:** contact sb

I'll try to get ahold of you as soon as I have news.

get ahead of oneself: do or say sth sooner than it should have been done

Stick to your notes or you will get ahead of yourself in your presentation.

in excess of: more than a particular amount

The car can reach speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour.

get wind of sth: get information about sth

I just got wind of your promotion. Congratulations!

136. **go for (sth):** choose sth because you think it's better

Go for the blue dress; you look adorable in it!

take on (sth): accept a responsibility

Don't take on so much extra work; you'll burn yourself out.

break out in: start suddenly

The audience broke out in applause at the end of the performance.

lapse into: go into a state

He crawled into his tent and lapsed into a deep sleep in an instant.

137. **outburst:** sudden expression of a strong feeling

She's a really nice person despite her occasional outbursts of temper.

discharge: sending out a substance

The discharge of toxic waste from the factory heavily contaminated the river.

blowout: sudden bursting of a tire

It was the tire blowout that caused the accident.

- outlay:** money needed to start a new business
The project would require a huge outlay of funds.
138. **lose one's temper:** suddenly become extremely angry
He lost his temper when he realized she'd lied to him.
get cold feet: suddenly not feel brave enough to do sth
You're not getting cold feet about appearing on stage, are you?
shake a leg: urge sb to do sth instantly
Come on, shake a leg; we haven't got all day.
keep one's head: remain calm in a difficult situation
The ability to keep your head in a crisis is essential to a good leader.
139. **bashfully:** shyly
He smiled bashfully and started to open his heart to her.
tactfully: discreetly
She tactfully refrained from referring to their split-up.
gregariously: in a friendly way
"You're more than welcome to join us," she said gregariously.
frantically: in an extremely hurried but not organized way
She sprinted frantically towards the bus.
140. **automatic:** done without thinking
Any misconduct will result in automatic rejection from the team.
uninhibited: expressing one's feeling freely
The many drinks he had had made him feel totally uninhibited.
unfailing: absolutely reliable
I'm extremely grateful to all of you for your unfailing support.
flawless: perfect
The audience marveled at her flawless performance on the piano.
141. **ratification:** official signing of a written agreement
Opinion polls recorded a 70 percent majority in favor of ratification of the treaty.
ramification: consequence
No one had considered the environmental ramifications of the construction of the highway.
complication: problem that makes progress difficult
The presence of the army added a major complication to the already tense situation.
- amplification:** making a sound louder
The speaker's voice required no amplification and was heard across the room.
142. **aggressive:** threatening, ready to attack
The presence of a cat can trigger aggressive behavior in our dog.
discernible: easily noticeable
There are no discernible differences between this model and the previous one.
impertinent: disrespectful
She found the question about her age highly impertinent.
apprehensive: worried
When she lost her job she became deeply apprehensive about her future.
143. **pronounced:** easily noticeable
The accident left him walking with a pronounced limp.
vociferous: expressing opinions strongly and loudly
He was a vociferous opponent of the plan.
blatant: (of sth bad) clear
I was shocked by the blatant sexism of his remarks.
elaborate: complicated, with a lot of small details
To avoid the paparazzi, the actress adopted an elaborate disguise.
144. **coerce:** force sb to do sth by threatening them
The defendant claimed the police had coerced him into pleading guilty.
nag: complain in an annoying way
My wife's been nagging me to fix the TV.
mess with (sb/sth): become involved in
If you mess with illegal activity, you're in for a lot of trouble.
fuss: worry about unimportant things
There's no reason to fuss over dinner; we can always eat out.
145. **rule:** control
The dictator left his son to rule over the country.
prevail: be the most common thing
A relaxed atmosphere prevailed in the restaurant.
dominate: be the most powerful thing
The President's resignation dominated the conversation.

- oppress:** treat unfairly or cruelly
Aboriginal populations had been oppressed by the Europeans for years.
146. **evade:** avoid
The burglar remained still to evade detection.
- sweep:** spread
The flu epidemic quickly swept across the country.
- sidestep:** (of a difficult problem, question, responsibility) avoid
Don't try to sidestep the issue; I need to know the truth!
- shun:** avoid
The actress tried to shun publicity.
147. **generate:** produce
The government is trying to find ways to generate revenue.
- fabricate:** invent in order to deceive
He claimed that the charges against him were fabricated.
- invent:** (of a story or excuse) think of and try to make believable
I was standing in the doorway, trying to invent an excuse for my delay.
- formulate:** (of a plan or proposal) invent and think of the details
His proposal was very carefully formulated.
148. **tinker with (sth):** make small changes in order to improve
You'll find him in the garage, tinkering with Dad's old car.
- bear with (sb):** be patient
If you bear with me for a second, I'll be right with you.
- toy with (sth):** think about sth, but not seriously
I've been toying with the idea of emigrating to Canada for a while.
- fiddle with (sth):** move part of a machine to make it work
He tried fiddling with the knobs, but nothing seemed to happen.
149. **reimburse:** compensate
The company will reimburse you for any expenses.
- relapse:** become ill again after recovery
The sudden death of her father made her relapse into depression.
- retreat:** move back

The nun welcomed the strangers and retreated to her cell.

- revert:** go back to a former condition
He came back from his vacation relaxed and smiling but soon reverted to his bad manners.
150. **offhand:** not giving much time or attention
He gave an offhand answer.
- offside:** in a position where you're not allowed to play ball
The player was ruled offside by the referee.
- offline:** (of a computer) not connected to the internet
You can't surf the internet if you're offline.
- offbeat:** different from normal
He has quite an offbeat imagination.

PRACTICE TEST 9

111. **lash:** blow with a whip
In Iran, alcohol consumption is punished by 80 lashes.
- whip:** long, thin piece of rope or leather, attached to a handle, used for making animals move or hitting people
The jockey cracked his whip to make the horse move faster down the track.
- at the crack of dawn:** very early in the morning
The best time to go fishing is at the crack of dawn.
- snap:** sudden, sharp sound caused by sth breaking, moving or closing
He removed the handle with a snap.
112. **ingenious:** very clever
She is ingenious at finding ways to skip work.
- ingenuous:** innocent and trusting, naive
It was rather ingenuous of you to ask a complete stranger to look after your kids.
- sonorous:** having a pleasant, loud, deep sound
The baritone has a deep, sonorous voice.
- onerous:** (of a task, responsibility) unpleasant and requiring great effort
The lieutenant general had the onerous task of notifying the families of soldiers killed in action.
113. **break-out:** marked by sudden and great success

The actor's break-out role came only a few years before retirement.

stuck-up: conceited, snobbish

Since they won the lottery, they've simply become stuck-up people with too much money.

runaway: happening in a fast, dangerous and uncontrollable way

The runaway success of her first film made her a Hollywood star overnight.

letdown: disappointment

The way the plot developed, the end of the movie was a bit of a letdown.

114. **outlook:** future, prospect

The outlook for the country's economy is still quite bleak.

outline: description of only the most important points of a plan or project

He presented a broad outline of the building plans to the committee.

output: the amount of sth produced by a person or factory

The daily output of each worker has noticeably increased since the pay raise.

outlet: way to express feelings

She used art as an outlet for her sadness after the divorce.

115. **enclose:** surround

The garden is enclosed by high walls.

ensure: make certain

The safety of the students must be ensured at all costs.

enact: pass a law

Congress will enact legislation to ban smoking in public places.

encase: cover completely

The body was found in a barrel and was encased in concrete.

116. **desired:** wanted

To get the desired color, mix green, blue and violet.

necessary: absolutely needed

Is it really necessary to wear a tie?

entrancing: making sb feel delight and wonder, enthralling

Before I met my wife, I had never seen a more entrancing woman.

wishful: expressing a desire for sth to happen
I hope my intuition that I'm going to get a promotion is not just wishful thinking.

