

Verbal & Reading

October 7, 2024

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Synonym

Read the underlined word in each phrase.
Mark the word below it that has the same (or close to the same) meaning.

1. annoy our brother
A) help
B) sister
C) bother
D) please
2. summer drought
A) dry spell
B) winter
C) rainy season
D) sunshine
3. brief lesson
A) long
B) teacher
C) tennis
D) short
4. strong ability
A) smell
B) skill
C) muscle
D) weakness
5. hastily finished
A) quickly
B) purple
C) completed
D) slowly
6. soar through the sky
A) run
B) float
C) fly
D) cloud

7. became hysterical
A) emotional
B) tired
C) calm
D) energetic

Synonym Replacement

Select the closest meaning to match the underlined word or phrase.

8. The onset of some diseases come without warning.
A) termination
B) beginning
C) infection
D) spread
9. People often marvel over the intense colors in tropical sunsets.
A) penetrating
B) harsh
C) vivid
D) glowing
10. Everyone would like a panacea for health problems.
A) protection against
B) a cure-all for
C) a decrease in
D) advice for
11. Alaska makes up the greater portion of the total area of the United States.
A) creates
B) requires
C) constitutes
D) indicates

12. Such odious practices as the debasement of currency increase widespread discontent among the citizens of struggling nations.
A) hateful
B) ridiculous
C) odd
D) scandalous
13. New machines have made duplication an easy job.
A) filing
B) writing
C) copying
D) typing
14. A sealed bottle thrown into the ocean often floats aimlessly before it reaches land.
A) sinks
B) leaks
C) disintegrates
D) drifts
15. It is futile to argue with him once he has made up his mind.
A) unpleasant
B) encouraging
C) useless
D) helpful
16. A member of a religious order may be sequestered in a monastery, but a hermit seeks seclusion for its own sake.
A) recluse
B) fugitive
C) heretic
D) monk
17. The sculptor, Lorenzo Ghibeni, blended medieval grace with Renaissance realism.
A) invented
B) discovered
C) combined
D) produced
18. Tigers may become man-eaters when they have hunted fruitlessly due to injury or old age.
A) violently
B) at length
C) in vain
D) desperately
19. In the 1970's, many governments' efforts to curb inflation were unsuccessful.
A) control
B) resist
C) sustain
D) induce
20. Where did she acquire all her wealth?
A) hide
B) lose
C) steal
D) gain
21. George Washington resolutely turned down suggestions that he become a king.
A) irritably
B) haughtily
C) surprisingly
D) firmly
22. It is ridiculous to become angry about such an insignificant matter.
A) unpardonable
B) absurd
C) sinful
D) tragic

23. She is a contemporary writer who has received much critical acclaim.
 A) realistic
 B) colorful
 C) modern
 D) witty
24. The popularity of Japanese products has caused some American industries to call for restrictive import quotas.
 A) dangerous
 B) illegal
 C) limiting
 D) ineffective
25. U.S. car manufacturers have frequently recalled defective models over the past decade.
 A) discarded
 B) abandoned
 C) rejected ,
 D) flawed
26. The occurrence of water rushing over rocks in a river renders it too dangerous for recreational rafting.
 A) boulders
 B) storm
 C) landslide
 D) rapids
27. The U.S. government has special funds to offer to destitute people after major catastrophes.
 A) sad
 B) poor
 C) lonely
 D) sick

Smart Word Choices

Choose the appropriate words to complete the passage. To make the right choice, sometimes you have to read the text that follows.

You may have seen the name *Fannie Farmer*. It could have been on a box of candy. Or you may have seen the name on a cookbook. Was Fannie Farmer a _____ person?

28. A) good
 B) funny
 C) nasty
 D) real

Or did people just make up her name?

Fannie Farmer is famous for many reasons. First, this woman became well known for her cooking. In the 1880s, she went to a special school in New England to learn to cook. Fannie Farmer was a _____ student.

29. A) lazy
 B) poor
 C) good
 D) slow

In fact, she was soon asked to run the school. Then in 1902, she started her own cooking school.

It was Fannie Farmer's cookbook that really made her famous. Cookbooks give directions-for cooking. They tell how to _____ different kinds of foods.

30. A) eat
 B) find
 C) buy
 D) prepare

Fannie didn't invent cookbooks. But she certainly improved the way they were written.

Before Fannie Farmer, cookbooks said things like "Add some sugar." They never said how much. This didn't seem _____ enough to Fannie.

