

Word Meaning Test: Examples of Acceptable Responses

Note: A response is acceptable if it encapsulates the target word's main concept, as given below. Where appropriate, we also provide examples of sentences some test takers have used successfully to give a word's meaning.

Also note that you may accept a response that gives the meaning for another part of speech—for example, if a learner tells what “aggressive” (adjective) means instead of the target word “aggression” (noun)—as long as the main concept is included.

Level 1:

home

Main concept: place where a person lives

train

Main concepts: railway car; subway
to teach

confuse

Main concept: mix up

start

Main concept: begin

climb

Main concept: go up or down

Level 2:

touch

Main concepts: come in contact with
feel something
put your hand on something

visit

Main concept: go to a person or place

finish

Main concepts: bring to an end
done; over; completed

fence

Main concepts: gate; barrier
something that you put around the yard to protect it

pretend

Main concepts: make believe
to act out something that's not real
to fake that you're doing something

Sample Sentences: "When people act, they're pretending to be other persons."

"That child is pretending to be an elephant."

Level 3:

beast

Main concepts: monster; animal
cruel, nasty person

explain

Main concepts: make someone understand
give directions or tell about something carefully
make clear

Sample Sentence: "I wrote this letter, but you don't know what I'm talking about.
I'll explain it so that you understand."

guard

Main concepts: protect
someone who watches prisoners

ordinary

Main concepts: normal; everyday; average

distant

Main concept: far off

Level 4:

connect

Main concepts: join together
attach one thing to another

interruption

Main concepts: break in an activity
butting in; disturbing
when someone is talking, and you cut in

Sample sentence: "It's an interruption when you're in a meeting and someone comes and knocks on the door."

ruin

Main concepts: destroy
really spoil something

inventor

Main concepts: makes things
the one who thought it up
a person that designed something out of his own imagination

candidate

Main concepts: someone who runs for office

Level 5:

energetic

Main concepts: very active
full of pep

victorious

Main concept: having won

territory

Main concepts: land area
someone's property

urge

Main concepts: basic desire
push forward

oppose

Main concepts: be against
challenge
object

Level 6:

surrender

Main concept: to give up

Sample sentence: "The man surrendered after holding everyone hostage."

occupation

Main concepts: job; something you do for a living

decline

Main concepts: become less; go lower
refuse; reject
to turn something down; say no to something

consume

Main concepts: eat or drink up; digest
use it up

dismal

Main concepts: gloomy; dark; grayish

Level 7:

confide

Main concepts: entrust to another; give somebody your trust
tell a secret to somebody

acquaintance

Main concepts: person you know; person you just met
be familiar with someone or something

resume

Main concepts: go on with
re-start; begin where you left off

ample

Main concepts: plenty; more than enough; abundance of something

obligation

Main concepts: duty; something you have to do

Sample sentence: "You are obligated to take the trash out every weekend."

Level 8:

cease

Main concepts: stop
come to an end

aggression

Main concepts: hostile behavior; an attack
showing a lot of attitude and using physical force to get what you want
being militant

reputation

Main concepts: the opinion of others
how you're known; how people look at you
good or bad description of a person's character

perseverance

Main concepts: sticking to an aim
persistent; going to keep going

proposition

Main concepts: formal statement
plan or undertaking; an offer; a deal; a business request

Level 9/10:

dispute

Main concepts: disagreement; argument; quarrel
to fight over

agitate

Main concepts: to disturb; to aggravate
swish around, like a washing machine

initiate

Main concepts: to do first
to start something, you are the first to start something
to take into a group

audible

Main concept: can be heard

prominent

Main concepts: standing out
well-known

Sample sentence: "He is the most prominent lawyer in the city."

Level 11/12:

tedious

Main concepts: tiresome; boring; dull; laborious
time-consuming, aggravating work
a long, repetitive, boring thing

repulsive

Main concepts: disgusting
something that makes you really sick to your stomach

indifferent

Main concepts: not caring about what is happening
neither good nor bad

Sample sentence: "She is indifferent to what's going on in the world."

inconsistent

Main concepts: not compatible with; not in harmony with
not done on a regular basis; not all the time
different every time

punctual

Main concept: on time