117. **impel:** force, cause a strong desire for sth
I feel impelled to point out that you have to reconsider your decision.

excel: do better than everybody else

She has always excelled in English; she'll definitely pass her exam.

propel: push forward

The ship is entirely sail-propelled.

dispel: (of a feeling, idea, rumor, belief, doubts) make go away

The politician made an official statement to dispel any rumors of an affair.

118. **awry:** wrong

All my plans for the surprise party went awry when he found the cake.

forceful: strong and confident, assertive

Kyle has a very forceful personality.

awkward: clumsy

He was embarrassed, and that made his reactions rather awkward.

inconvenient: causing trouble

The meeting was arranged for a very inconvenient time for me.

119. **attendance:** being present at a place

Attendance at classes is compulsory.

prominence: being important or noticeable

The artist came to national prominence following his exhibition in the Tate Gallery.

prescience: foresight

I predicted her reaction with extraordinary prescience.

presence: being present

I felt a stranger's presence and turned around.

120. **impinge (on/upon):** have an effect on, encroach

He never allowed his private life to impinge on his work.

coincide: happen at the same time as sth else

The professor's resignation coincided with the end of the semester.

concur: agree with sb or sth

We strongly concur with the proposals made by the committee.

synchronize: arrange that two things happen at the same time

Let's synchronize our watches so that we arrive at the same time.

121. **abundance:** large quantity of sth

Olive trees grow in abundance on the island.

- bounty:** sth good or valuable provided in large quantities
Nature's bounty never ceases to amaze me.
- affluence:** quality of being wealthy
He makes a display of affluence by buying expensive clothes and jewelry.
- prosperity:** being successful and making a lot of money
The 1970s was a time of economic prosperity long gone.
122. **domesticated:** (of animals) tamed to work for people or be their pets
Humans domesticated cattle thousands of years ago.
- tame:** not wild
The bird became so tame that it would eat out of my hand.
- housebroken:** trained to urinate or defecate outside the home
Your pup should have been housebroken ages ago.
- agricultural:** relating to agriculture or farming
Conversion of natural habitats into agricultural land is extremely harmful for the environment.
123. **plain:** large area of flat land
"The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain" is the key lyric in a song from the musical "My Fair Lady".
- region:** large area of land in a country
The town is situated in an extremely mountainous region of the country.
- district:** area in a town or the countryside (usually with particular features)
They have a house in a beautiful suburban district.
- field:** particular area of work or study
I hope to find work in the computing field.
124. **insecure:** not confident
She was deeply insecure about her looks and resorted to plastic surgery.
- infinite:** with no limits, endless
He's a man of infinite patience and absolutely cut out to be a teacher.
- inseparable:** not able to be separated
The twin brothers are almost inseparable.
- insoluble:** (of a problem, mystery) not able to be explained or solved
Her disappearance is an insoluble mystery.
125. **enviously:** desiring what sb else has
He looked enviously at my new car.
- jealously:** trying to protect sth that makes you feel proud
She jealously guarded her mother's recipes.
- pointedly:** noticeably
She pointedly ignored the issue.
- gravely:** seriously
He was gravely ill and had to be hospitalized.
126. **denote:** mean
What does this strange symbol denote?
- demote:** move sb to a lower position or rank
The captain was demoted to sergeant.
- depict:** present an image of sb or sth in a picture
The painting vividly depicts Saint Peter.
- deduce:** infer, use logic to form a conclusion
Using the evidence available it is possible to deduce quite a lot about life in the Middle Ages.
127. **circulation:** (of a magazine, newspaper) average number of copies sold over a period of time
The magazine has the largest circulation in the country.
- transmission:** the process of sending an electronic signal or message through the radio or TV
The Prime Minister's speech will be broadcast on a live transmission from the Parliament.
- compass:** range or extent
That topic falls beyond the compass of this book.
- circumference:** line that goes around a circle
The circumference of the Earth is 24,859.82 miles.
128. **primary:** election in which supporters of a particular party choose a candidate for a future election
The 2016 Presidential primary is currently being contested.
- majority:** biggest part of sth
A large majority of the voters oppose the policy.
- priority:** what is considered much more important than everything else
My children are my first priority.
- plurality:** large number

There was a plurality of opinion at the meeting.

129. **bring sb around to sth**: convince sb to accept sth they opposed

I'm sure I can bring her around to our way of thinking.

roam about: wander

I'm too tired to roam about very much.

grow on: become more attractive to sb as time passes

I didn't like the band's music at first, but it's starting to grow on me.

play along (with sb/sth): pretend to agree with sb/sth to gain an advantage

I was surprised when he introduced me as his fiancée, but I played along with it.

130. **face**: have your face and body turned toward sb/sth

Turn around and face the wall, now!

grace: decorate, beautify

The table was graced with a vase of beautiful red roses.

front: serve as a front or cover

A beautiful garden fronts the main house.

hold: keep in particular position

Please hold the door!

131. **drastic**: dramatic

If you want to resolve the matter quickly, you've got to take drastic measures.

spasmodic: happening suddenly and irregularly

I can't speak French well; I've only made spasmodic attempts to learn it.

frantic: in a hurried and unorganized way

He made frantic attempts to hand in his assignment on time, but in vain.

pragmatic: concerned with practical matters, realistic

You can't really change things in schools unless you have a pragmatic view of public education.

132. **heap**: large amount

There's heaps of time before your bus leaves; let's have a coffee.

pile: very large amount

She's got piles of money under her mattress.

stack: ordered, neat pile

I have arranged all my application letters in stacks.

rack: metal or wooden equipment used for holding things or for hanging things on

Place the cake on the top rack in the oven.

133. **sparsely**: not thickly

Her office was sparsely but elegantly furnished.

tersely: briefly and curtly (in a way that can seem unfriendly)

"Don't let anybody in!" he tersely ordered the doorkeeper.

rarely: not at all often

Rarely does it rain in this part of the country.

hardly: barely, scarcely

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw them walking arm in arm!

134. **point**: lead to, indicate

None of the evidence seems to point in that direction.

lead: result in

Eating fatty foods can lead to high cholesterol levels.

engage: become involved in sth

I tried to engage them in conversation, but they remained silent.

aim: have a specific purpose or goal

Aiming high is the key to success.

135. **idle**: not working or being active

The land has been left idle for years.

slack: not busy

The increase in VAT has brought about a slack season for local hotels so far.

easy: not difficult

Quitting was not an easy decision to make.

disused: no longer used

I have always had a fascination with disused railway lines and stations.

136. **provenance**: origin

All my furniture is of Swedish provenance.

providence: fate, force believed to control our lives

I trust in divine providence that things will work out in the best possible way.

prosecution: the process of taking sb to court

The patient threatened to bring a prosecution against the doctor who performed the surgery.

persecution: treating sb unfairly and cruelly because of their origin or beliefs

A large proportion of settlers in America were the victims of religious persecution.

