

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER

Context clues are hints in the writing that help you figure out what a word means. Each example below has hints within the passage or sentence to help you figure out the meaning of the word. Read each question CAREFULLY and bubble in the correct answer on your scantron. The word you are defining may be in bold, underlined or both.

1. No matter where you go, the Internet is following you. Almost every portable device is being made with an Internet connection. Most new TVs and many other appliances come with Internet connections as well. The Internet is truly **ubiquitous**.

If something is ubiquitous, _____.

- a. it is fuzzy and will bite you
- b. it is everywhere
- c. it costs too much money
- d. it causes rashes

2. Speaking rudely to the judges was **rash** behavior. You really hurt your chances of winning!

In the above context, what does "rash" mean?

- a. an itchy skin condition
- b. funny
- c. trying to hide or disguise a piece of cheese
- d. with little thought or consideration

3. Some people are always **bashing** the president just like others bashed the one before him. Wouldn't you think that everyone could find something to praise him for, at least once in a while?

What does "bashing" mean in the above selection?

- a. hitting hard with a heavy tool
- b. going to too many expensive parties
- c. speaking or writing harshly about
- d. voting for a different candidate

4. Wherever he goes, the **esteemed** Dr. Sanchez is applauded for his life saving research.

What does "esteemed" mean?

- a. held over boiling water
- b. very old
- c. unable to chew gum
- d. greatly admired

5. I believe that if you lower taxes so that people can keep more of the money they earn, it will be an **incentive** for them to work harder.

What is the meaning of "incentive"? _____.

- a. a reason to do something
- b. a small amount of money
- c. a tax
- d. a good job

6. Most of America's Founding Fathers did not believe in women's **suffrage**. Only men could vote in the United States until 1920.

What is "suffrage" ?

- a. something that causes physical pain
- b. an early flag
- c. skirts that did not cover ankles
- d. the right to vote

7. Some people are sure that the new health care law will mean better care for everyone. Others argue that the law will mean less care and longer waiting lines for those who need to see doctors. It's a **controversy** that will not go away soon.

A *controversy* is something that people _____.

- a. have strong disagreements over
- b. blow their noses into
- c. need to pay for a visit to a doctor
- d. eat with sweet candy

8. Removing seeds from cotton plants was a slow job until Eli Whitney invented the **cotton gin**.

What is a cotton gin?

- a. a drink
- b. a book
- c. a machine
- d. a cloth

9. In the early 1600s, a dangerous trip across the Atlantic Ocean was a **daunting** idea. The Europeans, who would someday be known as the Pilgrims, must have been a very determined and brave group of settlers.

A *daunting* task is one that would _____ someone.

- a. tickle
- b. amuse
- c. lose or misplace
- d. frighten or intimidate

10. The **original** Pilgrims called themselves the "Saints" and referred to others who joined with them for the voyage as the "Strangers."

In this context, "original" means _____.

- a. one of a kind
- b. first
- c. humorous
- d. musical

11. The Saints and Strangers argued about how they would live in the New World. After much discussion, they came together and signed the Mayflower **Compact**.

The *Compact* was _____.

- a. a container for makeup
- b. a small item
- c. a machine used for mashing corn
- d. an agreement

12. When the Pilgrims landed in what is now Massachusetts, they were fearful that the Native Americans would attack them. However, the people that they **encountered**, the Wampanoag Indians, were a peaceful and generous tribe.

To *encounter*, is to _____.

- a. meet
- b. note how many
- c. fight
- d. exchange text messages

13. As the summer sun sent scattered rays through the maple and oak leaves overhead, the young deer stood **frozen**, making it almost impossible for the hikers to see her.

In the above passage, the word "frozen" means _____.

- a. very cold
- b. visible
- c. not moving
- d. not melted

14. Christmas is a time when Dad **reverts** to his childhood. I really think he looks forward to Santa's visit more than any other member of the family. Mom says that he'll always be a child during this season.

What does "reverts" mean in the above passage?

- a. stands up straight
- b. peeks at presents
- c. drinks too much egg nog
- d. goes back to being what he was

15. Fortunately, the explosion **diverted** the asteroid from a course that would have sent it hurtling into our planet.

To *divert* is to _____.

- a. change the direction of
- b. look for really high waves
- c. jump into a dry river
- d. look through a telescope

16. A wonderful 98 year old woman is working day and night to knit scarves to send as gifts for the troops. What a **selfless** person she is!

A *selfless* woman _____.

