

# Verbal & Reading

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**Time For Kids**

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**Word Bank:**

(Skim through each word below first. Underline and look up each new word before you start the exercise.)

- acute
- bathe
- bleak
- fall
- foal
- foe
- fuse
- meek
- pave
- remote

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ friend
2. \_\_\_\_\_ separate
3. \_\_\_\_\_ close
4. \_\_\_\_\_ dry
5. \_\_\_\_\_ strong
6. \_\_\_\_\_ rise
7. \_\_\_\_\_ mild
8. \_\_\_\_\_ lively
9. \_\_\_\_\_ dig

**Time for Kids**

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**Word Bank:**

(Skim through each word below first. Underline and look up each new word before you start the exercise.)

- accused
- encouraged
- hovered
- labored
- reviving
- sipped
- sloped
- stifling
- unraveling
- uttered

Write the vocab word that matches each antonym.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ praised

11. \_\_\_\_\_ easy

12. \_\_\_\_\_ fresh

13. \_\_\_\_\_ dejected

14. \_\_\_\_\_ sunk

15. \_\_\_\_\_ hushed

16. \_\_\_\_\_ destroying

17. \_\_\_\_\_ guzzled

18. \_\_\_\_\_ flat

**Reading**

A pilot cannot fly a plane by sight alone. In many conditions, such as flying at night and landing in dense fog, a pilot must use radar, an alternative way of navigating. Since human eyes are not very good at determining speeds of approaching objects, radar can show a pilot how fast nearby planes are moving. The basic principle of radar is exemplified by what happens when one shouts in a cave. The echo of the sounds against the walls helps a person determine the size of the cave. With radar, however, the waves are radio waves instead of sound waves. Radio waves travel at the speed of light, about 300,000 kilometers in one second. A radar set sends out a short burst of radiation waves. Then it receives the echoes produced when the waves bounce off objects. By determining the time it takes for the echoes to return to the radar set, a trained technician can determine the distance between the radar set and other objects. The word “radar,” in fact, gets its name from the term “radio detection and ranging.” “Ranging” is the term for detection of the distance between an object and the radar set. Besides being of critical importance to pilots, radar is essential for air-traffic control, tracking ships at sea, and for tracking weather systems and storms.

19. What is the main topic of this passage?

- A) the nature of radar
- B) types of ranging
- C) alternatives to radar
- D) history of radar

20. In , the word “dense” could be replaced by

- A) cold
- B) wet
- C) dark
- D) thick

21. According to the passage, what can radar detect besides location of objects?  
A) size  
B) weight  
C) speed  
D) shape
22. The word “shouts” is most similar in meaning to which of the following?  
A) eavesdrops  
B) yells  
C) confesses  
D) whispers
23. Which of the following words best describes the tone of this passage?  
A) argumentative  
B) imaginative  
C) explanatory  
D) humorous
24. The phrase “a burst” is closest in meaning to which of the following?  
A) an attachment  
B) a discharge  
C) a stream  
D) a ray
25. The word “it” refers to which of the following?  
A) a radar set  
B) a short burst  
C) a radiation wave  
D) light
26. Which of the following could best replace the word “bounce”?  
A) overturn  
B) groove  
C) extend  
D) rebound
27. Which type of waves does radar use?  
A) sound  
B) heat  
C) radio  
D) light
28. The word “tracking” is closest in meaning to which of the following?  
A) repairing  
B) searching for  
C) glancing at  
D) fighting
29. Which of the following would most likely be the topic of the next paragraph?  
A) other uses of radar  
B) uses of sonar technology  
C) other technology used by pilots  
D) a history of flying

30. What might be inferred about radar?
- A) It takes the place of a radio.
  - B) It gave birth to the invention of the airplane.
  - C) It developed from a study of sound waves.
  - D) It has improved navigational safety.
31. What is the main topic of this passage?
- A) the disappearance of animal species at the end of the Triassic Period
  - B) evidence of a relatively sudden extinction of species
  - C) the possibility of an extinction happening simultaneously throughout the world
  - D) a meteorite hole in the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia

### Reading

About 200 million years ago, as the Triassic Period came to a close, many species of animals disappeared from the face of the Earth. Scientists previously believed that the series of extinctions happened over a period of 15 to 20 million years. Recent discoveries in Nova Scotia suggest, however, that the extinctions may have happened over a much shorter period of time, perhaps less than 850,000 years.