137. **fight**: struggle to achieve a goal
The workers are determined to put up a fight to defend their rights.
job: task
You've done a great job with the Christmas decorations.
task: job, piece of work, esp. sth difficult
I had the enviable task of announcing the winners.
no mean feat: impressive achievement
Getting the report finished on time was no mean feat, I can tell you!
138. **fundamental**: basic
There are fundamental differences between the two car models.
consequential: consequent, happening as a result
The disease often involves grave consequential damage to the respiratory system.
detrimental: harmful, damaging
The detrimental effects of exposure to the sun have long been known.
instrumental: important in making sth happen
My sister was highly instrumental in my reconciliation with my wife.
139. **altogether**: totally
The government does not wish to abolish the tax altogether.
whatsoever: not at all
There's no reason whatsoever to come earlier than usual.
nevertheless: however, nonetheless
You're right; nevertheless, very few people will agree with you.
beyond: to the further side of sth
Beyond the river lay a thick jungle.
140. **descend**: move from a higher to a lower position or level
I could hear the children descending the stairs.
decline: become less in amount
Profits have declined by 10% in the last two months.
decrease: become smaller in size or number
The price of gas has decreased by 20%.
reduce: make less, smaller
We've got to reduce our spending.
141. **unfold**: happen, take place
We sat in horror watching the dramatic events following the dictator's assassination unfold before our eyes.
unearth: discover sth buried in the earth
Excavations at the site have unearthed an Ice Age settlement.
unload: remove cargo
The workers took two hours to unload the truck.
unwind: undo sth wrapped around sth else
She took off her coat and started to unwind her scarf.
142. **nutritious**: (of food) containing substances that promote health and growth
You've got to change your eating habits and adopt a more nutritious eating regime.
nutritional: related to food substances that keep you healthy
Fast food is undoubtedly of very low nutritional value.
digestive: related to the digestion of food
It's a disease of the digestive system that won't allow him eat any vegetables.
culinary: related to cooking
I have no culinary skills whatsoever, so I only eat takeout.
143. **discontentedly**: unhappily, not being satisfied
"I'm deeply disappointed in you," she said discontentedly.
unbearably: intolerably
It was unbearably hot in the room and there was no air-conditioning.
misguidedly: resulting from wrong judgment or values
He misguidedly thought that the literary world would open its doors to him when he wrote his first novel.
irresistibly: in a way that is impossible to resist
Although married, she is irresistibly attracted to her colleague.
144. **immortal**: living forever
Ancient Greeks believed that the soul is immortal.
territorial: related to land or sea belonging to a particular country
The neighboring countries have been involved in a territorial dispute for decades now.

residual: remaining after the completion of a process

Weakness or paralysis may be the residual physical effects of a stroke.

residential: (of an area) suitable for living, used mainly for housing

I'm looking for a house in a quiet, residential district.

145. **object:** aim, purpose

The object of the activity is to sensitize learners to environmental problems.

subject: thing or person discussed or dealt with
If Cybil approaches, we'd better stay off the subject of marriage.

focus: central point of attention

This incident has brought the problem of workplace bullying into focus.

spirit: typical or most important quality of sth
With summer approaching, we've all got into the vacation spirit.

146. **preserve:** keep in good condition

The city's historical buildings must be preserved at all costs.

reserve: keep sth for special use in the future or for special people

These seats are reserved for our guest speaker and his wife.

conserve: keep sth safe from damage or destruction so that it lasts longer

The need to conserve the rural landscape is absolutely pressing.

deserve: be worthy of getting sth

After such behavior, I don't think she deserves another chance.

147. **basic:** most important or simplest

The hotel provided only basic facilities.

low: less than usual

Only take a low dose of the medicine.

bare: including only what is absolutely necessary

Spare me the details; I only want to know the bare facts about what happened.

spare: extra, that can be used if necessary

I always keep a spare key in the top drawer in my desk.

148. **sprinkle:** small amount

Add a sprinkle of icing sugar on top.

splatter: mark or spot made by a large drop of liquid

There were splatters of blood all over the floor.

spray: liquid forced out of a container in very small drops

I found this amazing hair styling spray in a small shop downtown.

spatter: very small amount

There was only a spatter of laughter when the clown finished his act.

149. **stroke:** move your hand gently over sth (a pet, a child)

She stroked the cat's fur and it purred contentedly.

tickle sb's fancy: want to have or to try doing sth

When you go shopping, it's best not to buy everything that tickles your fancy.

fidget: keep your hands or feet moving out of nervousness, excitement

Waiting outside the interview room, he was fidgeting nervously with his keys.

finger: touch with your fingers

He sat there fingering his jaw in complete silence.

150. **glimmer:** faint idea or small sign

I caught a glimmer of a smile in his eyes when he heard the board's decision.

ardor: passion, strong enthusiasm

His ardor for his studies impressed his professors.

frenzy: extremely excited, uncontrolled or even violent activity

The footballer's game-winning goal sent the crowd into a frenzy.

zeal: strong eagerness and enthusiasm to do sth

It was your zeal for studying that earned you an 'A' in your term report!

PRACTICE TEST 10

111. **despicable:** extremely bad or immoral

Stealing the elderly lady's purse was an absolutely despicable thing to do.

dependable: reliable

I find him a very dependable employee.

dispensable: unnecessary

My parents looked on guitar lessons as dispensable.

destitute: without even the bare essentials
When my father died, we were left completely destitute.

112. **insidious:** spreading fast and causing great harm
No one could imagine the insidious effects of the vicious rumor.

innocuous: harmless
His comment was perfectly innocuous.

injudicious: unwise
I need you to apologize for your injudicious remarks to your mother.

inimical: unfriendly or limiting
Rather than support, his proposal received an inimical response.

113. **perennial:** continuing for a very long time
She was faced with the perennial dilemma of pursuing university studies or getting a job.

pertinent: relevant
All questions addressed to the film star must be pertinent to the topic of the film.

permissive: allowing great freedom of behavior
My parents were really permissive, allowing us to stay out late at night.

pernicious: harmful
The pernicious effect of reality shows on children is often disregarded.

114. **on the loose:** free, at large
The escaped convicts are still on the loose.
on the move: moving
The firm is on the move to cheaper offices.
on a dare: perform the action in a challenge
On a dare, she walked barefoot on nails.
on a whim: acting on a sudden wish
She married him on a whim.

115. **lose count of (sth):** forget the total of sth before finishing the count
I've lost count of the number of times I've told you to clean up your room.

lose sight of (sb/sth): no longer be able to see sb/sth
They stayed on the ship deck until they lost sight of land.

lose sleep over (sth): worry
Don't lose any sleep over such a silly mistake!

lose face: look stupid because of sth you have done

The government will lose face if they do not go ahead with implementing the law.

116. **tenacity:** perseverance, determination
Christians cling to their religious traditions with tenacity.

atrocious: extremely violent and cruel action
There have been reports of atrocities by guerrilla forces.

audacity: nerve, shocking behavior
The sheer audacity of his request took my breath away.

ferocity: violence
Lions attack their prey with great ferocity.

117. **exemplary:** providing a good example to be copied
The factory has an exemplary record on waste disposal.

exhaustive: thorough and complete
I've made exhaustive enquiries, but to no avail.

exceptional: extremely good, special
Your performance in the exam was exceptional.

excessive: much more than reasonable
Excessive speeding has cost many lives.

118. **come down on (sb):** criticize or punish sb severely
I failed to hand in the report on time and my manager came down on me.

go off with (sb): leave your partner to live with sb else
Jane went off with a man half her age.

pick up with (sb): start meeting sb again and doing things with them
After the reunion, she picked up with her old friends and they often went out together.

leap out at (sb): suddenly move forward and attack or frighten sb
The mugger leapt out at her and stole her purse.

119. **in the black:** earning more money than you spend
Last year our business was in the black.

have one's head in the clouds: daydream, not be aware of what's going on
She must be in love; she spends all day walking with her head in the clouds.

in the dark (about sb/sth): uninformed
I can't imagine why you're keeping me in the dark. I demand to know!

in the doldrums: inactive

Despite the measures, the construction business remains in the doldrums.

120. **resilience:** toughness
He's a man of great resilience to stress.
resignation: accepting a bad situation
He received the bad news with remarkable resignation.
rejection: refusal to accept
I'll get my novel published no matter how many rejection slips I receive from publishers!
resistance: opposition to an idea
An unhealthy diet lowers the body's resistance to disease.
121. **handy:** useful
Why not buy one? It may come in handy one day.
hapless: unfortunate
The conman defrauded his hapless victim of thousands of bucks.
hardy: strong and able to survive hardships and bad weather
For my garden, I want to buy a hardy plant that's also easy to grow.
hefty: with a lot of force
Suzanne gave Mark a hefty shove and he fell over.
122. **complacently:** in a way that shows you're satisfied and have stopped trying to improve things
The teachers at the school are viewing this problem far too complacently.
swiftly: moving very fast
The river flows quite swiftly in this part of the state.
thoroughly: completely
Read the instructions thoroughly before preparing the lotion.
immaculately: perfectly
He was wearing an immaculately pressed suit.
123. **dismiss:** refuse to consider
He dismissed her worries as irrational.
deplete: greatly reduce sth
I'm afraid we have depleted our resources to make the purchase.
disperse: go away in different directions
The police were ordered to disperse the crowd.
divert: change the direction of sth
The flight was diverted to JFK because of the fog.