31. A) large
B) gentle
C) big
D) clear

She decided to give people exact numbers in her directions. "Add 1 cup of sugar," she would say. This made cooking much simpler. For the first time, people didn't have to _____ how much of each thing to use.

32. A) guess
B) measure
C) care
D) know

Nothing like Fannie Farmer's cookbook had ever been written before. At first, people weren't quite sure about it. The book was almost too _____.

33. A) familiar
B) unusual
C) old
D) silly

People were used to the old kind of cookbooks.

Maybe that's why Fannie had trouble getting her cookbook published. But finally it was printed. Then Fannie had no trouble _____ it.

34. A) selling
B) creating
C) writing
D) buying

Since 1896, people have bought more than three million copies.

Confusing Words

Choose the best from the given choices to complete each of the following.

35. Arthur Stones is an _____ car thief.

- A) infamous
B) famous

36. Ron Jonas, a student, _____ math from Miss Smith.

- A) teach
B) learn

37. Their attorney explained the family's _____ in the lawsuit.

- A) rights
B) rites
C) writes

38. I think _____ a fine idea!

- A) it's
B) its

39. I was very _____ during that long, rainy week.

- A) board
B) bored

40. They don't like the _____ in which you responded to my sincere question.

- A) manner
- B) manor

41. I can _____ you my mechanical pencil.

- A) borrow
- B) lend
- C) loan

42. The speaker _____ to statistics that demonstrated the rise of technology in business.

- A) alluded
- B) referred

43. As the campers lay down for the night, _____ settled over the campsite.

- A) quiet
- B) quite

44. When I write letters, I always use my personal _____.

- A) stationary
- B) stationery

journey. With wings adorned in vibrant shades of orange and black, punctuated by delicate white spots, these butterflies are among the most recognizable insects in the world. Their mesmerizing patterns and vivid colors make them a favorite among nature enthusiasts and photographers alike.

During the summer months, monarchs can be found across various regions, ranging from open meadows to garden flowers. However, as the colder temperatures of autumn approach, monarchs instinctively know that survival will become increasingly difficult. Winter frost poses a significant threat to their delicate wings and fragile bodies. As a result, they embark on a remarkable journey each fall, heading south to escape the harsh conditions. This migratory behavior is nothing short of extraordinary, as monarchs travel vast distances, often covering over a thousand miles.

One of the most fascinating aspects of their migration is their ability to return to the same locations year after year. Monarchs navigate across continents and arrive in specific towns with astounding precision. For instance, in California, a place known affectionately as "Butterfly Town, U.S.A.," monarchs return to the same grove of trees annually. This phenomenon has earned the town a special place in the hearts of its residents. The community embraces the butterflies, celebrating their arrival with an annual parade and implementing city laws to ensure their protection.

Despite their short lifespan of less than a year, monarchs display an incredible sense of direction and memory. It is a mystery how the young monarchs, who have never traveled the route before, find their way to these exact locations. Scientists are still puzzled by this natural wonder, as there are no surviving elders to guide them. The remarkable journey of the monarchs continues to intrigue and

Monarch Butterflies

Monarch butterflies are renowned for their striking beauty and incredible migratory

inspire awe, highlighting the delicate balance between nature and its marvels.

45. What colors are prominently featured on a monarch butterfly's wings?
- A) Blue and yellow
 - B) Orange and black with white spots
 - C) Green and brown
 - D) Red and purple
46. Why do monarchs fly south in the fall?
- A) To find more food
 - B) To escape the cold weather
 - C) To find mates
 - D) To lay eggs
47. How far can monarch butterflies travel during their migration?
- A) A few hundred miles
 - B) Over a thousand miles
 - C) Just a few miles
 - D) Ten miles
48. What is the name of the town in California where monarchs are celebrated?
- A) Monarch City
 - B) Butterfly Haven
 - C) Butterfly Town, U.S.A.
 - D) Monarch Grove
49. How do monarchs navigate their migration route?
- A) By following scent trails
 - B) By using the stars
 - C) By returning to the same locations year after year
 - D) By following other animals
50. What happens to monarchs when they return to the same location each year?
- A) They die
 - B) They are welcomed with a parade
 - C) They become trapped
 - D) They are not recognized
51. How long do monarch butterflies typically live?
- A) Two years
 - B) Six months
 - C) Less than a year
 - D) Five years
52. What aspect of monarchs' migration remains a mystery to scientists?
- A) How they find food along the way
 - B) How they avoid predators
 - C) How the young monarchs know where to go without guidance from older butterflies
 - D) How they maintain their energy during migration
53. Describe the significance of "Butterfly Town, U.S.A." to the monarch butterflies and the people living there.
54. Explain why the migration of monarch butterflies is considered a mystery.

