

Level M - Form 1 - Reading: Words in Context

Sample Question

Read the sentences. Then choose the best answer to the question.

Peter ordered a salad and a glass of juice. The waiter asked him what kind of dressing to put on the salad.

The word *dressing* as it is used here means

- A a mixture used for stuffing
- B the act of putting on clothes
- C a sauce that is added to a dish
- D something put on a wound

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Here is a story about an embarrassing situation at work. Read the story. Then do Numbers 1 through 5.

The Lab Coat

Victor had been a foreman at the factory for three years, and he was hoping for a promotion. His supervisor, Dan, knew Victor wanted the job, and Dan always seemed satisfied with Victor's work. Victor felt like he was on pins and needles just waiting to hear who would be the new section manager. Finally Roberta, the office manager, delivered the message Victor had been expecting. She said, "Victor, Dan wants to see you."

"This is it," Victor thought to himself as he ducked into the locker room to see how he looked in the mirror. As Victor combed his hair, he froze: on the front of his white shirt was a horrible coffee stain. Moving swiftly, Victor put on a lab coat before he rushed to Dan's office.

"I apologize for being late, Dan, I just wanted to make a last-minute inspection of the equipment."

"That's OK, Victor. I wanted you to know I've chosen you for the position of section manager."

"That's terrific," said Victor. "I know I'll do a good job for you."

"I'm sure you will," said Dan. "You can start by putting on your lab coat right side out!"

1. The story says that Victor "was hoping for a promotion."

What does the word *promotion* mean as it is used in the story?

- A bigger salary
- B new shirt
- C better job
- D important message

2. The story says that Victor moved swiftly to put on a lab coat.

What does the word *swiftly* mean as it is used in the story?

- F slyly
- G softly
- H quickly
- J heavily

3. Victor tells Dan that he was making a “last-minute inspection of the equipment.”

What does the word *equipment* refer to in this story?

- A products
- B machinery
- C problems
- D lab coat

4. Dan says that he chose Victor “for the position of section manager.”

What does the word *section* mean as it is used in the story?

- F segment
- G honor
- H service
- J action

5. Read the sentence and the question to decide which word goes in the blank.

Victor wanted to _____ Dan.

Which of these words means that Victor wanted to make Dan think well of him?

- A lose
- B amuse
- C impress
- D embarrass



Study this job advertisement. Then do Numbers 6 through 14.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

**Many Openings for
Strong Workers to Grow
a Bumper Crop of Apples!**

Rising Sun Orchards

is taking applications for
FARMWORK CREW LEADERS
Saturday, April 21, 2003
2000 Valley Farm Road
Sherborn, Massachusetts



Rising Sun Orchards is one of the largest farming groups in the state. We offer high pay and a safe workplace. Any person interested in working for us must apply in person. Please pick up your application form at the farm office on a weekday. The office is open between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Proof of legal worker status is required. You may use a U.S. birth certificate, a green card, or other proof that you are a U.S. citizen. We will deduct 8 percent from all paychecks to pay Social Security taxes. Since this is temporary work lasting only from April through June, we offer no medical insurance. Only experienced farmworkers need apply.

If you have any questions, call Monday through Friday at 555-7698.

6. The first line of the ad refers to “many openings.”

What does the word openings mean in this ad?

- F jobs
- G apples
- H ladders
- J cars

7. The third line says they want to grow a “bumper crop of apples.”

Which of these means the **opposite** of the word *bumper*?

- A small
- B rotten
- C huge
- D unusual

8. The ad says that Rising Sun Orchards “is taking applications for farmwork crew leaders.”

What is an *application*?

- F an experienced worker
- G a line of people waiting
- H a promise to work hard
- J a request for work

9. The ad says that “proof of legal worker status is required.”

Which of these means the **opposite** of the word *required*?

- A paid out
- B lost forever
- C taken away
- D not needed

10. The ad says that Rising Sun Orchards “will deduct 8 percent from all paychecks.”

Which of these means the **opposite** of the word *deduct*?

- F add
 - G earn
 - H erase
 - J write in
11. Which of these words says that the workers would get medical insurance?

If these jobs were permanent, medical insurance would be _____.

- A denied
 - B provided
 - C withheld
 - D expensive
12. Which of these words shows what is advertised?

This advertisement offers readers _____.

- F eating
- G education
- H employment
- J entertainment

13. Which of these words shows the type of work advertised?

This advertisement is for jobs in _____.

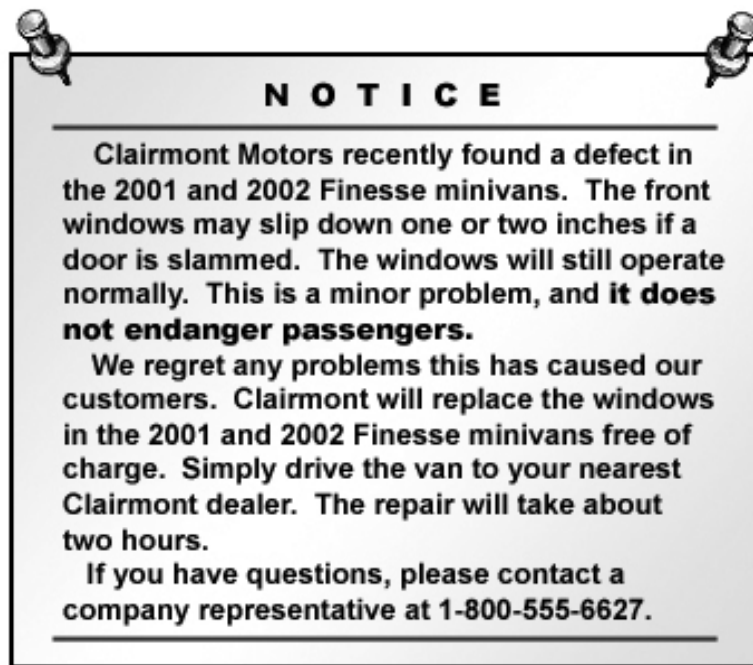
- A sales
- B factories
- C agriculture
- D government

14. The ad says that “this is temporary work.”

Which of these means the **opposite** of *temporary*?

- F outdoor
- G difficult
- H dangerous
- J permanent

Sanjay saw this notice at his local garage. Read the notice. Then do Numbers 15 through 20.



15. The first paragraph of the notice mentions a “defect in the 2001 and 2002 Finesse minivans.”

What does the word *defect* mean?

- A toy
- B insect
- C window
- D imperfection

16. The notice says that the minivan windows operate normally after they slip down.

What words means the **opposite** of the word *operate* as it is used in the notice?

- F work
- G fall down
- H break down
- J perform surgery

17. The notice says that the minivans have a minor problem.

What word means the **opposite** of the word *minor* as it is used in the notice?

- A silly
- B important
- C mechanical
- D underground

18. The notice says that the problem “does not endanger passengers.”

What does the word *endanger* mean?

- F break apart for
- G calm down
- H put at risk
- J poke at

19. The notice says that Clairmont Motors regrets any problems it has caused customers.

What phrase means the **opposite** of the word *regrets* as it is used in the notice?

- A will not fix
- B cannot find
- C is not sorry
- D is not to blame

20. The last paragraph mentions a company representative.

What does the word *representative* mean as it is used in this notice?

- F someone who speaks for the company
- G someone who complains about the company
- H someone who repairs minivans for the company
- J someone who sells a different brand of minivan