Strengthen English

VOCABULARY

FOR SECONDARY LEVELS



- Words with multiple meanings
- Contextual word meanings
- Contextual idiomatic meanings

Author
Dr Tan Cheng Lim

Project Editor
Karen Chuah

SAMPLE

Contents

Topic 1	**Words with Multiple Meanings (Homonyms)**	▶ **1**
Topic 2	**Forms of Irregular Verbs**	▶ **6**
Topic 3	**Compound Words**	▶ **14**
Topic 4	**Words from the Same Family**	▶ **25**
Topic 5	**Prepositions in Phrases and Idioms**	▶ **40**
Topic 6	**Converted Words**	▶ **51**
Topic 7	**Derivative Words**	▶ **62**
Topic 8	**Learning and Using Words**	▶ **85**
Topic 9	**Phrasal Verbs**	▶ **116**
Topic 10	**Confusing Words**	▶ **142**
Topic 11	**Word Associations**	▶ **153**
Topic 12	**Contextual Word Meanings**	▶ **164**
Topic 13	**Learning and Using Idioms**	▶ **185**
Topic 14	**Learning and Using Word Pairs**	▶ **209**
Topic 15	**Completion of Idioms**	▶ **220**
Topic 16	**Contextual Idiomatic Meanings**	▶ **240**
Topic 17	**Multiple-Choice Vocabulary Items**	▶ **261**
Topic 18	**Miscellaneous Vocabulary Items**	▶ **291**
Answers		▶ **A1**

SAMPLE

Topic 1 Words with Multiple Meanings (Homonyms)

In English, many words are similar in form and pronunciation but different in meaning.

For English language learners, it is important to learn all the useful meanings of such words and use them in context.

Exercise 1.1

In each of the sentences below, the same word is used in different sentences with different meanings and as different parts of speech (mainly nouns or verbs). Give a word or phrase in the blank to explain the meaning of the underlined word.

1. Don't abuse your rights as a committee member of the club. _____
2. How can you abuse your colleagues with such bad language? _____
3. The government is making an effort to eliminate the abuses of modern technology. _____
4. Khairy was warned by the police not to abuse stray animals. _____
5. Aisha burst out laughing when she caught sight of the funny expression on Saifu's face. _____
6. Stop blowing or the balloon will burst. _____
7. A strange-looking man burst into the office and shouted wildly. _____
8. When the woman heard the sad news, she burst into tears. _____
9. A burst in the pipes caused a flood in the bathroom. _____
10. After the performance, there was a burst of applause from the audience. _____

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd

Exercise 1.2

In each of the sentences below, the same word is used in different sentences with different meanings and as different parts of speech (mainly nouns or verbs). Give a word or phrase in the blank to explain the meaning of the underlined word.

1. We are running out of time, so we must act now. _____
2. Mary's act of kindness brought much joy to the people in the old folks' home. _____
3. Whenever the director was on leave, the deputy director acted for him. _____
4. The lady who likes to act in musicals has won many awards. _____
5. We accord a special welcome to our foreign visitors. _____
6. I think my words are in complete accord with my actions. _____
7. Can you give a brief account of what you have seen in your tour? _____
8. On no account can you treat your kith and kin in such an impolite manner. _____
9. We must take into account every applicant's past experience and performance. _____
10. Mansur works diligently, and that accounts for his fast promotion. _____

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd

Exercise 1.3

In each of the sentences below, the same word is used in different sentences with different meanings and as different parts of speech (mainly nouns and verbs). Give a word or phrase in the blank to explain the meaning of the underlined word.

1. In the face of great difficulties, the soldiers kept on advancing fearlessly. _____

2. All the staff are invited to advance plans to further improve their work. _____

3. As a rule, the company will advance every new staff member a month's salary. _____

4. China has made great advances in economic and social life. _____

5. The rapid advance in daily expenses causes low-income people to live an uncomfortable life. _____

6. Everyone has to answer for what he has done. _____

7. Job applicants are eager to get an early, favourable answer. _____

8. Mustafa sent a note in answer to the invitation. _____

9. It is impolite not to answer a letter of inquiry. _____

10. I think what I have got now has answered most of my needs. _____

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd

Exercise 1.4

In each of the sentences below, the same word is used in different sentences with different meanings and as different parts of speech (mainly nouns and verbs). Give a word or phrase in the blank to explain the meaning of the underlined word.