124. **outreach:** activity that provides help, advice, services or information to people who need them

There are a number of NGOs involved in outreach to refugees.

output: amount produced

Since the introduction of new technology the factory's output has increased by 9%.

upkeep: maintenance

The local council is responsible for the upkeep of the city's parks.

upgrade: making machinery or a computer more efficient

Existing facilities are in urgent need of an upgrade.

125. **intimidation:** making sb do sth through fear
The workers decided to go on strike despite intimidation by their employers.

speculation: guessing

There has been a lot of speculation surrounding his role in the scandal.

estimation: a judgment or opinion about the value of sb/sth

In my estimation, he's the best candidate.

approximation: an estimation that is not exact

This is the nearest approximation of cost that we can give you.

126. **viable:** feasible
None of the propositions seemed financially viable.

vulnerable: weak and easily harmed

The infection left him weak, with his body vulnerable to further illnesses.

verifiable: whose accuracy can be checked

The inquiry found no verifiable evidence of his involvement in the crime.

venerable: respected as a result of age, wisdom or experience

Harvard University is one of the world's most venerable institutions.

127. **accelerate:** go or happen faster than expected
The spread of the epidemic is accelerating dramatically.

brake: go slower

She had to brake hard to avoid running into the pedestrian crossing the street.

reverse: go backward

Watch out! That bus is reversing!

- steer:** control the direction in which a vehicle moves
The wind made it difficult to steer the boat into port.
128. **accommodate:** provide enough space for sb/sth
The new car park will accommodate at least 400 cars.
- accumulate:** build up, increase over time
She hadn't cleaned for weeks and dust had accumulated everywhere.
- infiltrate:** secretly join an organization to get information that can be used against it
Government agents have managed to infiltrate rebel groups.
- incorporate:** include sth so that it becomes part of sth else
The latest design incorporates some original, state-of-the-art features.
129. **persuasive:** able to persuade
The evidence was not sufficiently persuasive.
- obsessive:** thinking too much about sb/sth, in a way that is not normal
The actress got a court order to protect herself from an obsessive fan.
- wary:** cautious
When visiting a foreign country, be wary of muggers.
- opposed:** strongly disagreeing with sth
The right wing party was opposed to the Education Reform Bill.
130. **complement:** work well with or enhance sth
The flavors in the dish complement each other perfectly.
- outshine:** be more impressive than
The sprinter easily outshone his rivals in the 100-meter hurdles race.
- contradict:** say that the opposite is true
His account of the accident flatly contradicts his wife's account.
- outperform:** achieve much better results than sb else
Being an experienced employee, it's a wonder how he was outperformed by a novice.
131. **trail:** a series of marks left by sb/sth
The hurricane left a trail of destruction behind it.
- tint:** shade, hue
The fabrics were mainly in vibrant summer tints, yellows and blues.
- trace:** a mark or a sign showing that sb/sth was present
The rescue team found no trace of the missing skiers.
- trial:** test of the ability or quality of sb/sth
I installed this antivirus software on a twenty-day free trial.
132. **indelible:** permanent
The whole experience left an indelible imprint on my memory.
- incongruous:** inappropriate
I found his behavior rather incongruous.
- infallible:** never making a mistake
You can't fool him; his memory's infallible!
- ineffectual:** not having the ability to achieve much
This last diet turned out to be one more ineffectual plan to lose weight.
133. **verify:** check that sth is accurate or true
Further research will be carried out to verify his findings.
- label:** fix a label on sth
Some of the books in the library were wrongly labeled.
- labor:** work hard to do sth difficult
I have been laboring for weeks to convince them to accept my proposal.
- illustrate:** use examples, pictures to make the meaning of sth easier to understand
Below you can see a flow diagram illustrating the stages in the process.
134. **outpace:** go faster than
This model can comfortably outpace models with the same horsepower.
- outnumber:** be greater in number than
Our army was hopelessly outnumbered on the battlefield.
- outstrip:** become larger or more important than
Prices are soaring because demand far outstrips supply.
- outwit:** outsmart
I just love the tale of the tortoise outwitting the hare!
135. **expose:** reveal sth hidden
My job as a journalist is to expose the government's shortcomings.
- manipulate:** control or influence sb, especially by deceiving them

Believing that voters can be easily manipulated is a fallacy.

shield: protect from danger, harm

I'm grateful to my parents because they never tried to shield me from the realities of the world.

exploit: take advantage of

He exploited his mother's fame to get himself a job in the film industry.

136. **delegate:** give sb in a lower position part of your work or power

Try to delegate to your assistant whenever you feel too pressed.

allocate: officially give sth to be used for a particular purpose

More money should be allocated for charity.

advocate: support publicly

The opposition advocated the nonpayment of taxes.

alleviate: ease, make less severe

These tablets should alleviate symptoms for a couple of hours.

137. **rain or shine:** no matter what the weather is like, whatever happens

I'll definitely come to your engagement party, rain or shine.

give or take: more or less

It should take about two weeks to finish the paint job, give or take a day or so.

free and clear: with no debts

When I pay off my home loan, I will own this beautiful house free and clear.

by and large: generally

By and large, he's had a successful career.

138. **delude:** deceive

Don't be deluded into thinking that we're done with the project.

misconceive: misunderstand

The article completely misconceives the issue.

forge: make an illegal copy of sth in order to deceive

This is some kind of scam; my signature is forged.

mislead: deceive

Most of the time, TV commercials are misleading.

139. **instill:** gradually make sb behave in a particular way or adopt certain ideas

Her mother had instilled in her a fear of men.

instigate: cause sth bad to happen

Those held responsible for instigating the riot will be punished.

initiate: start, set in motion

Talks have been initiated between the union and the management.

motivate: provide incentive for sb to do sth

To motivate staff, the management is considering giving everybody a raise.

140. **unfamiliar:** not known to sb

Street beggars are an unfamiliar sight in this part of the city.

ignorant: unaware of

He stood there, totally ignorant of the danger.

disinterested: objective, unbiased

Your advice is more than welcome, as long as it's disinterested.

unaware: with no knowledge of

I was completely unaware of what had happened between them in the past.

141. **jumble:** mix things in a confused way

Can you figure out the word? The letters have been jumbled up.

mumble: mutter

What are you mumbling about? I can't understand a thing!

fumble: move your hands in an awkward way

(as if you're trying to find sth in the dark)
She was standing on the doorstep fumbling in her purse for the keys.

stumble: hit your foot against sth and trip

She kept stumbling on the uneven path.

142. **hoarse:** (of a voice) rough and unpleasant sounding

It was hilarious! We were hoarse from laughing.

callous: insensitive, unfeeling

His cruel and callous comments brought tears to her eyes.

coarse: (of a surface) rough, not soft

He was wearing a jacket made from coarse blue cloth.

passive: accepting what happens without reacting

I could do nothing but be a passive observer of events.

143. **emanate:** issue from, be produced

A delicious smell of freshly baked cookies emanated from the kitchen.

beam: smile with a broad, happy smile

When he saw the results slip, he beamed broadly, clearly pleased with himself.

originate: come from

He says that all animal species originated from fish.

secrete: produce a liquid substance

The giant leaf frog secretes a mild poison from its glands.

144. **at the latest:** the latest possible

Make sure you submit your application by Monday 23rd at the latest.

by and by: soon

I'm sure he'll understand, by and by.

every now and then: occasionally

Every now and again I'd get up to check on the baby.

of late: recently

I haven't seen my cousin of late.