- a. is selfish
- b. has no name
- c. likes to wear scarves
- d. cares more about others than herself

The United States has a vast amount of newly discovered clean geothermal (natural heat from the Earth's crust) energy. Tapping into this energy source could provide at least 10 times the energy that can be obtained from the nation's known coal reserves.

17. What does "vast" mean?

- a. a large amount
- b. not enough
- c. dangerous
- d. having no known use

18. Which word in the above paragraph means supplies that are available to be used?

- a. geothermal
- b. tapping
- c. continent
- d. reserves

Using IQ tests and MRI brain scans, researchers have found that the measurable intelligence of teenagers can rise and fall over time. We used to believe that intelligence was static. But now, because of new studies, we know that teens and even fully mature adults can grow more brain cells when needed.

19. What does "static" mean in the above selection?

- a. noise
- b. not changing
- c. moldy
- d. unreal

20. What are researchers?

- a. people who lose things
- b. people who search for knowledge
- c. creatures from Mars
- d. students who don't study

21. Poor Farmer Chevez **labors** sixteen hours a day and never has time for a vacation. He deserves better! Everyone should have at least one day a week for rest and relaxation.

- A. plays
- B. eats
- C. works
- D. unions

22. It's not that I'm unfriendly, but sometimes I want to leave **society** behind and be alone for awhile.

- A. people living as members of a group
- B. homes with messy floors
- C. the fastest runners
- D. people who are afraid of Girl Scouts

23. Our new alarm system will wake up the entire neighborhood if an intruder gets in the house.

An intruder is someone who intrudes. To **intrude** is to _____.

- A. paint or repair old buildings
- B. wear ones shoes on the wrong feet
- C. go where one is not wanted or doesn't belong
- D. be very noisy

24. Those scientists want to hear what our professor thinks about their theory because he is the **foremost** expert in their field.

- A. The first or main one
- B. craziest
- C. least informed
- D. loudest

25. Your cousin claimed to be late because the doors of his house were frozen shut. Even though I have my doubts, his explanation is **plausible**. It got really cold last night. I'll just have to take his word for it.

If a statement is *plausible*, _____.

- a. you must always believe it
- b. you should never believe it
- c. it's hard to understand because it makes no sense
- d. it's believable enough to possibly be true

26. If you don't **curtail** your spending, you'll be broke in no time at all!

Which word is a synonym of "curtail"?

- a. reduce
- b. follow
- c. behind
- d. buy

27. No word must ever leak out about this military action! It has to be a **clandestine** operation in order to succeed.

Which word is a synonym of "clandestine"?

- a. family
- b. useful
- c. dangerous
- d. secret

28. Put this medicine on your arm and rub it into your skin until it's invisible. It will **inhibit** the infection's attempt to spread.

What does "inhibit" mean?

- a. live in a certain place
- b. block or slow down
- c. itch or burn
- d. help to do something important

29. Fortunately, the dizzy spell was **transient**. He was able to continue playing within seconds and had no trouble winning the match.

When you describe an event as "transient," you are saying that _____.

- a. it sounds like a train
- b. it is quite harmful
- c. it helps you win
- d. it doesn't last long

30. Brea and Elizabeth are having a **dispute** over which radio station to play at work. It would be so much simpler if they both liked the same kind of music.

A dispute is a _____.

- a. musical instrument
- b. choice of music
- c. discovery
- d. disagreement

31. When they heard the good news about the court's decision, the angry crowd cheered and then began to **disperse**. "It looks like everyone is going home," one reporter stated.

Which would be the **opposite** of "disperse"?

- a. come together
- b. smile
- c. fly like a bird
- d. sing

32. It's a wonder to me how anyone can still be undecided about this election. These two candidates are certainly **distinct**. Each would lead our nation in opposite directions.

What does "distinct" mean?

- a. needing a bath
- b. dishonest
- c. clearly different
- d. about the same age

33. Mr. Huge was very proud of his auto superstore. "We have such an **extensive** selection of cars," he said, "so everyone should find a vehicle that he or she will love!"

The word "extensive" means _____.

- a. costing a lot of money
- b. large amount
- c. having no color
- d. not enough

34. Friendship is a **priceless** thing. If Chris put a price, or conditions, on her friendship, it's no longer priceless. In fact, it's not real friendship at all!

If something is priceless, _____.

- a. it has a missing tag
- b. it has no value
- c. it has great value
- d. it is made out of rice

35. The news story was based on a letter that was a **fabrication**. Now the reporter who wrote the story is in big trouble. Will anyone believe him again?

A fabrication is _____.

- a. made of cloth
- b. full of long words
- c. funny
- d. fake

36. The reporter insisted that the letter he used was **authentic**. He said that he had shown it to many experts before he used it in his story.