1. The man standing at the corner has an air of mystery. _____
2. All these clothes are still wet; they need to be aired. _____
3. Few people in this country like to air their opinions in public. _____
4. I am disgusted at seeing people putting on airs. _____
5. The programme was aired on Channel 5 at 9 p.m. _____
6. I don't think it wise to bare your heart to all and sundry. _____
7. No matter how hard the farmers work, they just make a bare living. _____
8. The Angs have rented an apartment bare of furniture. _____
9. It is discourteous to appear in front of the guests bare to the waist. _____
10. How can the ordinary people fight the crooks with bare hands? _____

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd

Exercise 1.5

In each of the sentences below, the same word is used in different sentences with different meanings and as different parts of speech (mainly nouns and verbs). Give a word or phrase in the blank to explain the meaning of the underlined word.

1. There is a red mark on one of Ali's arms. _____
2. Can a soldier fight an enemy without arms and ammunition? _____
3. Today's military planes are armed with modern equipment. _____
4. Armed with facts and figures, the businessmen began their discussion. _____
5. Don't go near the armed robber who might hurt you. _____
6. The old man slipped and fell on his back. _____
7. Don't worry! Go ahead! We will back you up. _____
8. A new motorist may find it difficult to back his car into this narrow parking lot. _____
9. Don't criticize a person behind his back. _____
10. The back issues of a journal may be hard to come by. _____

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd

Topic 2 Forms of Irregular Verbs

There are regular and irregular verbs in English. Regular verbs include 'walk' and 'work', and irregular verbs include 'sleep' and 'teach'.

They differ in that the past and the past participle forms of a regular verb end in '-d' or '-ed', whereas the past and the past participle forms of an irregular verb do not end in '-d' or '-ed'.

The past and past participle forms of irregular verbs may be similar, such as 'bought'-'bought' and 'found'-'found', or different, such as 'wrote'-'written' and 'took'-'taken'.

Exercise 2.1

For each of the following irregular verbs, supply the past tense and the past participle.

	Past Tense	Past Participle
1. arise		
2. awake		
3. bear		
4. beat		
5. become		
6. begin		
7. bend		
8. bind		
9. bite		
10. bleed		

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd

EXERCISE 1.1

1. misuse
2. scold
3. bad customs
4. treat cruelly/hurt
5. laughed suddenly
6. break
7. rushed
8. suddenly cried
9. hole/crack
10. loud noise

EXERCISE 1.2

1. do things
2. behaviour
3. replaced
4. perform
5. give
6. agreement
7. description
8. reason
9. consideration
10. explains

EXERCISE 1.3

1. moving forward
2. suggest
3. pay beforehand
4. progress
5. increase
6. be responsible
7. reply
8. response
9. reply to
10. met

EXERCISE 1.4

1. appearance
2. exposed to the open air
3. express
4. showing an arrogant attitude
5. broadcast
6. reveal
7. mere
8. empty
9. naked
10. without weapons

EXERCISE 1.5

1. upper limbs
2. weapons
3. fitted
4. Equipped/Prepared
5. having weapons
6. back side of the body
7. support
8. move backwards
9. without his knowledge
10. past

EXERCISE 2.1

1. arose, arisen
2. awoke, awoken
3. bore, born/borne
4. beat, beaten
5. became, become
6. began, begun
7. bent, bent
8. bound, bound
9. bit, bitten
10. bled, bled

EXERCISE 2.2

1. begot, begotten
2. blessed, blessed/blest
3. blew, blown
4. broke, broken
5. bred, bred
6. brought, brought
7. built, built
8. burnt, burnt/ burned, burned
9. burst, burst
10. bought, bought

EXERCISE 2.3

1. cast, cast
2. caught, caught
3. chose, chosen
4. came, come
5. cost, cost
6. crept, crept
7. cut, cut
8. dealt, dealt
9. dug, dug
10. did, done

EXERCISE 2.4

1. drew, drawn
2. dreamed, dreamed/ dreamt, dreamt
3. drank, drunk
4. drove, driven
5. ate, eaten
6. fell, fallen
7. fed, fed
8. felt, felt
9. fought, fought
10. found, found

EXERCISE 2.5

1. fled, fled
2. flew, flown
3. forewent, foregone
4. foresaw, foreseen
5. forgave, forgiven
6. forsook, forsaken
7. froze, frozen
8. got, got/gotten
9. gave, given
10. went, gone

EXERCISE 2.6

1. grew, grown
2. hung, hung/ hanged, hanged
3. heard, heard
4. hid, hidden
5. held, held
6. hit, hit
7. hurt, hurt
8. kept, kept
9. laid, laid
10. led, led

EXERCISE 2.7

1. learnt, learnt/ learned, learned
2. left, left
3. lent, lent
4. lay, lain
5. lost, lost
6. made, made
7. met, met
8. mistook, mistaken
9. misunderstood, misunderstood
10. overcame, overcome

SAMPLE

© Singapore Asia Publishers Pte Ltd