

Name _____

Date _____

Reading Comprehension
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Word Meanings in Context - Antonyms

Somewhere in each selection you will find a pair of words in parenthesis. These words will be antonyms, or opposites. Underline the word that makes sense in the context. Use a dictionary if you're not sure of the meanings of both antonyms.

1. Mr. Surfer was a very good teacher. Everyone agreed that kids learned a lot when they spent a year in his fifth grade class. Some kids did wish that he would be a little (**lenient, strict**) about the rules. If anyone so much as whispered during study time or happened to forget a homework assignment, he or she was in big trouble.

2. Jennifer was very (**gullible, skeptical**). We found it all too easy to convince her that a mummy was roaming around in her cellar. As we added more and more crazy details to our story, she grew more frightened. Finally, we decided it was best to confess that it was just a hoax.

3. Sometimes Chad can be very (**insensitive, sensitive**) to others' feelings. Do you remember the time that Julie told us she was taking a beauty course? Chad said that it must be a *miracle* course. He was trying to be funny, but her feelings were really hurt. He didn't mean what he said. The problem is that he didn't think about how Julie would take the comment.

4. All the trees and all the flowers,
Sunlit clouds that (**chill, warm**) the sky,
All the gentle April showers,
They have worth we can't deny.

All the manmade golden treasures,
They have value. They have style.
I've found more than all their measure
In the beauty of your smile.

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Memories

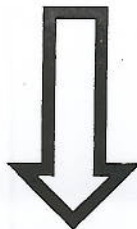
Memories from childhood stay with us forever,
Taking us where we have been and will go,
Pieces of life that live on and will never
Let us forget we were young long ago.

Sometimes I wander back into those shadows,
Quietly being who I used to be,
Bringing to life all the joys and the sorrows,
Days that can't die while they still live in me.

Holidays linger and happy times glisten;
I can see everyone active and well.
I can still hear them if only I listen,
Feeling each motion and breathing each smell.

Life has such treasures that time's always stealing;
Nothing can ever entirely stay.
While you are young, you can capture each feeling;
Make all the memories you can every day.

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Memories

1. The author takes the perspective of someone who _____.
 - a. is very young
 - b. has had a hard life
 - c. can't remember much
 - d. is elderly

2. According to the poem, our memories _____.
 - a. are lost as we age
 - b. are an important part of who we are
 - c. become less accurate over time
 - d. are not worth recalling

3. The poet says that _____.
 - a. some memories are happy and some unhappy
 - b. all memories should be happy
 - c. you should forget the past
 - d. we can change the past by forgetting some things

4. The author suggests that young people should _____.
 - a. ignore their friends and relatives if possible
 - b. only think about the future
 - c. appreciate the present to preserve it in their minds
 - d. try to help others stay active and healthy as they age

Word Meanings From Context

Use the context to help you determine the correct meaning of each underlined word.

1. Murphy Mole is the protagonist in the new novel by Trent Troll. Murphy must stop Oscar Rat and Shrimpy Shark from enslaving the inhabitants of Lazy Woods Park. He risks his life in a series of events that lead to a final battle between good and evil.

What is a protagonist?

- a. the main character of a story
- b. an animal that lives underground
- c. someone whose first and last names start with the same letter
- d. someone with bad body odor

2. I just can't beat Paula when we play chess! Every time I make a move that should lead me to victory, she makes a better move that thwarts my plan.

If you thwart a robbery, you _____.

- a. commit a crime
- b. stop a crime from happening
- c. imagine a theft
- d. give warts to a thief

3. Don't feel stupid. Yes, you thought this worthless replica was a valuable work of art. But it even fooled a lot of experts. It certainly looked like the real thing!

A replica is _____.

- a. a dishonest act
- b. something ugly
- c. anything that has no value
- d. a copy

4. Your poster is very good. The drawing really lets people know what our club is all about. I do think that you could enhance it by adding some more color. That will tend to grab everyone's attention.