When something is authentic, it's _____.

- a. genuine, or real
- b. carefully written
- c. full of tasty worms
- d. very old

37. In 1975, Governor James promised to do something about the high taxes in our state. She didn't present a tax cut bill to lawmakers until 1985. It took her a **decade** to keep her promise, but better late than never.

How long is a decade?

- a. 75 years
- b. 85 years
- c. a century
- d. 10 years

38. Your plan looks good. I hope it will really work. It's time to **implement** it and see if it's as brilliant as you claim.

- a. instrument
- b. take apart
- c. change
- d. carry out

39. If your plan fails, we'll have to find someone who can **devise** a better one.

- a. design
- b. dislike
- c. appliance
- d. to use peanut butter as toothpaste

40. Of course, I'm not saying that your plan is no good. I tend to be **optimistic**, so I won't be surprised when you succeed.

- a. expecting the best to happen
- b. needing glasses to see
- c. full of gas
- d. unselfish

41. When your plan brings us great wealth, you will be rewarded for your **sagacity**.

- a. good looks
- b. mistakes
- c. intelligence
- d. huge appetite for herbs

42. No matter what happens, I **assure** you that I will not forget how hard you have worked on this project.

- a. dare
- b. promise
- c. act like a donkey
- d. forget

Marsha is really an introvert. When I took her to Jason's party, she sat in a corner without speaking to anyone. All she did was eat most of the snacks. The only reason she hangs out with me is because I never try to force her to be sociable. She would never forgive me if I introduced her to anyone.

43. An introvert is usually _____.

- a. friendly
- b. hungry
- c. unclean
- d. shy

44. Sunshine said, "Amber, why are you making such a big deal about Robert's hair? Yes, he did dye it purple. It is rather unusual for a guy to have purple hair. On the other hand, it's not exactly going to change the course of world history. It's really quite a trivial matter."

What does "trivial" mean?

- a. strange
- b. unimportant
- c. disgusting
- d. dangerous

45. Both sides in the election contest are throwing accusations at each other. The Gore supporters claim that Governor Bush is trying to **thwart** the will of the people. The Bush supporters say that Mr. Gore is trying to create votes or assign choices to people who did not really cast votes for president.

What does "thwart" mean?

- a. help
- b. figure out
- c. block
- d. tickle

46. There is a legal battle raging and the judges are concerned that time is running out. Lawyers are being asked to **expedite** the matter by getting their paperwork in early.

What does "expedite" mean?

- a. quicken
- b. agree on
- c. sue
- d. discuss

47. The Florida legislature believes that it has the power to choose the winner of the election if the courts haven't finished their work by December 12. Both houses are controlled by Republicans and they would surely **resolve** the matter in Bush's favor.

What does "resolve" mean?

- a. cancel
- b. consider
- c. debate
- d. settle

48. The election could actually end up being decided in the U.S. Congress. Al Gore's vice presidential running mate, Joe Lieberman, and perhaps Mr. Gore himself, would be able to vote on the matter. Some would argue that they should **recuse** themselves, but they would probably exercise their right to vote.

What does "recuse" mean?

- a. step aside and not be involved
- b. admit that you are wrong
- c. leave the country
- d. insist on being heard

49. If you count all the votes in an area that heavily supports candidate A, and only some of the votes in an area that heavily supports candidate B, you'll **skew** the results in favor of candidate A.

What does "skew" mean?

- a. roast
- b. ignore
- c. slant
- d. ask

50. The home team made sure that the officials were on their side. They won a close game and the championship with many questionable decisions from the officials. However, no one from any other town would accept the winners as **legitimate** champions.

What does "legitimate" mean?

- a. real
- b. talented
- c. sneaky
- d. good looking

51. Some people believe that lawyers are always working to see that justice is done. On the other hand, some believe that lawyers only want to **manipulate** the legal system to get what they want. Could both sides be right?

What does "manipulate" mean?

- a. control in a dishonest way
- b. give help
- c. teach about or explain
- d. disagree with

52. We walked slowly down the trail with great **trepidation**. No one who had gone this way had ever been heard from again. Had they simply found a better place to settle on this dark planet? We doubted that.

Which word is a synonym of "trepidation"?

- a. movement
- b. worry
- c. enjoyment
- d. laughter

53. Only an hour or so had passed before a tremendous roar shook the ground. At that very moment, a strange grey creature **materialized** before our eyes. It resembled a lizard in shape. It was about ten feet high at the shoulders and at least fifty feet long. What did the creature do?