145. **gaze:** stare (at sb/sth without realizing what you're doing)

Everyone gazed at the bride in amazement.

glimpse: see sb/sth for a moment, but not very clearly

I only glimpsed the figure of a man coming out of the room.

glare: look angrily at sb

He glared at me, his eyes filled with rage.

glance: look quickly at sb/sth

She glanced at her watch and dashed to the bus stop.

146. **deficient:** lacking in

If you eat no meat, your diet may be deficient in iron.

insufficient: not enough

Our funds are insufficient for such a major project.

insubstantial: not large, strong or important

There's insubstantial evidence to convict him.

devoid: completely lacking in sth

His welcome was devoid of warmth and hospitality.

147. **legendary:** admired and famous

Marco Polo's skills as an explorer remain legendary.

legitimate: legal

His business dealings are often not exactly legitimate.

legible: (usually of handwriting, a signature) clear enough to read

Surely you can't expect to pass the writing part of the exam if your handwriting is not legible!

legislative: related to making laws

Legislative power in the USA is in the hands of Congress.

148. **outdo:** beat, do better than

He always tries to outdo his classmates.

undermine: gradually weaken or destroy the strength or effectiveness of sb/sth

How dare you accuse me of trying to undermine the integrity of the company?

overdraw: take more money out of a bank account than it contains

I overdrew my account by \$80.

withdraw: stop taking part in an activity

He injured his leg and withdrew from the race.

149. **deadbeat:** lazy person

She was accused of being a deadbeat.

deadbolt: a type of lock that opens or closes only with a key

How can I fix this stuck deadbolt?

deadlock: complete failure to reach an agreement

The talks between the two countries have reached a deadlock.

deadpan: pretending to be serious when you are joking by showing no emotion

He told us the joke in such a deadpan voice that no one laughed at the beginning.

150. **empty-handed:** without getting what you wanted

When they heard the police siren, the burglars fled empty-handed.

backhanded: (of a remark, compliment) appearing to express praise, but being in fact insulting

He said I looked great for my age – what a backhanded compliment!

shorthanded: short-staffed

I don't think we can have it ready by the end of the day; we're rather short-handed.

underhanded: secret and deceptive

He's been involved in an underhanded agreement with the company's rivals.

PRACTICE TEST 11

111. **remind**: help sb remember
Can you remind me what time we're supposed to meet?
resemble: look like
You very much resemble an old friend of mine.
memorize: learn by heart
She's a celebrated actress but has trouble memorizing her lines.
recall: remember
If I recall correctly, he comes from Los Angeles.
112. **justification**: acceptable reason
There's no justification for such behavior! You're inexcusable!
expedition: organized journey for a specific reason
British and American mountaineers agreed to a joint expedition to Mount Everest.
installation: process of putting equipment in a place and making it ready for use
Installation of a new heating system will start in a few days.
embarkation: getting on a ship, plane
Embarkation will start at 6:00 p.m.
113. **fall**: drop down
The book fell off the bookcase.
lie: be in a horizontal position
The baby was lying asleep in its crib.
drop: change to a lower amount, level
The temperature dropped by ten degrees in less than a week.
slack: reduce intensity, effort or speed
You won't get the job done unless you stop slacking and get down it.
114. **rigorous**: exhaustive and thorough
The data were subjected to a rigorous analysis.
desperate: difficult to deal with, dangerous
The building is in desperate need of repair.
porous: with small holes that allow air or water to go through
The local porous stone, which is of a warm red brown color, has been used in the construction of the town hall.
feeble: weak
We could hear a feeble cry coming from a short distance.
115. **dual**: with two parts or aspects of use
The room has a dual purpose, that of a bedroom and a study.
twin: one of two similar things that comprise a pair
Motorcycles with twin engines offer higher horsepower and greater fuel efficiency.
double: made of two parts which are the same
Go through the double doors and you'll see the checkout desk on your left.
joint: involving two people
My husband and I have a joint bank account.
116. **twist**: action of turning or bending
It's so easy to open the lid; just give it a twist.
knot: (of a string, rope) part where pieces are tied together
Tie the rope in a tight knot.
block: obstacle, sth that stops progress
Environmentalists put a block on the construction of the mall in the area.
loop: shape like a curve made by a line curving right round and crossing itself
We had to walk all the way to the camp, situated in a loop of the river.
117. **undercharge**: charge less than usual or expected
They raised prices as soon as they realized they'd been undercharging customers.
underdone: not completely cooked
Waiter, this steak is underdone; I asked for a well-done one.
undertake: (of a duty, task) accept responsibility
I undertook to help him learn to drive.
understate: say that sth is less serious or important than it really is
The company spokesman tried to understate the extent of the contamination.
118. **initiate**: start, set in motion
New negotiations were initiated following the unsuccessful previous peace efforts.
divert: make sth change direction
The government is trying to divert attention away from the bribery scandal.
disperse: spread in different directions
The police used tear gas to disperse crowds of protesters.
intrigue: make sb interested and curious

Tell me more! I'm really intrigued by your proposal.

119. **output:** amount produced
Since the introduction of new technology the factory's output has increased by 9%.
turnout: number of people attending an event
The concert attracted a much smaller turnout than expected.
bulk: the largest part of sth
The great bulk of the work was done over the weekend.
yield: total amount of crops produced
Our yield of corn has doubled this year.
120. **first and last:** taking everything together, overall
I am your boss but, first and last, I'm your friend.
first and foremost: primarily, first and most importantly
First and foremost, I think you should apologize.
goal: aim
My immediate goal is to find a position where I can make best use of my skills.
first of all: firstly
First of all, I need you to answer some questions.
121. **neutral:** neither positive nor negative
The newspaper has kept a neutral stance throughout this election.
mediocre: not very good
The renovator did a mediocre job.
usual: commonly encountered or experienced
His usual day starts with a jog.
medium: (of sizes, temperatures, amounts) in the middle
Choose medium to large apples for the pie.
122. **rapidly:** quickly
The time when I must start studying for final exams is rapidly approaching.
broadly: generally
The article is broadly concerned with GM foods
merely: only, simply
What I'm merely saying is that you should study harder, not that you won't pass.
highly: very
It's highly likely that Bob is not coming to the meeting.

123. **oblivion:** obscurity, state of being forgotten
His scientific theories were initially considered groundbreaking, but now they have faded into oblivion.
ancestry: sb's ancestors
She claims to share a common ancestry with the Prime Minister.
maturity: quality of being adult, sensible and responsible
An orphan since she was 8, Ann has developed a maturity way beyond her 15 years.
longevity: long life
My grandpa lived to be 100; actually my ancestors are famous for their longevity.
124. **foundation:** basis, sth that provides support
There is absolutely no foundation to the rumors.
poverty: being poor
There are many retired people who live in absolute poverty.
breadline: extremely low level of income
You don't qualify for welfare unless you live on the breadline.
doorstep: step or steps outside a door
When the alarm sounded, the police were on my doorstep in practically no time.
125. **beat a path to sb's door:** arrive in great numbers
If you play your cards right, the best employers will beat a path to your door.
bear: accept, stand
I couldn't bear the thought of failing my exams.
forge: form, create with great effort
After her retirement, she forged a new career in the film industry.
hike: have a long walk in the countryside, especially for pleasure
We spent the morning hiking around the lake.
126. **chronologically:** arranged in the order things happened
The artist's works are displayed chronologically.
consecutively: in order of one after the other
He served two terms of office consecutively.
serially: arranged in a series
His articles were published serially.
progressively: gradually but steadily
Ben's health issues are becoming progressively more serious.