The Many Uses of Drums

Drums are a universal instrument that has been used for thousands of years across various cultures. While most people associate drums with music, their uses extend far beyond making rhythms and beats.

Throughout history, drums have played a significant role in communication, rituals, and even warfare.

In ancient times, drums were used on battlefields to keep soldiers marching in unison and to signal commands. The drummers who played these instruments had a dangerous job; they were often exposed on the front lines with no weapons to protect themselves, making them vulnerable to enemy attacks. Despite the risks, drummers were essential for maintaining order and coordination among troops. Today, in places like Scotland, drums are still used by soldiers, but now primarily in parades rather than on battlefields, showcasing the proud tradition of military drumming.

Drums also hold cultural significance in many societies. In Japan, farmers play drums and dance in the fields, possibly believing that the rhythms help their crops grow. Native Americans use drums in ceremonies to communicate with nature and the spirit world, believing that the drum's beat represents the heartbeat of the Earth. In Africa, drums serve as a means of communication, transmitting messages between villages much like a telephone. The beats and rhythms can convey information over long distances, proving that drums are not just simple musical instruments but also powerful tools for connection.

Drumming requires skill and practice, and the many uses of drums reflect their importance in human history and culture. From keeping soldiers in step to connecting communities, the drum is a versatile and enduring instrument that continues to resonate in our lives today.

55. What is one historical use of drums on the battlefield?
A) To entertain the soldiers
B) To keep soldiers marching together and signal commands
C) To scare away animals
D) To carry water
56. Why was drumming a dangerous job on the battlefield?
A) Drummers were not paid well
B) Drummers were exposed and had no weapons to protect themselves
C) Drummers often got lost
D) Drummers were always at the back
57. What role do drums play in Japanese farming traditions?
A) They are used to scare away pests
B) Farmers play drums and dance in the fields, possibly to help crops grow
C) Drums are used to celebrate harvest festivals
D) Drums are used to measure rainfall
58. How do Native Americans use drums in their culture?
A) To tell time
B) To communicate with nature and the spirit world
C) To cook food
D) To hunt animals
59. In which culture are drums used to send messages between villages?
A) Scottish
B) African
C) Japanese
D) Native American

60. What modern use do drums have in Scotland?
- A) They are used in military parades
 - B) They are used to scare birds away from crops
 - C) They are used to make bread
 - D) They are used in hunting
61. Why are drums considered difficult to play?
- A) They are heavy
 - B) They require precise rhythm and coordination
 - C) They are made of fragile materials
 - D) They are hard to carry
62. What makes drums a unique instrument in various cultures?
- A) They are made only from wood
 - B) They are simple to make
 - C) They have multiple uses beyond music, including communication and rituals
 - D) They are only used in celebrations
63. Describe two ways in which drums are used outside of making music, according to the passage.
64. Why are drums considered important in cultural traditions around the world?

uniquely shaped pupil, which is unlike the round pupils found in human eyes. Instead, a cat's pupil is a vertical slit that can change dramatically depending on the amount of light.

During the day, a cat's pupils narrow to thin slits, allowing only a small amount of light to enter their eyes. This helps protect their sensitive eyes from the brightness of the sun. Amazingly, a cat can have its eyes almost completely closed at noon and still be able to see clearly. In low-light conditions or at night, however, a cat's pupils open wide, expanding to form nearly round windows that maximize the amount of light entering the eye. This adjustment enables cats to see in the dark much better than humans can.

Another remarkable adaptation in a cat's eyes is the presence of a reflective layer called the tapetum lucidum at the back of their eyeballs. This layer acts like a mirror, reflecting light that passes through the retina back into the eye, effectively doubling the light available to the cat's photoreceptors. This reflective surface not only enhances a cat's night vision but also causes their eyes to appear as if they glow when caught in headlights or a flashlight beam at night.

While a cat's eyes are excellent at gathering light, they do have one limitation: cats see the world primarily in shades of gray, black, and white. Unlike humans, who can perceive a broad spectrum of colors, cats' vision is more focused on detecting movement and seeing in low light. This allows them to be exceptional night hunters, navigating and stalking prey under the cover of darkness with precision and stealth.

