

Context Clues Worksheet #2
Humanities

2 pts. per question, 84 pts. Total Possible

Directions: 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 write the correct answer in the space provided.

_____ 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. 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 hurdling 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

_____ 17. 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.

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

_____ 19. 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.

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.

What does labor mean?

- 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 a while.

What does society mean?

- 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.

What does foremost mean?

- 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.

What does implement mean?

- 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.

What does devise mean?

- 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.

What does optimistic mean?

- 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.

What does sagacity mean?

- 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.

What does assure mean?

- A. dare
- B. promise
- C. act like a donkey
- D. forget