127. **defensive**: protecting from attack
The victim sustained defensive wounds.
immune system: system in your body that protects you from infection and disease
Eating healthily will help you build a robust immune system.
resistant: resisting, opposing
Elderly people are often resistant to change.
protective: offering protection
Our shop offers best quality protective gear and equipment for football.
128. **sum**: amount of money
They definitely overcharged you! This is an absurdly high sum to pay for a meal!
loan: amount of money borrowed
If you're ever short of cash, you can always ask me for a loan.
check: piece of paper used to make a payment from a bank account
Are you going to pay in cash, by check, or by credit card?
debt: gratitude you owe to sb who has helped you
I owe my teacher a great debt for the excellent advice she gave me.
129. **interruption**: stopping an activity for a short period of time
The concert was resumed after a short interruption because of rain.
disconnection: separating, breaking a connection
Patients suffering from anxiety may experience a disconnection from reality.
inconsistency: (of statements, figures) quality of being contradictory
What I want you to do is spot the inconsistencies between the two reports.
desertion: abandonment
He felt betrayed by his wife's desertion.
130. **handle**: control with your hands
Handle the Christmas decorations with extreme care; they've quite fragile.
manipulate: control with your hands or a machine
Manipulating the computer mouse seemed very difficult at first.
maneuver: move carefully and skillfully
Maneuvering an SUV in this tiny garage is a real challenge!
accelerate: move faster
- The rider opened up the throttle and the motorcycle accelerated to pass a car.*
131. **integrated**: with parts that work closely together
The immigrants soon became fully integrated into the local community.
interim: provisional, temporary
The rape victim was awarded an interim compensation of \$30,000.
integral: essential
We've adopted a healthier lifestyle so working out has become an integral part of our lives.
intermediate: located between two, in the middle
Patients at an intermediate stage of Alzheimer's Disease experience inability to think clearly and solve problems.
132. **flexibility**: ability to change and do different things
What I best like about this job is the flexibility in schedule.
tangibility: quality of being easily felt, touched or seen
E-books are great but nothing can match the tangibility of a real book.
relativity: quality of being relative or compared to sth else
Moral relativity claims there is no such thing as absolute right or wrong.
mobility: ability to move from one situation or position to a better one
A new study into social mobility has revealed that young people are quite likely to slip down the social ladder.
133. **inconceivable**: unthinkable
It's inconceivable that anyone so clever could have acted so foolishly.
implausible: unrealistic, unreasonable
Somebody stole your homework? Your excuse sounds highly implausible!
incomparable: matchless, too good to be compared with anything else
What attracted me to the city is its incomparable beauty.
unforeseeable: impossible to predict
When traveling abroad, prepare well for unforeseeable expenses.
134. **off-putting**: not pleasing or likeable
I find it extremely off-putting when I'm con-

stantly interrupted when speaking.

outstanding: excellent, special

Your work has been of outstanding quality.

incoming: arriving somewhere

I want you to hold all incoming calls for the next half hour. I'll be very busy.

overriding: more important than anything else

Time is the overriding factor in deciding whether to accept their invitation.

135. **arise:** begin to exist

Should the need arise, I'd be more than willing to help with the preparations.

rise: move upward

Smoke rose from the factory chimney.

raise: increase in level or intensity

The campaign aims at raising awareness of mental illness.

rise up: (of a feeling or thought) begin to exist

The more I listened to him, the greater the anger that rose up inside me.

136. **alleged:** said to have happened but not proved

She is facing a 10-year sentence for her alleged involvement in the fraud.

self-styled: using a name, title that you have given yourself arbitrarily

I very much distrust this self-styled expert's opinion.

nominal: existing in name only, but not in reality

She is the nominal secretary but, the thing is, she really runs the place.

so-called: having a name, title which is not believed to be true

The so-called chef couldn't even make an omelet.

137. **huddle:** gather together in a group

It was really cold outside and we all huddled around the fire.

plaster: completely cover a surface

He had plastered his bedroom wall with photos of the supermodel.

wipe: clean by rubbing

Wipe the tears from your eyes and come shopping with me.

stack: arrange in an ordered, neat pile

Wipe the plates with a dishcloth and stack them in the cupboard.

138. **peep:** quick and secret look

The speaker took a little peep at his watch and continued talking.

twinge: sudden, slight pain

I occasionally feel a twinge in my elbow from my tennis injury.

knock: hard rap

There was a loud knock on the door.

poke: quick push with your finger or sth pointed

She gave me a quick poke to warn me that our teacher was looking in my direction.

139. **contemporary:** belonging to recent times, modern

The artist's work is quite contemporary and appeals to young audiences.

tentative: uncertain and temporary

We've made a tentative agreement and we'll fix things later.

sporadic: irregular

Sporadic efforts to lose weight will not help; you need to see a dietician.

subsequent: happening after sth else

Subsequent events proved me right.

140. **tumble:** fall down suddenly in a rolling movement

She tumbled down the stairs and hurt her head.

crumble: fall apart

In the 19th century, the mighty Ottoman empire crumbled.

rumble: produce a series of low, deep sounds

The rain was pelting down and I could hear thunder rumbling in the distance.

fumble: move your hands in an awkward way (as if you're trying to find sth in the dark)

She was standing on the doorstep fumbling in her purse for the keys.

141. **insertion:** the process of putting inside

Treatment will include the insertion of a tube through his larynx.

influx: inward flow of a large amount of money or people

There has been a huge influx of tourists into the city since the Olympic Games.

injection: offer of money to support sth

We desperately need an injection of cash to progress with the project.

implant: fix ideas or beliefs in sb's mind

A deep sense of loyalty has been implanted in him through his education.

142. **stamp out:** stop, destroy, eliminate
The dictator tried to stamp out any hint of protest.
- swallow up:** take over, absorb
The small but successful firm was swallowed up by a multinational company.
- tear down:** pull down, demolish
They had to tear down the old building to make way for a shopping mall.
- break apart:** break up, disassemble
Financial difficulties are often responsible for so many relationships breaking apart.
143. **volume:** quantity, amount
The sheer volume of complaints filed about the product is unbelievable.
- weight:** amount that sb/sth weighs
I'm on a diet and trying to lose some weight.
- size:** how large sb/sth is
Organic products come in all shapes and sizes.
- measure:** amount, quantity or degree of sth
A measure of specialized knowledge is needed for this job.
144. **concluding:** final
At the concluding press conference, both leaders agreed to disagree.
- terminal:** (of an illness) leading to death
Unfortunately my brother was diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- completed:** that has finished
The family moved to their newly completed apartment last week.
- posterior:** located at the back of sth
He was injured on the upper posterior area of the torso, below the shoulder blade.
145. **step:** one of a series of actions done in order to achieve a goal
We'll take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of the disease.
- footstep:** step made while walking
The expedition aims at retracing the famous explorers' footsteps.
- stretch:** (usually long) area of land
I recently spotted a beautiful condo on a huge stretch of beach that's for sale.
- stride:** long step
In one short stride, he reached the door.
146. **asylum:** protection given to a political refugee
The leader of the opposition fled the country, and sought asylum in the USA.
- sanctuary:** protection for people who are being chased
As a result of the civil war, hundreds of refugees sought sanctuary in neighboring countries.
- terrain:** land that has specific natural features
Rugged terrain is ideal for mountain biking.
- dominion:** power to rule
Following the coup, the country was soon under the dictator's dominion.
147. **prudish:** offended, shocked by things that don't often offend or shock others
Feeling more comfortable in a swimsuit rather than a bikini does not make me prudish!
- crude:** simply and roughly made
The mountaineers made a crude shelter to protect themselves from the cold.
- raw:** (of emotions, qualities) powerful and not controlled
He had no connections, just raw talent – yet he instantly became successful.
- bald:** given directly without extra explanations or details
The bald truth is that hair loss is very difficult to cure.
148. **on the edge:** the point when sth bad may happen
Endangered species are on the edge of extinction.
- on the line:** at risk
Now that they've decided to lay off people, my job is on the line.
- in full bloom:** (of trees, flowers, plants) with flowers
The roses in my garden are in full bloom and it's a wonderful sight.
- on the verge:** just about to do sth
Brianna was on the verge of quitting when she got a promotion.
149. **heir:** sb with the legal right to receive sb's else's property or title
The old man never married and has no heir to leave his fortune to.
- will:** legal document stating who will receive sb's property when they die
My father left me nothing in his will.
- oath:** formal promise
The US Oath of Allegiance is an oath that must be taken by all immigrants who wish to

become US citizens.

clause: separate part of a legal document

The contract contains a penalty clause should any of the parties decide to break it.

