

Comparison-Contrast Context Clues

DIRECTIONS Determine the meaning of the italicized words below.

- Underline the comparison-contrast context clues. Look for words or phrases that might have the same or opposite meaning of the italicized words.
- Write what you think the words mean. Be prepared to explain your responses.

1. Maria has a high *aptitude* for science. Jessica, on the other hand, has to work hard to get passing grades.

Aptitude means _____

2. The coastal town felt *balmy*. Further inland, however, the cold front brought harsh weather.

Balmy means _____

3. The music business is hit and miss. The least talented players may be *exalted* by fans while the more talented players go completely unnoticed.

Exalted means _____

4. Although my sister Marguerite is normally quite *amiable*, she sometimes becomes unpleasant when she is worried about a looming deadline.

Amiable means _____

5. The *decrepit* building looked every one of its eighty-five years old, and the addition of a brand-new neighbor, a high-rise office building, made it look even more worn.

Decrepit means _____

6. Tamara enjoyed being in the open space of her home much more than being *jostled* through the dense crowd at the party.

Jostled means _____

7. Carmen *loathed* the stage, and Miguel also disliked being in front of a crowd.

Loathed means _____

8. Following the chemistry teacher's *meticulous* example, the students carefully set up their experiments.

Meticulous means _____

9. Just as the police could not find any *pertinent* information, the experts also made no useful discoveries.

Pertinent means _____

10. My kitten perched *precariously* on the high picket fence, and my neighbor's cat struggled not to fall as well.

Precariously means _____

- In the U.S., flashing headlights mean, “I’m coming through,” whereas in Britain they mean, “Please go first.”

**p. 28 | Your Turn 3: Additional Practice
Comparison-Contrast Structure**

Responses and graphic organizers will vary but should be linked to the text. Sample responses follow.

Method of Organization: block method

Subject 1: Flowering Plants

- **Environment:** largest, most diverse family of plants; exist in most environments
- **Structure:** have roots, stems, leaves, and cells that conduct water
- **Reproduction:** reproduce by forming seeds within flowers or fruits and by releasing seeds
- **Uses:** important food source, fiber, hardwood timber
- **Plants included:** most grains, vegetables, fruits, and herb plants, as well as hardwood trees

Subject 2: Nonflowering Plants

- **Environment:** not as numerous or diverse as flowering plants; exist in many environments, but some species must be close to water and grow in shady, moist areas
- **Structure:** less advanced members lack roots, stems, leaves, or water conducting cells; more advanced varieties have a water conducting system
- **Reproduction:** reproduce through spores or external seeds
- **Uses:** yard and garden plants, construction material, paper pulp
- **Plants included:** mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and conifers such as redwoods and pines

**p. 29 | Vocabulary Mini-Lesson
Comparison-Contrast Context Clues**

1. **aptitude** *n*: ability to learn, skill
clue: on the other hand
2. **balmy** *adj*: pleasant or fair
clue: however
3. **exalted** *v*: raised up by praise
clue: while
4. **amiable** *adj*: friendly, good-natured
clue: although
5. **decrepit** *adj*: worn down or damaged by age or use
clue: and, even more
6. **jostled** *v*: bumped or pushed, as in a crowd
clue: much more than
7. **loathed** *v*: hated
clue: and, also
8. **meticulous** *adj*: very careful
clue: following
9. **pertinent** *adj*: related, relevant
clue: just as, also
10. **precariously** *adv*: unsecurely, dangerously
clue: and, as well

**p. 30 | Test-Taking Mini-Lesson
Main Idea**

Passage A

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. A | 3. A |
| 2. J | 4. G |

Passage B

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 5. D | 8. F |
| 6. F | 9. D |
| 7. B | 10. H |