- a. It whipped its tail back and forth.
- b. It stamped its feet.
- c. It showed its sharp teeth.
- d. It appeared.

54. Kathy was looking for a strong but light material to use for making her water jugs. Unfortunately, she chose noodelite. It proved to be too **porous** to hold jelly.

A porous material _____.

- a. is good for holding things that you pour
- b. protects you in pouring rain
- c. allows liquids to flow through it
- d. is necessary for making bowling balls

55. We have rather **lofty** expectations for you, son. You will attend college. You will become rich and famous. You will be elected president of the United States before you turn forty.

Which word is a synonym of "lofty"?

- a. high
- b. shaky
- c. small
- d. lowly

56. Ashlee was not happy with her friend Samantha. "I've been waiting here for an hour!" she growled into her cell phone. "You'd better **hie** yourself over here," she continued, "or we'll leave without you.

- a. hurry, or hasten
- b. stroll, or walk slowly
- c. float above the trees
- d. greet in an unfriendly manner

57. When Beth and Donna were fighting over a boy who didn't like either one of them, Shana stepped in as a **mediator**. She sat them both in a corner and kept them talking to each other. Finally, Shana's efforts resulted in her two friends making up.

- a. troublemaker
- b. peacemaker
- c. witness
- d. competitor

58. No one suspected that Jerry was a spy. On the surface he behaved like any normal citizen. When his **covert** activity was discovered and announced to the world, we were all shocked.

- a. friendly
- b. helpful
- c. loud
- d. hidden

59. The workers stood in front of the factory and wondered what to do next. The doors were locked and the windows were boarded up. They doubted that they would even collect their final pay checks now that the company was **insolvent**.

- a. broke, or out of money
- b. hiring new workers
- c. changing a name
- d. making too much money

60. Kim was a very good substitute teacher. She liked working with third and fourth graders most of all. She especially liked discussing important current events issues with the kids. She had expected them to be **indifferent** to such grown-up topics as taxes and social security. She was pleasantly surprised to discover that they were really interested in those issues and wanted to learn more about them.

- a. similar
- b. very unusual
- c. not caring
- d. gross

61. Mr. Burke stood before his employees. They had never seen him in such a serious mood. "I would be **remiss** if I didn't tell you that your future with this company depends on how hard you work," he stated firmly.

- a. a girl again
- b. honest and trustworthy
- c. important
- d. not responsible

62. "I am going to **rescind** the permission I gave you to use my toys!" T. J. announced angrily. "I thought you would take good care of them, but I was wrong!"

- a. repeat
- b. celebrate
- c. continue
- d. cancel

63. I am working very hard for the same candidate that you support. You are doing it for pay. I'm not doing this for money. I'm doing it out of **conviction**.

- a. being found guilty
- b. strong belief
- c. anger
- d. a desire to eat prunes

64. It was a sad and haunting **strain** that met our ears as we entered the old theater. There was a beauty in the voice that we'd never forget. This would be a special concert.

What does "strain" mean in the context of the selection?

- a. effort
- b. injury
- c. melody
- d. filter

65. I want you to **weigh** his words carefully. He seems sincere and presents his arguments well. There is, however, something that doesn't quite ring true about the candidate.

What does "weigh" mean in the context of the selection?

- a. to measure the mass
- b. to put pressure on a scale
- c. to think about
- d. to be important

66. Michael is an **ardent** supporter of his presidential candidate. That became obvious to me when I found out how much time he's donated to the campaign. Perhaps Michael knows what he's doing.

What does "ardent" mean in the context of the selection?

- a. old
- b. intelligent
- c. foolish
- d. very strong

67. Mary, of course you're overweight. You eat too much junk food. Even worse, you exercise **infrequently**.

What does "infrequently" mean?

- a. with a frown on one's face
- b. at a gym
- c. while wearing heavy clothes
- d. not often

68. Your uncle wouldn't even part with a dime to help the kids pay for their trip. That's just one more example of his **penurious** ways. In contrast, many people who have much less money have donated a great deal to the cause.

What does "penurious" mean?

- a. very old
- b. very wealthy
- c. very humorous
- d. very stingy

69. There is a very interesting article about solar storms in the February 14, 2000 issue of Time magazine. It tells about how these disturbances not only affect spacecraft, but can also disrupt **terrestrial** life. For example, they have even caused automatic garage doors to open in one town.

What does "terrestrial" mean?

- a. of or on the planet Earth
- b. protective of automotive equipment
- c. solar
- d. in or near a pond

70. "Michelle, I'm very upset about what you said," Rosie stated firmly. "You didn't come right out and accuse me of eating all your candy. On the other hand, your remarks about my love of chocolate were made for a reason. You are **insinuating** that I'm the candy thief!"