150. **crumb:** very small piece of food

When the kids left for school, the floor was covered with crumbs.

blot: stain or spot (usually of ink)

The tablecloth was covered in ink blots.

fragment: small piece broken off sth larger

Put your shoes on! There are fragments of broken glass all over the floor!

speck: very small piece

When the cleaning lady left, there was not a speck of dust anywhere.

PRACTICE TEST 12

111. **illuminate:** clarify

The article illuminates the scientist's theory.

mirror: reflect

Does art mirror society or shape it?

portray: describe in a particular way

The defendant tried to portray himself as the victim of a callous society.

approximate: be similar to sth, but not exactly the same

The animal's enclosures have been designed to approximate their habitats.

112. **equivalent:** having the same importance, value or meaning

When he was fired, he received a sum equivalent to six months' salary.

imminent: likely to happen soon

It looked like the imminent disaster could not be prevented.

diffident: shy, lacking confidence

I felt diffident about making the presentation.

ambivalent: having both good and bad feelings about sb/sth

With the wedding date approaching, I feel deeply ambivalent about marrying.

113. **sink or swim:** fail or succeed

When I set up this business, it was sink or swim.

save: rescue

The doctors managed to save the little girl's life in the nick of time.

float: stay on the surface of a liquid and not sink

The small boat floated away down the river.

dive: jump into deep water with head and arms going in first

She slipped into her bikini and dived into the pool.

114. **overestimated:** considered better, more important than really is

His abilities as a teacher are largely overestimated.

overrated: considered to have a higher value than deserving

For an award-winning movie, it was highly overrated.

obscure: unknown

The reason behind his resignation remains somewhat obscure.

ostensible: appearing true, when it's not

The ostensible reason for their visit was to see us, but the truth is they wanted to learn the latest gossip.

115. **calm down:** stop feeling upset or angry

You can try to calm the baby down by rubbing its belly.

die out: (of an animal or tradition) become extinct

If we continue to destroy their habitats, many endangered animals will die out in the near future.

blow over: (of an argument or unpleasant situation) be forgotten

Let's hope that the crisis will soon blow over.

fade away: (of a sound or feeling) become less strong and disappear

Hopes of an agreement were gradually fading away.

116. **frivolous:** silly and pointless

My sister often spends her salary on frivolous purchases she never uses.

flinty: serious and determined

Mom gave me a flinty stare and demanded to know where I'd been.

frisky: (of a child or animal) playful and lively

I totally enjoy the sight of a frisky kitten lying on its back batting at a ball of yarn.

fretful: restless

My baby tends to get fretful when he's hungry or hasn't had enough sleep.

117. **on a string:** under control
She keeps him on a string, yet he doesn't seem to complain.
- out of the blue:** unexpectedly and without warning
Out of the blue and after years with no word from him, Uncle Harry called and asked to visit.
- out of the woods:** safe and past a critical stage
The patient has to follow this course of treatment until he's out of the woods.
- on the blink:** not operating
We need to get the fridge fixed; it's on the blink.
118. **in a row:** consecutively
She won the race four times in a row.
- in a pinch:** if necessary, in an emergency
In a pinch, you can use honey instead of sugar.
- in a jam:** in a difficult situation
I'm in a real jam. Can you lend me eighty bucks?
- in a daze:** confused, not able to think clearly
The accident left him wandering in a daze.
119. **recruit:** find people to join a company, the army
New teachers will be recruited by the Principal himself.
- prod:** try to make sb do sth (especially if they are unwilling)
I had to prod Hank into taking action.
- gather:** bring things together
I'll get started when I've gathered all the information I need.
- forage:** rummage, search for
She spent almost half an hour foraging for the file in the cabinet.
120. **exceptionally:** extremely
He married into an exceptionally rich family.
- extravagantly:** in a way that involves spending much more money than necessary
Ever since he won the lottery, he's been spending extravagantly.
- excessively:** too much, much more than reasonable
He's been drinking excessively since the divorce.
- exceedingly:** exceptionally
You've done exceedingly well in your test.
121. **defer:** put off
We agreed to defer the decision until further data was available.
- mitigate:** alleviate (the effects of sth bad)
Measures must urgently be taken to mitigate the effects of the oil spill.
- expend:** spend time or energy in doing sth
I don't want to expend any more effort on the project if I get no credit for it.
- schedule:** arrange to do sth
The next elections are scheduled for May.
122. **revert:** go back to a previous situation
Soon after the cleaning lady left, the house reverted to its old state of mess.
- subvert:** undermine (sb's authority)
They conspired to subvert the dictator.
- succumb:** give in
Succumbing to peer pressure, Peter started smoking.
- resort:** recourse, use sth as the final possible solution
The police will not resort to violence unless provoked.
123. **abstain (from):** decide not to have sth you enjoy, because it's bad for you or wrong
I've decided to abstain from a high-sugar diet; it's bad for my acne.
- buffer:** protect
Double-glazing buffers the house against the cold.
- shirk:** avoid doing sth as a result of laziness
I'd be shirking my duty if I didn't go on time.
- bypass:** refuse to obey a rule, a system or sb in authority
They bypassed the estate agent and talked directly to the owners.
124. **soothe:** calm
I took a few deep breaths to soothe my nerves.
- shove:** push sb in a rough way
He shoved his way onto the bus.
- spur:** encourage sb to do sth
Instead of discouraging him, his failure to pass the exam spurred him on to study harder.
- scold:** rebuke
He was deeply insulted when his teacher scolded him in front of the whole class.
125. **fluctuation:** variation in price, amount or level
The thermostat will register even the slightest fluctuations of temperature.
- variability:** quality of varying, changing

There is a lot of variability between the products.

adjustment: small change in order to improve

The mechanic made a few adjustments to the engine to reduce fuel consumption.

inconsistency: (of statements, figures) quality of being contradictory

What I want you to do is spot the inconsistencies between the two reports.

126. **hit the sack:** go to bed and get some sleep
It's very late; time to hit the sack.

take to one's heels: run away

When the policeman approached, the beggar took to his heels.

go the extra mile: do more than necessary to achieve a goal

There are some excellent greengrocers around town who will go the extra mile to find fresh produce.

jump on the bandwagon: join others in sth popular in the hope of becoming popular yourself

I've always been reluctant to jump on the social networks bandwagon.

127. **badger:** pester

I had to badger him into coming to the party.

compel: force someone to do sth

All the employees were compelled to work overtime.

harass: annoy by putting pressure on sb

The demonstrators were harassed by the police.

hassle: bother sb (by repeatedly asking them to do sth)

You've been hassling me for cash for a week now! I'm broke, I'm telling you!

128. **come down on (sb):** criticize or punish sb severely

I failed to hand in the report on time and my manager came down on me.

fall in with (sb): become friends with sb after meeting them by chance

In college, Diane fell in with the wrong kind of people and got into trouble.

get back at (sb): get revenge on sb (for sth bad they've done to you)

She started dating my ex, just to get back at me.

go up against (sb): compete against sb (especially in sport, business)

The Boston Celtics go up against the San Antonio Spurs on April 3.

129. **face:** deal with

The country is facing a major financial crisis.

endure: bear

The pain was impossible to endure.

bear: withstand the worst part of something unpleasant

I had to bear the brunt of her going into a rage.

suffer: be badly affected by

My company is suffering from a shortage of efficient staff.

130. **burden:** difficult or hard work

The heavy taxation was a real burden on people.

millstone about one's neck: a permanent burden

The monthly payment on the house was a millstone about my neck.

collar: piece of clothing around the neck

I have to wear a collar and tie at work.

loop: shape like a curve made by a line curving right round and crossing itself

We had to walk all the way to the camp, situated in a loop of the river.

