

Reading Explorer 4

Target Vocabulary Definitions

abolish	(v.) to put an end to something
abruptly	(adv.) suddenly; unexpectedly
absurd	(adj.) ridiculous or not making sense
abundant	(adj.) present in large quantities
account	(n.) an oral or written description of particular events or situations
agitation	(n.) a condition of being very worried or upset
allegations	(n.) an assertion made with little or no proof
allergic	(adj.) having a bad reaction to eating or touching a substance
amateur	(n.) someone who does something as a hobby or because it is fun
analogous	(adj.) similar in some respects
atmosphere	(n.) the layer of air or gases around a planet
barely	(adv.) only just true or possible
bounce	(v.) to swing or move up and down
breed	(v.) to produce young animals, offspring
bulk	(n.) most of something, the majority
candidate	(n.) someone or something that is being considered for a job, position, award, etc.
carving	(n.) a design or figure produced by cutting into or shaping solid material, such as wood
catastrophe	(n.) an unexpected event that causes great suffering or damage
cease	(v.) to stop doing something, to stop existing
chance	(n.) the possibility that something will happen
chaos	(n.) complete disorder and confusion
chief	(adj.) highest in rank or authority
chronic	(adj.) (for an illness) lasting a very long time
collapse	(v.) to suddenly fall down
collision	(n.) the act of coming violently into contact; a crash
colossal	(adj.) extremely large
commence	(v.) to start something
commercial	(adj.) of, relating to, or characteristics of an exchange of goods or commodities
compelling	(adj.) convincing or holding attention
compile	(v.) to collect and put together many pieces of information
complicated	(adj.) hard to understand, explain, or deal with
compulsory	(adj.) necessary because someone in authority says you must
conceivable	(adj.) imaginable, believable
confine	(v.) to keep something within a certain area
conquest	(n.) the act of taking over a country or group of people
contaminated	(adj.) dirty or impure because something harmful or undesirable has been added
controversy	(n.) contention, debate or dispute concerning a matter of opinion
conventional	(adj.) behaving in a way that is accepted as normal in a society
cutting-edge	(adj.) newest and most advanced area of activity in an art, science, etc.
dam	(n.) a wall built across a river in order to make a lake
dedication	(n.) devotion, being committed to something with time and/or money
defiance	(n.) a refusal to obey something or someone
deflect	(v.) to cause (something that is moving) to change direction
democracy	(n.) a system of government in which people choose rulers by voting
deprived (of)	(adj.) prevented from having or using something

descendant	(n.) someone related to an ancestor who lived in the past
desire	(n.) the feeling of wanting something
deter	(v.) to make someone not want to do or continue doing something
devastating	(adj.) causing (someone) to feel extreme emotional pain
device	(n.) an object that has been invented for a particular purpose
digestion	(n.) the process of the body taking nutrients from food
dilemma	(n.) a situation involving a difficult choice between options
diligently	(adj.) hard-working in a careful and thorough way
diminish	(v.) to reduce in size, importance, or intensity
discard	(v.) to throw something away
discern	(v.) to be aware of something and know what it is
discourage	(v.) to cause someone to lose his or her enthusiasm
dispute	(n.) a serious disagreement
disrespectful	(adj.) showing a lack of respect or courtesy; impolite
disrupt	(v.) to interrupt and prevent something from continuing in a normal way
disrupt	(v.) to interrupt and prevent something from continuing in a normal way
dissuade	(v.) to deter by advice or persuasion
distressing	(adj.) upsetting, causing sorrow, suffering, or pain
divert	(v.) to make something follow a different route or go to another place
drawback	(n.) a disadvantage
empire	(n.) a group of countries or regions that are controlled by one ruler or one government, especially a group of countries ruled by an emperor or empress
encounter	(v.) to come across, to meet unexpectedly
engage	(v.) to occupy the attention or efforts of; to enter into conflict with
enrich	(v.) to improve quality of something by adding to it
epidemic	(n.) a disease that spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people
evade	(v.) to avoid or escape
evident	(adj.) plain or clear to the sight or understanding
evoke	(v.) to cause a particular memory, idea, or emotion to occur
exception	(n.) someone or something that is different from others; a case where a rule does not apply
expectation	(n.) a feeling or belief about how good, successful, etc. someone or something will be
faith	(n.) belief in God or the doctrines or teachings of religion
fantasy	(n.) a pleasant situation you think about and want to happen
feasible	(adj.) possible, able to be done
firsthand	(adv.) coming directly from actually experiencing or seeing something
forbid	(v.) to not allow something
foresee	(v.) to expect and believe that something will happen
forge	(v.) to form (metal) by heating and hammering
forthcoming	(adj.) open and willing to cooperate
fraction	(n.) a tiny amount or proportion of the whole
frankly	(adv.) in an honest manner
gap	(n.) a clear difference or imbalance; a space between two things
garment	(n.) an article of clothing
gaze	(v.) to look at someone or something in a steady way and usually for a long time
genuine	(adj.) real, not false
get on board	(phrase) support (something)
glimpse	(n.) a brief or quick view or look
gradually	(adj.) occurring in small stages over a long period, not sudden
grand	(adj.) large and impressive