The Night Vision of Cats

Cats are known as nocturnal creatures, which means they are most active at night. Their large, expressive eyes are perfectly adapted to the darkness, allowing them to make the most of even the faintest light from the moon or stars. A critical feature of a cat's eye is its

65. Why are cats especially good at seeing in the dark?
- A) They have special glasses
 - B) They have large eyes and special pupils that let in more light
 - C) They carry a flashlight
 - D) They have night vision goggles
66. What is the shape of a cat's pupil?
- A) Round
 - B) Square
 - C) A vertical slit
 - D) A horizontal line
67. What happens to a cat's pupils in bright daylight?
- A) They become round and large
 - B) They close completely
 - C) They narrow to thin slits
 - D) They turn red
68. What special feature do cats have at the back of their eyes?
- A) A second set of eyes
 - B) A layer that reflects light called the tapetum lucidum
 - C) A lens that magnifies images
 - D) A camera
69. Why do cats' eyes seem to shine in the dark when light hits them?
- A) They have a built-in light bulb
 - B) Their reflective layer, the tapetum lucidum, bounces light back
 - C) They are always awake at night
 - D) Their eyes are wet
70. What do cats miss in their vision compared to humans?
- A) They cannot see in the dark at all
 - B) They do not see color; they see mostly in gray, black, and white
 - C) They have trouble seeing moving objects
 - D) They see everything upside down
71. Why is a cat's vision particularly suited for hunting at night?
- A) Their vision is blurry in the daytime
 - B) Their pupils and reflective eye layer allow them to see well in low light and detect movement
 - C) They have an excellent sense of smell
 - D) They can hear very well
72. What is the primary function of a cat's reflective eye layer?
- A) To help them find water
 - B) To double the amount of light that reaches their retina
 - C) To keep their eyes moist
 - D) To protect their eyes from the sun
73. Explain how a cat's eyes are adapted to see well at night.
74. What is one major difference between how cats and humans see the world?

Answer Key

Synonym

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. C
7. A

Synonym Replacement

8. B
9. C
10. B
11. C
12. A
13. C
14. D
15. C
16. A
17. C
18. C
19. A
20. D
21. D
22. B
23. C
24. C
25. D
26. D
27. B

Smart Word Choices

28. D
29. C
30. D
31. D
32. A
33. B
34. A

Confusing Words

35. A
36. B
37. A
38. A

39. B

40. A

41. B

42. B

43. A

44. B

Monarch Butterflies

45. B

46. B

47. B

48. C

49. C

50. B

51. C

52. C

53. "Butterfly Town, U.S.A." in California holds special significance for monarch butterflies and the local community. Monarchs return to the same grove of trees in this town each year, which has earned it the affectionate nickname. The residents of the town celebrate the arrival of these butterflies with an annual parade and have enacted city laws to protect them. This community effort reflects their deep appreciation for the monarchs and their desire to ensure the butterflies' continued presence.

54. The migration of monarch butterflies is considered a mystery because the young butterflies, which have never traveled the route before, are able to navigate accurately to their destination without the guidance of older monarchs. Despite their short lifespan and lack of experience, these butterflies manage to return to the same locations year after year, puzzling scientists who are still trying to understand how they achieve this remarkable feat.

The Many Uses of Drums

55. B

- 56. B
- 57. B
- 58. B
- 59. B
- 60. A
- 61. B
- 62. C
- 63. Drums are used on battlefields to keep soldiers marching together and to signal commands. They are also used in African villages to send messages over long distances, acting like a form of communication similar to a telephone.
- 64. Drums are important in cultural traditions because they serve various roles beyond music, such as communication, ceremonial practices, and connecting people with nature or the spiritual world. Their rhythmic sounds are often seen as representing the heartbeat of life, making them deeply symbolic in many cultures.

The Night Vision of Cats

- 65. B
- 66. C
- 67. C
- 68. B
- 69. B
- 70. B
- 71. B
- 72. B
- 73. A cat's eyes have large pupils that can open wide in low light, allowing more light to enter. Additionally, they have a reflective layer at the back of their eyes called the tapetum lucidum, which reflects light back through the retina, effectively doubling the light available. These adaptations enable cats to see well in the dark, making them excellent night hunters.
- 74. One major difference is that cats primarily see the world in shades of gray, black, and white, whereas humans can see a wide range of colors. Cats' vision is more focused on detecting movement and seeing in low light, which is advantageous for night hunting.