When you enhance something, you :

- a. draw it
- b. throw it out
- c. ruin it
- d. make it better

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Colonial America Vocabulary Quiz

Directions: Match the vocabulary words on the left with the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. jerkin | join together for a common purpose; make as one. |
| 2. revolution | items that could not be sold to other countries. |
| 3. import | jacket of cloth or leather, open at the neck, but without sleeves. |
| 4. petticoat | a significant change in political organization; the act of changing politically by rebelling against the authority in place. |
| 5. Northern colonies | bring goods into the country. |
| 6. enumerated articles | members of the colonial troops who had promised to take the field in battle on very short notice. |
| 7. French and Indian War | women's skirts, often worn several at a time, sometimes the top one was pinned up at intervals showing the one . |
| 8. independence | trade between the colonists, Africa, and the Carribean Islands. |
| 9. Southern colonies | traded fur, fish, and grain. |
| 10. minutemen | freedom from control by others. |
| 11. export | the law making body in England. |
| 12. Triangular Trade | crops that are produced in large quantities. |
| 13. unite | France and England fought over land in the Ohio River Valley. |
| 14. Parliament | sell goods out of the country. |
| 15. staple crops | Grew staple crops such as tobacco and rice. |

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Word Meanings From Context

Use the context of the selections to choose the correct meanings or synonyms.

1. Prunella and Paula are sisters, but they're very different. Just look at how they dress. Prunella doesn't care what she wears. Paula, on the other hand, is quite chic [sheek].

- a. intelligent
- b. stylish
- c. full of feathers
- d. dressed in old clothes

2. I looked at the plans for your new house. This is earthquake country. You need to fortify the frame or you'll have a disaster with the first tremor.

- a. shake
- b. build
- c. strengthen
- d. destroy

3. Helen's attitude toward dealing with criminals has changed over the years. She used to believe that everyone can change and deserves a second chance. She now believes that some crimes are so heinous that those responsible should be shown no mercy.

- a. guilty
- b. terrible
- c. accidental
- d. unimportant

4. There may be some parts of my plan to arrest the thieves that should be changed. But I feel very strongly that renting the apartment over their headquarters is the linchpin of the scheme. We must do that immediately!

- a. part that everything else depends on
- b. piece of metal used to connect things
- c. place where people live
- d. a computer designed for police work

5. Amy was feeling low. Every business she tried lost money or made only pennies a day. Her newest idea was selling chocolate covered baby shoes. She was convinced that it would be a lucrative business. Her friends tried to warn her that it was not a certain road to riches.

- a. tasting great with vanilla ice cream
- b. helping young feet to grow correctly
- c. showing no careful thought
- d. bringing in a lot of money, or profit

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The Presidential Campaign

I am an American. Perhaps that makes me a little biased, but I believe that the American presidency is the most important job in the world. It's a job that goes up for grabs every four years. The candidate who wins in November of 2000 will take office the following January and be the first new U.S. president of the twenty-first century.

The election campaign is a long one. Some say it begins right after the election and goes on for the next four years. That's probably an exaggeration, but it does last a long time. Those who have their eyes on the job have to start gathering support and building campaign organizations early.

Some believe that the campaign for president should be shorter. I disagree. A long campaign is an endurance contest. It gives the candidates a chance to show their strengths and forces them to betray their weaknesses. The extended scrutiny makes it much less likely that the voters will accidentally choose an unqualified candidate to be their leader.

Personally, I enjoy the contest. It's a marathon that produces a winner who may have a profound effect on all our lives. You can have your playoffs and your championships; the debates, primaries, conventions, and November election are the sporting events that really matter!



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Read the following statements. Based on the author's essay, decide what his opinion would probably be. Write "agree" after the statement if he would most likely agree with the statement. Write "disagree" if he would most likely disagree.

1. America has lost its importance in the world.
2. The U.S. presidential election should be limited to six months.
3. Political debates are always boring.
4. Longer campaigns produce more qualified winners.
5. Politics is more important than sports.
6. Sometimes it takes time to realize that an attractive candidate would be a poor choice.
7. The president of the United States must be able to handle a difficult and important job.
8. Politics can be entertaining.