grasp	(v.) to take and hold (something) with your fingers, hands, etc.
gravity	(n.) the force that causes things to drop to the ground
guideline	(n.) advice about how to do something
harmony	(n.) peace rather than fighting or arguing
harsh	(adj.) unpleasantly or harmfully hard or rough
harvest	(n.)
hazardous	(adj.) dangerous or harmful
historian	(n.) an expert in or student of history, especially that of a particular period, geographical region or social phenomenon
homogeneous	(adj.) of the same kind, alike
identical	(adj.) exactly the same as something else
immense	(adj.) extremely large or great
immortalize	(v.) to cause someone or something to be remembered forever
immune	(adj.) not capable of being affected by a disease
in terms of	(phrase) with regard to that particular aspect or subject specified
inclination	(n.) a feeling that makes you want to act in a particular way
inconclusive	(adj.) not providing any clear answer or result
infinitely	(adj.) extremely large or great; having no limits
infrastructure	(n.) the basic facilities of a country or city such as transportation, communications, and utilities that allow it to function
inhabitant	(n.) a person who lives in the place concerned
inherent	(adj.) basic, part of the very nature of something
inherit	(v.) to receive something from people who used to own it
initial	(adj.) occurring at the beginning of something
insight	(n.) an accurate and deep understanding of something
instantly	(adv.) immediately; at once
instinct	(n.) a natural tendency to behave or react in a particular way
intact	(adj.) complete, not damaged or changed
integral	(adj.) necessary because it is an essential part of something
interval	(n.) a period of time between two dates
ironically	(adv.) in a manner that is odd because it is the opposite of what you might think
layer	(n.) a sheet or thickness of material, typically one of several, covering a surface or body
leaky	(adj.) allowing liquid, gas, etc. to enter or escape
lean	(adj.) low in fat
lifespan	(n.) the amount of time a person or animal lives
lifestyle	(n.) living conditions, behavior, and habits typical of a group
logic	(n.) a system of reasoning; (adj.) logical
longevity	(n.) long life
mainland	(n.) the largest part of a country or continent as contrasted to islands
mandatory	(adj.) required by law or mandate; compulsory
manipulative	(adj.) exerting unscrupulous control or influence over a person or situation
memorial	(n.) something (such as a monument or ceremony) that honors a person who has died or serves as a reminder of an event in which many people died
military	(adj.) relating to the armed forces of a country
modify	(v.) to change something slightly, usually to improve it
motive	(n.) the reason for doing som
motor	(n.) the part of a machine that uses fuel to make it move
mutual	(adj.) having the same feelings toward each other
nationwide	(adj.) happening or existing in all parts of a country
navigation	(n.) the act of moving a ship or aircraft on a course to another place