131. **period:** particular length of time with a beginning and an end

The reduced prices will be available for a limited period only.

era: a historical period with particular characteristics

We live in the era of globalization.

chair: the position of being in charge of a meeting, committee or the person holding this position

She was elected chair of the city council.

tenure: period of time when sb has an important (political) job

Boston mayor thanks citizens and staff for his rewarding tenure.

132. **presumption:** sth believed to be true or probable

The basic tenet of criminal law that a person is innocent until proven guilty is called 'presumption of innocence'.

prediction: a statement about what is going to happen

Sales predictions are very pessimistic.

preservation: keeping sth in good condition
Our number one goal is the preservation of the environment.

precaution: measure taken to prevent a problem or danger
All workers are required to follow safety precautions.

133. **indigent:** very poor

It's difficult for the government to pay for the cost of health care for the indigent elderly.

exorbitant: much higher than accepted
He asked for an exorbitant rent.

indigenous: native
The bald eagle is indigenous to North America.

evolutionary: related to evolution, development and change
Darwin's evolutionary theory contends that all life has descended from a common ancestor.

134. **follow-up:** coming after sth similar done earlier

A follow-up meeting was held two weeks after the initial one.

side-effect: unexpected result of a situation
Are there any beneficial side-effects for the economy if this policy is followed?

in the wake of sth: as a result of sth
In the wake of the earthquake we had no place to live.

result: consequence
My mistake was the result of a misunderstanding, not poor judgment.

135. **gear sb/sth to sth:** prepare sb/sth so that they are suitable for a particular purpose
Our courses are geared specifically to the needs of working individuals.

grade: judge and give a mark to a student
Have you graded my essay?

gauge: make a judgment about a situation or a person's feelings
It is difficult to gauge his reaction, given the circumstances.

gnaw: keep biting or chewing sth
The dog just lay there gnawing a bone.

136. **imposition:** an unreasonable request
I considered his request for a raise quite an imposition.

commission: money paid to sb for selling

goods which changes depending on the value of the goods sold

There's a 20% commission on everything you sell.

inhibition: shyness, hesitancy
I had inhibitions about voicing my complaints.

restriction: sth that limits the amount of freedom available

My dad never put any restrictions on me.

137. **flicker:** (of a light or a flame) going on and off while shining or burning

The flashlight gave one last flicker and went out.

sparkle: a series of flashes of light produced by light hitting a shiny surface
She added sparkle to her black evening gown with a diamond necklace around her neck.

splinter: a small sharp piece of wood, glass or metal that has broken off a larger piece
I've got a splinter in my finger and it really hurts.

flutter: a smooth, light movement
There was a flutter of wings and I saw the birds flying across the sky.

138. **off duty:** not at work
I will be off duty at 18.00.

off the record: unofficially
Strictly off the record, the minister is going to hand in his resignation.

off the hook: freed from an obligation
Finally the manager let me off the hook; I won't have to go to work on Saturday.

off guard: not careful or prepared enough
It started off as a beautiful day and the sudden rain caught us off guard.

139. **defray:** pay sb back the money they have spent on something
You will get a sum of money to defray your travel expenses.

sway: influence sb (to believe or do sth)
It won't be easy to sway public opinion on the matter.

allay: alleviate, make less strong
Do you think a tranquilizer will help allay my anxiety before the exam?

relay: receive and send a message
Will you please relay a message to Kim?

140. **shrivel:** (of plants, flowers) wither

If you don't change the water in the vase, the flowers will soon shrivel.

wane: fade, become weaker

After his divorce, the actor's popularity began to wane.

erode: wear away

The soil had eroded too much to sustain crop production.

wail: say something in a loud, sad and complaining voice

At the funeral, the widow wouldn't stop wailing for her dead husband.

141. **indiscreetly:** not carefully enough to keep sth secret

He indiscreetly revealed her affair.

nonchalantly: casually, in a relaxed way

She shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly to show she didn't care about the results.

ostentatiously: showily, trying to impress

She walked around the ball room, ostentatiously displaying her designer evening gown.

irrefutably: undeniably

The defendant was irrefutably proven guilty and sentenced to two years in jail.

142. **feel the pinch:** having problems because you have too little money

You're bound to feel the pinch a little now with the pay cut.

see fit: decide to do sth because you think it's the right decision

I don't see fit to apologize for anything; I've done nothing wrong.

feel free: feel like you have permission to do sth

If you're hungry, please feel free to take anything you want from the refrigerator.

see the light: finally understand sth clearly

Math is so difficult I'll never see the light no matter how hard I study.

143. **fledgling:** new and inexperienced

Although a fledgling player, he shows great skill.

flimsy: (of an argument, excuse or evidence) not believable

The defendant was acquitted due to the flimsy evidence provided by the prosecution.

flighty: unable to keep your interest for long, unreliable

Being a Gemini, she's often flighty and seems as though she can never make up her mind.

fleeting: very brief

Catching a fleeting smile on Carla's face, I couldn't help but ask her what had happened.

144. **scold:** tell off

Our teacher scolded us for arriving late for class.

shove: push sb in a rough way

The bully kicked Jonathan and shoved him to the ground.

scoff: mock, refer to sb/sth in a disrespectful way

Everybody scoffed at his poor background until he won the spelling bee.

soothe: calm

You'd better take a few deep breaths to soothe your nerves.

145. **frustrated:** disappointed, annoyed because you can't achieve your goal

I get extremely frustrated when I can't solve a geometry problem.

disillusioned: disenchanted, disappointed because you've lost your belief in sb/sth

After his divorce, he has become disillusioned with marriage.

dreary: dull and generating feelings of sadness

She was tired of hearing the same dreary story of his unhappy childhood.

aggravated: involving violence

He was arrested for aggravated assault.

146. **renounce:** give up a title, an official position or a right

The prince renounced his claim to the throne to marry a commoner.

revive: make sb/sth healthy or strong again, recover

The doctors in the emergency room managed to revive him.

revoke: take back a law or decision

He was caught speeding and his driver's license was revoked.

refine: improve sth by making small changes

I will never speak to him again unless he refines his manners.

147. **modest:** not showing off one's abilities

Don't be so modest! You've been a great help!

marginal: slight

There are marginal differences between the two versions.

memorial: done in order to remember a dead person

A memorial service will be held at 6 pm on Sunday.

mutual: reciprocal

A relationship cannot endure unless there is mutual respect.

148. **naive:** trusting, gullible

It would be naive to think that the city's problems could be solved straight away.

elusive: difficult to find or achieve

Does success seem elusive? Maybe you should reconsider your strategy.

arbitrary: not based on reason or a plan

The selection of the candidates was completely arbitrary.

diverse: varied, very different from one another

He is a man of diverse interests.

149. **peril:** serious danger

The rescuers put their own lives in peril to reach the climbers.

mourning: grief

Two years after his wife's death, he was still in mourning.

denial: refusal to accept that sth is true

The actor's representative issued a denial of the divorce.

quandary: difficult situation, problem

Simon was in a quandary over whether to give in his notice or not.

150. **ravenously:** in a very hungry way

I am ravenously hungry.

callously: cruelly

She callously abandoned her family and ran away with her lover.

flawlessly: perfectly

The music piece was flawlessly executed.

fervently: in a way that shows you believe sth strongly and sincerely

I fervently hope you will achieve all your goals.

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BLACKEN THE CORRESPONDING CIRCLE.

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EXAMINATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN ENGLISH

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EXAMPLES

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- RIGHT 4 ○ ○ ○ ○ ●

IMPORTANT DIRECTIONS FOR MARKING ANSWERS

- Use a #2 (soft) pencil only.
- Do NOT use ink or ballpoint pens.
- Make heavy black marks that fill the circle completely.
- Erase cleanly any answer you wish to change.
- Make no stray marks on the answer sheet.
- Do not fold or crease the answer sheet.
- The examiner will tell you how to grid in the identification section.

LISTENING

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