What does "insinuate" mean?

- a. to keep something hot or cold
- b. to suggest without clearly saying
- c. to do something evil
- d. to protect from disease

71. I think it would help our basketball team, if we allowed girls to play. I've seen how Patty has a **knack** for making the tough shots when they're needed most. She wants to play on our team and we'd win more games with her help.

What does "knack" mean?

- a. to throw or toss
- b. a hard punch
- c. a kind of sports bag
- d. an ability

72. Connie is never happy when everyone is getting along. She always instigates fights and then acts like little Miss Innocent.

When you **instigate** something, you _____.

- a. check it out
- b. protect it
- c. get it started
- d. ignore it

73. I like that store. All the employees strive to make the customers feel right at home.

Which word is a synonym of "**strive**"?

- a. complain
- b. try
- c. fail
- d. clean

74. This is a clandestine operation. It is extremely important that no one discovers what you're doing!

A **clandestine** operation is supposed to be _____.

- a. dangerous
- b. harmful
- c. exciting
- d. secret

75. If you don't recover quickly from your condition, it could become chronic. Then you might have to take medicine for the rest of your life.

If something is **chronic**, it _____.

- a. is very painful
- b. won't go away
- c. makes you smell bad
- d. isn't real

76. David hoped that nobody would know that he was in the building. Didn't he realize that parking his new car in the driveway made his presence rather conspicuous?

If something is **conspicuous**, it is _____.

- a. important
- b. expensive
- c. unfortunate
- d. noticeable

77. 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

78. 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

79. 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

80. 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

81. 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

82. The signal from the cable is too strong for our television. We'll have to use a filter to **attenuate** it.

When you attenuate something, you _____.

- a. watch it carefully
- b. take good care of it
- c. make it be less
- d. get past it

83. "If you knew the **gravity** of the situation, you wouldn't be laughing," Mr. Farmer said quietly. He didn't have to say more to get everyone's attention.

What does "gravity" mean in this context?

- a. a force that draws different objects toward each other
- b. seriousness
- c. humor
- d. enjoyable, or comfortable

84. Her **cardinal** rule is this: Be kind to others! She believes that everything else in life will fall properly into place if one follows that rule.

What does "cardinal" mean in this context?

- a. main, or most important
- b. red
- c. like a bird
- d. not worth remembering

85. The owner of the restaurant wouldn't allow Samantha to walk through the door. "I'm sorry," she said, "but you started a food fight the last time you were here. You may not have **ingress** to my restaurant!"

What does "ingress" mean in this selection?

- a. a kind of bird that lives by the sea
- b. any food that can be thrown
- c. a good price for a meal
- d. the right to enter

86. 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

87. 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

88. 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

89. 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

Inferencing is when you "read between the lines" and use your experience and knowledge of people to understand what is happening even if the author does not tell you directly. Read the passages below and answer the question below each one using inferences to figure out your answer.

Turner almost wished that he hadn't listened to the radio. He went to the closet and grabbed his umbrella. He would feel silly carrying it to the bus stop on such a sunny morning.

90. Which probably happened?

- a. Turner realized that he had an unnatural fear of falling radio parts.
- b. Turner had promised himself to do something silly that morning.
- c. Turner had heard a weather forecast that predicted rain.
- d. Turner planned to trade his umbrella for a bus ride.

"Larry, as your boss, I must say it's been very interesting working with you," Miss Valdez said. "However, it seems that our company's needs and your performance style are not well matched. Therefore, it makes me very sad to have to ask you to resign your position effective today."

91. What was Miss Valdez telling Larry?

- a. She would feel really bad if he decided to quit.
- b. He was being fired.
- c. He was getting a raise in pay.
- d. She really enjoyed having him in the office.

No, Honey, I don't want you to spend a lot of money on my birthday present. Just having you for a husband is the only gift I need. In fact, I'll just drive my old rusty bucket of bolts down to the mall and buy myself a little present. And if the poor old car doesn't break down, I'll be back soon.

92. What is the message?

- a. I don't want a gift.
- b. Buy me a new car.
- c. The mall is fun.
- d. I'll carry a bucket for you.

Bill and Jessica were almost done taking turns choosing the players for their teams. It was Jessica's turn to choose, and only Kurt was left.

Jessica said, "Kurt."

93. We can infer that _____

- a. Kurt is not a very good player.
- b. Jessica was pleased to have Kurt on her team.
- c. Kurt was the best player on either team.
- d. Jessica was inconsiderate of Kurt's feelings.