noble	(adj.) grand or impressive in appearance
nonetheless	(adv.) nevertheless, in spite of a situation
notify	(v.) to tell or officially inform someone about something
notwithstanding	(adv.) nevertheless
nutritional	(adj.) of or relating to the process of the body taking and absorbing nutrients from food
obsessed	(adj.) thinking about one thing constantly
obsolete	(adj.) no longer needed because something better has been invent
(at) once	(phrase) immediately
optimistic	(adj.) hopeful about the future or the success of something
organized	(adj.) arranged or planned in a particular way
outdo	(v.) to be more successful than a competitor at an activity
overcome	(v.) to successfully deal with or gain control of (something difficult)
pass (down)	(phrase) to give (something, such as knowledge, skills or genes) to your children or to younger people
pest	(n.) an insect or other small animal that damages crops
pile	(n.) a quantity of things lying on top of one another
portable	(adj.) moveable
portrait	(n.) a painting, drawing, or photograph of a person that usually only includes the person's head and shoulders
praise	(v.) to express approval of (someone or something)
preposterous	(adj.) very foolish or silly
privilege	(n.) a special right or advantage that only one group has
profound	(adj.) very strongly felt
progress	(v.) movement forward or toward a place
project	(v.) to have or show (a particular quality, image, etc. that can be seen by other people)
prominently	(adv.) easily seen, obviously
proof	(n.) a fact or evidence showing that something is true or exists
proponent	(n.) an active supporter of an idea or course of action
prospective	(adj.) likely to become something specified in the future
quality	(n.) how good or bad something is
reality	(n.) the true situation that exists
recruit	(v.) to select people and persuade them to join you in some activity or to help you
relentlessly	(adv.) never stopping or becoming less intense
relevant	(adj.) relating to a subject in an appropriate way
relieve	(v.) to make something less unpleasant or to make it disappear
relocate	(v.) to change one's residence or place of business; move
remorse	(n.) feeling of being sorry for doing something bad or wrong in the past
replenish	(v.) to make something full or complete again
reproduce	(v.) to copy something, to produce offspring
resist	(v.) to stand firm against or oppose something
revenge	(n.) punishment or the act of getting even with someone who hurt you
revered	(adj.) respected
revolution	(n.) a very great change in the way that something is done or made
riddle	(n.) something that is very difficult to understand
rigid	(adj.) not able to be bent easily
ritual	(n.) a series of actions that people regularly carry out in a particular situation
romance	(n.) a strong attachment or involvement between people in love
romanticize	(v.) to think about or describe something as being better or more attractive or

	interesting that it really is
rotating	(adj.) moving or turning in a circle
roughly	(adj.) not exactly, but close in number, quality, meaning, etc.
sacred	(adj.) believed to be holy with a special connection to God
scattered	(adj.) spread over an area in a messy or irregular way
scenario	(n.) the way in which a situation may develop
settle	(v.) to move to a place and make it your home
shelter	(n.) a place that covers or protects people or things
shortage	(n.) a deficiency in quantity
skeptic	(n.) a person who has doubts about things that other people believe
slightly	(adj.) small in amount, degree, etc.
society	(n.) the body of human beings generally, associated or viewed as members of a community
solemn	(adj.) formal or serious
spin	(v.) to turn around repeatedly
spiritual	(adj.) of or relating to religion or religious beliefs
spot	(v.) to see or notice (someone or something that is difficult to find or see)
sprout	(v.) to produce new leaves, buds, etc.
spy (on)	(v.) to watch someone or something to find out more information about what they do
squash	(v.) to press into a flat mass or pulp; crush
squeeze	(v.) to press together the parts and especially the opposite sides of (something)
staff	(n.) a group of people who work for an organization or business
stretch	(v.) to cover or extend over an area or distance
striking	(adj.) attracting attention or notice by reason of being unusual, extreme or prominent
stubborn	(adj.) unwilling to change one's mind, unreasonably determined
stunned	(adj.) astonished or shocked
substance	(n.) a solid, powder, liquid, or gas; physical material you can touch
suburb	(n.) a town or other area where people live in houses near a large city
suffocation	(n.) killing by depriving of oxygen
suitable	(adj.) having the qualities that are right, needed, or appropriate for something
surpass	(v.) to be better than, or have more of a particular quality than another
suspect	(v.) to believe something is probably true
suspend	(v.) to hang something from a high place
suspicious	(adj.) causing a feeling that something is wrong
symptom	(n.) a sign that something is wrong with your body or mind
take (over)	(v.) to assume control or possession
teamwork	(n.) cooperative or coordinated effort on the part of a group of persons acting together as a team
thereby	(adv.) because of that
thus	(adv.) in the way just indicated; in this way
trace	(v.) to find out how something got started or developed
trait	(n.) a distinguishing characteristic or quality
tremendous	(adj.) very large or great
trigger	(n.) something that causes something else to happen
turn out	(phrase) prove to be the case
undeniable	(adj.) clearly true; impossible to deny
undergo	(v.) to have something necessary or unpleasant happen to you
vandal	(n.) a person who deliberately destroys or damages property
vertical	(adj.) standing or pointing straight up

vibrant	(adj.) having or showing great life, activity and energy
vice versa	(adv.) used to say that the opposite of a statement is also true
virtual	(adj.) almost but not entirely
virulent	(adj.) extremely dangerous and deadly and usually spreading very quickly
vital	(adj.) necessary or very important
weapon	(n.) an object like a gun or knife used to hurt or kill
whereby	(adv.) by means of which
withdraw	(v.) to pull back, move back, or remove