Evidence for a rapid extinction of species at the end of the Triassic Period is found in the McCoy Brook Formation along the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. Fossils found in this formation indicate a rapid disappearance of species rather than a slow and gradual change overtime. One explanation for a relatively sudden extinction at the end of the Triassic may be that a large meteorite struck the earth at the time and is responsible for a 70-kilometer hole nearby. If geologists and other researchers can find evidence, such as shocked quartz in the rock formations, that a meteorite did strike the earth, it would give more credence to the theory of rapid Triassic extinctions. It is possible, however, that even if a rapid extinction happened in and around Nova Scotia, it did not necessarily occur in the rest of the world.

32. Which of the following could best replace the word “close”?
- A) connection
  - B) dispersion
  - C) separation
  - D) end
33. The author uses the phrase “the face of the Earth” in order to
- A) emphasize the disappearance
  - B) focus on one part of the Earth
  - C) focus on one period of time
  - D) point out the reference to land, not water
34. All of the following were mentioned in the passage EXCEPT
- A) the extinction of late Triassic animals
  - B) the duration of time for the extinction
  - C) a large meteorite hitting the Earth 10 million years ago
  - D) the use of types of rock in scientific research

35. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word “relatively”?
- A) comparatively
  - B) independently
  - C) phenomenally
  - D) visibly
36. Where in the passage does the author give evidence for the argument?
- A)
  - B)
  - C)
  - D)
37. According to the passage, what would give evidence that a meteorite struck the earth?
- A) a gradual change in species over time
  - B) a change in the quartz
  - C) gold deposits in the veins of rocks
  - D) a change in the waters of the Bay of Fundy
38. Which of the following could best replace the word “struck”?
- A) affected
  - B) discovered
  - C) devastated
  - D) hit
39. Which of the following is most probably the meaning of “shocked quartz”?
- A) narrow chasms
  - B) tiny lines
  - C) hardened ores
  - D) cracked minerals
40. The word “it” refers to
- A) evidence
  - B) an extinction
  - C) the Earth
  - D) a meteorite
41. Which of the following could best replace the word “credence”?
- A) demonstration
  - B) elevation
  - C) suitability
  - D) credibility
42. Which of the following best describes the author’s tone?
- A) aggressive
  - B) explanatory
  - C) apologetic
  - D) cynical

**SSAT-PR2-291**

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One of the attractions of a new car is its showroom shine. Eventually, however, exposure to light, water, air pollution, and

other kinds of destructive factors begin to age the shine, and the gloss starts to fade. To restore the sheen you can use an auto polish. Choices include liquid, paste, and even spray forms of polish, also known as wax or sealants. Whichever form you choose, be sure to wash your car thoroughly beforehand. Rubbing tough road dirt into the surface will probably scratch the paint on your car.



Regardless of the type of polish you select, applying the polish should be easy. Perhaps the easiest to apply are liquids because they spread better than paste polishes. Be careful not to get polish on any kind of vinyl because the polish may affect the appearance of the vinyl. Instructions for polishing also include explanation for burnishing the car once the polish has dried. Usually you can use a soft, dry cotton cloth to restore that attractive showroom luster.

### Vocabulary Section

Sheen: A soft glow, especially on a surface.

Gloss: Shine or luster on a surface.

Exposure: Being subjected to something, especially over time.

Destructive: Causing damage or harm.

Polish: A substance used to restore or enhance the shine of a surface.

Vinyl: A type of plastic material often used in car interiors.

