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Introduction

Words make a lot of difference. Good writers use interesting words. They have large and varied vocabularies. Good readers know the meanings behind lots of words.

Many types of tests use vocabulary as one of their chief assessment areas. It might not always be called a 'vocabulary' section, but you can score poorly in 'comprehension' or 'word usage' if there are many words which you don't know.

One of the purposes of this book is to begin to build an interest in words.

Building a vocabulary is a lifelong task. It begins in the home and in the crib. It must be reinforced at every stage – kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and even for senior citizens. Certainly one of the reasons for failure in secondary and university courses is lack of knowledge of the vocabulary used in that subject.

This book will teach some vocabulary, but its real purpose is to awaken a deeper interest in words – all kinds of words: portmanteau words (the words that are all scrunched together like 'motel'), clipped words (for example, 'gym' for 'gymnasium'), abbreviations (like 'Qld' for 'Queensland'), and origins of the days of the week (like 'Moon's Day' for 'Monday').

Don't hesitate to extend these lessons further by discussing similar words. Try to get them into use by your students in both speaking and writing practice. Above all, help to develop an interest in every kind of vocabulary from slang in dialogue to formal words in essays, in subjects such as mathematics or social studies and in everyday use.

Lesson 1a: Clipped Words

Directions: 'Clipped' (or shortened) words are words we use all the time.

If 'flu' is the clipped word for 'influenza' and 'bike' is the clipped word for 'bicycle', what is the clipped word for the following words?

You can select your answer from the Answer Box below.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. telephone _____ | 6. luncheon _____ |
| 2. necktie _____ | 7. moving picture _____ |
| 3. examination _____ | 8. veterinarian _____ |
| 4. submarine _____ | 9. zoological garden _____ |
| 5. aeroplane _____ | 10. limousine _____ |

Answer Box

limo	typo	movie
zoo	exam	fridge
dorm	bike	tails
plane	phone	vet
lunch	tie	sub

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 1b: More Clipped Words

Directions: Here are some clipped words.

What is the full word for these words?

Example: vet = veterinarian

You can select your answer from the Answer Box below.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. ad _____ | 6. teen _____ |
| 2. auto _____ | 7. gym _____ |
| 3. memo _____ | 8. maths _____ |
| 4. con _____ | 9. pop _____ |
| 5. taxi _____ | 10. photo _____ |

Answer Box

market	mathematics	professor
automatic	graduate	teenager
helicopter	advertisement	graduate
mathematics	stereophonic	popular
memorandum	taxicab	convict
photograph	percolate	gymnasium

Review Quiz *(cont.)*

You can look back at the lesson if you are stuck or can't spell the words correctly, but first try to give the answer without looking back.

Lesson 12a Review: Homophones

Directions: Write a homophone for each of the words below.

1. hare (a rabbit-like animal) _____
 2. flee (to run away) _____
 3. beach (sand at the edge of the sea) _____
 4. dye (to colour) _____
 5. dough (flour mixed with water or milk) _____
 6. rowed (moved a boat using oars) _____
 7. I'll (contraction of 'I will') _____
 8. aren't (contraction of 'are not') _____
 9. sail (a sheet of material attached to the mast of a boat to catch wind) _____
 10. paws (an animal's feet) _____
-

Lesson 12b Review: More Homophones

Directions: Beside each of the words below, write a word which is its homophone.

1. navel (belly button) _____
2. flare (to get wider) _____
3. weighed (measured weight) _____
4. vein (carries blood in the body) _____
5. soar (to fly high) _____
6. surf (waves at the beach) _____
7. choral (music sung by a choir) _____
8. prey (an animal hunted by another animal) _____
9. roll (to move by turning over) _____
10. reel (a cylinder to wind something on) _____