

VOCAB-in-CONTEXT QUESTIONS - EASY / SET 1

Question 1

Artist Marilyn Dingle's intricate, coiled baskets are _____ sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Following a Gullah technique that originated in West Africa, Dingle skillfully winds a thin palm frond around a bunch of sweetgrass with the help of a "sewing bone" to create the basket's signature look that no factory can reproduce.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indicated by
- B. handmade from
- C. represented by
- D. collected with

Question 2

The following text is from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. The narrator is being driven in a carriage through a remote region at night.

The baying of the wolves sounded nearer and nearer, as though they were closing round on us from every side. I grew dreadfully afraid, and the horses shared my fear. The driver, however, was not in the least disturbed; he kept turning his head to left and right, but I could not see anything through the darkness.

As used in the text, what does the word "disturbed" most nearly mean?

- A. Disorganized
- B. Alarmed
- C. Offended
- D. Interrupted

Question 3

Dance choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar aims to give people the opportunity to be _____ her creative process. For example, live performances of her dance *HairStories*, which debuted in 2001, featured videos of people across the United States talking about their hair and audience members sharing pictures of their interesting hairstyles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. nervous about
- B. completed by
- C. delayed by
- D. involved in

Question 4

Former astronaut Ellen Ochoa says that although she doesn't have a definite idea of when it might happen, she _____ that humans will someday need to be able to live in other environments than those found on Earth. This conjecture informs her interest in future research missions to the moon.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. demands
- B. speculates
- C. doubts
- D. establishes

Question 5

A musician and member of the Quechua of Peru, Renata Flores Rivera was eager to promote the Quechua language in her music, but she was _____ speaking it. She met this challenge by asking her grandmother, a native speaker of Quechua, to help her pronounce words in her song lyrics and also by taking classes in the language.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. prepared for
- B. inexperienced with
- C. skilled in
- D. excited about

Question 6

The following text is from Yann Martel's 2001 novel *Life of Pi*. The narrator's family owned a zoo when he was a child.

It was a huge zoo, spread over numberless acres, big enough to require a train to explore it, though it seemed to get smaller as I grew older, train included.

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As used in the text, what does the word "spread" most nearly mean?

- A. Hidden
- B. Discussed
- C. Extended
- D. Coated

Question 7

According to botanists, a viburnum plant experiencing insect damage may develop erineum—a discolored, felty growth—on its leaf blades. A _____ viburnum plant, on the other hand, will have leaves with smooth surfaces and uniformly green coloration.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. struggling
- B. beneficial
- C. simple
- D. healthy

Question 8

Research conducted by planetary scientist Katarina Miljkovic suggests that the Moon's surface may not accurately _____ early impact events. When the Moon was still forming, its surface was softer, and asteroid or meteoroid impacts would have left less of an impression; thus, evidence of early impacts may no longer be present.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. reflect
- B. receive
- C. evaluate
- D. mimic

Question 9

Charles "Teenie" Harris was a photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier* from 1936 to 1975. During his career he took over 70,000 photographs documenting everyday life in Pittsburgh's Black communities. The Carnegie Museum of Art maintains thousands of his photographs, carefully _____ them so that audiences can continue to view them well into the future.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. replacing
- B. inventing
- C. preserving
- D. counting

Question 10

In the 1970s, video cameras became increasingly affordable for ordinary consumers and gave Ulysses Jenkins and other artists capabilities that were previously unavailable except to television broadcasters. Jenkins recognized and took full advantage of this _____ access to powerful technology to create groundbreaking works of video art, such as *Mass of Images* (1978).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. newfound
- B. delicate
- C. inevitable
- D. habitual

Question 11

A brief book review cannot fully convey the _____ of Olga Tokarczuk's novel *The Books of Jacob*, with its enormous cast of characters, its complicated, wandering plot, and its page numbers that count backward (beginning at 965 and ending at 1).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. accuracy
- B. inactivity
- C. complexity
- D. restraint

Question 12

The following text is from Nella Larsen's 1928 novel *Quicksand*.

The trees in their spring beauty sent through her restive mind a sharp thrill of pleasure. Seductive, charming, and beckoning as cities were, they had not this easy unhuman loveliness.

As used in the text, what does the word "beckoning" most nearly mean?

- A. Demanding
- B. Signaling
- C. Inviting
- D. Shifting

Question 13

Biologist Jane Edgeloe and colleagues have located what is believed to be the largest individual plant in the world in the Shark Bay area of Australia. The plant is a type of seagrass called *Posidonia australis*, and it _____ approximately 200 square kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. acknowledges
- B. produces
- C. spans
- D. advances

Question 14

In the early 1800s, the Cherokee scholar Sequoyah created the first script, or writing system, for an Indigenous language in the United States. Because it represented the sounds of spoken Cherokee so accurately, his script was easy to learn and thus quickly achieved _____ use: by 1830, over 90 percent of the Cherokee people could read and write it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. widespread
- B. careful
- C. unintended
- D. infrequent

Question 15

In 1929 the *Atlantic Monthly* published several articles based on newly discovered letters allegedly exchanged between President Abraham Lincoln and a woman named Ann Rutledge. Historians were unable to _____ the authenticity of the letters, however, and quickly dismissed them as a hoax.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. validate
- B. interpret
- C. relate
- D. accommodate

Question 16

Following the principles of community-based participatory research, tribal nations and research institutions are equal partners in health studies conducted on reservations. A collaboration between the Crow Tribe and Montana State University - _____ this model: tribal citizens worked alongside scientists to design the methodology and continue to assist in data collection.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. circumvents
- B. eclipses
- C. fabricates
- D. exemplifies

Question 17

The process of mechanically recycling plastics is often considered _____ because of the environmental impact and the loss of material quality that often occurs. But chemist Takunda Chazovachii has helped develop a cleaner process of chemical recycling that converts superabsorbent polymers from diapers into a desirable reusable adhesive.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. resilient
- B. inadequate
- C. dynamic
- D. satisfactory

Question 18

Bioluminescent beetles called fireflies may seem to create flashes of light randomly, but each species of firefly actually has its own special series of repeated flashes and pauses. These unique _____ allow fireflies of the same species to find each other.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. quantities
- B. decorations
- C. patterns
- D. agreements

Question 19

According to Potawatomi ecologist Robin Wall Kimmerer, the Indigenous method of harvesting *Hierochloe odorata*, or sweetgrass, by snapping the plant off at the root actually _____ wild populations: it may seem counterintuitive, she says, but this method of removal allows new sweetgrass plants to repopulate the space, with an overall increase in number and vigor.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. selects
- B. originates
- C. conditions
- D. replenishes

Question 20

Visual artist Gabriela Alemán states that the bold colors of comics, pop art, and Latinx culture have always fascinated her. This passion for the rich history and colors of her Latinx community translates into the _____ artworks she produces.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. vivid
- B. unknown
- C. definite
- D. reserved

Question 20