Burnish: To polish or make shiny by rubbing.

Luster: The quality of shining with reflected light; brightness.

Thoroughly: In a comprehensive or thorough manner.

Attractive: Appealing or pleasing to the senses.

43. What is one of the attractions of a new car mentioned in the passage?
- A) Fuel efficiency
  - B) Showroom shine
  - C) Engine power
  - D) Interior comfort
44. What are some factors that contribute to the fading of a car's gloss over time?
- A) Exposure to light, water, and air pollution
  - B) Lack of use
  - C) Engine problems
  - D) Low fuel quality
45. What caution is given regarding the application of polish on a car?
- A) Apply polish without washing the car.
  - B) Use vinyl polish on all surfaces.
  - C) Rub tough road dirt into the surface.
  - D) Wash the car thoroughly beforehand.

46. Why are liquids often considered the easiest to apply among different forms of polish?  
 A) They are cheaper.  
 B) They spread better than paste polishes.  
 C) They have a longer shelf life.  
 D) They provide a stronger shine.

47. What is the purpose of burnishing the car after applying polish?  
 A) To remove the paint.  
 B) To dry the polish.  
 C) To enhance the showroom luster.  
 D) To scratch the surface.

48. Explain why exposure to light, water, and air pollution can age the shine of a car.

49. Describe the caution regarding the application of polish on vinyl surfaces and its potential impact.

50. Why is it important to wash the car thoroughly before applying polish, according to the passage?

51. In what ways can exposure to destructive factors affect the longevity of a new car's showroom shine?

52. Based on the passage, what might be the consequences of neglecting to use auto polish on a car's exterior over time?

**SSAT-PR2-412**

Each town is built in a given site and situation. If the surrounding terrain is mountainous, a town's accessibility and, therefore, much of its potential growth are limited. Most of our large cities have grown on fairly flat land. Here they have ready accessibility as well as the important advantage of the low cost of developing and servicing flat land. Thus topographic differences between towns, affecting accessibility and cost, can help some communities grow at the expense of others.



Nevertheless, landforms are more often important in determining how (that is, in what shape) towns and cities grow than why they grow. For example, Amsterdam, a city virtually built on water, and San Francisco, which is built on steep hills and surrounded on three sides by water, continue to grow and prosper. Each of these has developed a unique character, partly because of its physical setting. In the early days of town building, when sites were chosen for defense (for example the island location of Montreal), the landforms limited the towns' outward



growth. Although these original limitations have ceased to affect any but the downtown areas, some modern communities must still adapt to their sites.

The outposts of western Newfoundland, which are limited to a narrow strip of land between the mountains and the ocean, provide one picturesque example.

It has often been observed by conservationists that cities such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Los Angeles have grown at the expense of some of our best farmland. This phenomenon does not mean, however, that good soils are a prerequisite for urban growth. Many of these cities were originally agricultural market towns and grew because farming prospered. Only when transportation improvements enabled long-distance shipping of food could the city afford to “bite off the land that feeds it.” The ease and low cost of building on flat land were also significant factors.

An example of this conflict between urban and agricultural land uses is found in the Niagara Peninsula fruit belt of Ontario. This district has both sandy, well-drained soils and a moderate climate suited for tender-fruit growing, a very rare combination in Canada. However, the soils and climate, combined with its proximity to the Toronto Hamilton urban industrial complex, make this region ideal for urban growth. As a result, some of the most valuable and irreplaceable farmland in southern Ontario has been taken out of production and built on.

A pleasant climate has played a significant role in the growth of some towns and cities. Many Florida cities have prospered because of an almost year-round tourist trade. Arizona’s warm dry winters attract many people, often with respiratory diseases, to Tucson, Phoenix, and other urban centers. The famous climate of southern California has been one of the major factors in its rapid urbanization and general population growth. Much of the California boom was also due to the fact that the film and

airplane industries located there to take advantage of the sunshine and warm winters. Thus, some urban growth can best be explained by environmental factors.

