

Chapters One-Two

Assessment Preparation: Context Clues

In most assessments, you must infer (make an educated guess) the meanings of words by looking at **context clues**, or clues within an entire sentence. You must look at *how* the word is used in the sentence in order to make an inference.

Directions: For each vocabulary word from Chapters One-Two, first indicate the part of speech in which the vocabulary word appears (noun, verb, etc.). Then write an original definition for the vocabulary word **based upon the clues in the sentence**. (If you need further clarification, read the entire paragraph on the page number given in parentheses.) Finally, look up the word and write down the dictionary definition. How accurate is your definition?

Ex. In that consequence I'm inclined to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores. (5)

- a. Part of Speech: verb
- b. Inference: lean towards
- c. Definition: motivated or persuaded to do something

1. I was privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men. (5)

- a. Part of Speech: _____
- b. Inference: _____

- c. Definition: _____

2. Most of the confidences were unsought—frequently I have feigned sleep, preoccupation or a hostile levity when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon—for the intimate revelations of young men or at least the terms in which they express them are usually plagiaristic and marred by obvious suppressions. (5)

- a. Part of Speech: _____
- b. Inference: _____

- c. Definition: _____

3. “You live in West Egg,” she remarked contemptuously. I know somebody there.” (15)

- a. Part of Speech: _____

b. Inference: _____

c. Definition: _____

4. "No thanks," said Miss Baker to the four cocktails just in from the pantry, "I'm absolutely in training." Her host looked at her incredulously. (15)

a. Part of Speech: _____

b. Inference: _____

c. Definition: _____

5. But I didn't call to him for he gave a sudden intimation that he was content to be alone—he stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way, and far as I was from him I could have sworn he was trembling. (25)

a. Part of Speech: _____

b. Inference: _____

c. Definition: _____

6. About half way between West Egg and New York the motor-road hastily joins the railroad and runs beside it for a quarter of a mile so as to shrink away from a certain desolate area of land. (27)

a. Part of Speech: _____

b. Inference: _____

c. Definition: _____

7. Occasionally a line of grey cars comes to rest, and immediately the ash-grey men swarm up with leaden spades and stir up an impenetrable cloud which screens their obscure operations from your sight. (27)

a. Part of Speech: _____

b. Inference: _____

c. Definition: _____