### Vocabulary Section

**Topographic:** (adjective) Relating to the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.

**Accessibility:** (noun) The quality of being easily reached or entered.

**Adapt:** (verb) Adjust or modify to suit a new purpose or conditions.

**Outpost:** (noun) A distant military station or a remote settlement.

**Prerequisite:** (noun) A thing that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen.

**Prosper:** (verb) Flourish physically, grow strong and healthy.

**Conflict:** (noun) A serious disagreement or argument.

**Farmland:** (noun) Land that is or can be used for farming.

**Irreplaceable:** (adjective) Too special or valuable to be replaced.

**Urbanization:** (noun) The process of making an area more urban, the growth of cities.

53. What is a significant advantage of large cities growing on flat land?
- A) Enhanced natural beauty
  - B) Low cost of development
  - C) Defense capabilities
  - D) Mountainous terrain

54. Which city is mentioned as virtually built on water?  
A) Toronto  
B) Vancouver  
C) Amsterdam  
D) Los Angeles
55. What example is provided for a conflict between urban and agricultural land uses?  
A) Niagara Peninsula fruit belt  
B) Arizona's warm winters  
C) Florida's tourist trade  
D) California's film industry
56. What factor contributed significantly to the rapid urbanization of southern California?  
A) Year-round tourist trade  
B) Film and airplane industries  
C) Well-drained soils  
D) Remote settlement
57. What term is used to describe the unique character developed by cities due to their physical setting?  
A) Urbanization  
B) Outpost  
C) Prerequisite  
D) Topographic
58. Explain the role of landforms in determining the shape of towns and cities.
59. Provide an example from the passage of a town limited in its outward growth due to landforms.
60. How did transportation improvements contribute to the conflict between urban and agricultural land uses?
61. Discuss the role of climate in the growth of towns and cities, using examples from the passage.
62. In what ways might environmental factors continue to shape urban growth in the future?

# Answer Key

**Time For Kids**

1. foe
2. fuse
3. remote
4. bathe
5. meek
6. fall
7. acute
8. bleak
9. pave

**Time for Kids**

10. accused
11. labored
12. stifling
13. encouraged
14. hovered
15. uttered
16. reviving
17. sipped
18. sloped

**Reading**

19. A
20. D
21. C
22. B
23. C
24. B
25. A
26. D
27. C
28. B
29. A
30. D

**Reading**

31. B
32. D
33. A
34. C
35. A
36. B
37. B
38. D

39. D

40. A

41. D

42. B

**SSAT-PR2-291**

43. B

44. A

45. D

46. B

47. C

48. Exposure to these elements can cause oxidation, fading, and other forms of damage to the surface, leading to the aging of the car's shine.

49. Polish should be avoided on vinyl surfaces as it may affect their appearance. Vinyl surfaces can be negatively impacted, so care must be taken during the polishing process.

50. Washing the car removes dirt and prevents scratching during the polishing process. Applying polish to a dirty surface may lead to scratches on the car's paint.

51. Exposure to factors like light, water, and air pollution can lead to oxidation, fading, and other damages, diminishing the longevity of the showroom shine.

52. Neglecting to use auto polish may result in the continued deterioration of the car's shine due to exposure to environmental factors. This can lead to a loss of the attractive showroom luster and potentially reduce the overall aesthetic appeal of the car.

**SSAT-PR2-412**

53. B

54. C

55. A

56. B

57. A

58. Landforms affect accessibility and cost, influencing how towns and cities grow.

59. Outposts of western Newfoundland, limited by mountains and the ocean.
60. Improved transportation enabled long-distance shipping of food, allowing urban areas to expand into agricultural regions.
61. Pleasant climates in Florida, Arizona, and southern California contributed to urban growth, attracting tourists and industries.
62. Environmental factors such as climate, accessibility, and landforms will likely continue to influence where and how cities grow, impacting their development and sustainability.