

Lesson 6: Unfamiliar Vocab & Part 1 Practice

(approximately one hour)

A. Tips for confronting unfamiliar vocabulary (30 min.)

Chances are, you're going to run into at least a few vocabulary words on the ELA Regents that you're not familiar with. Don't panic! There are a lot of different strategies you can use to help figure out the meaning of these unfamiliar words.

Watch this helpful video for some tips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0auqQ82551Y>

Vocabulary Exercise

Directions: Read each sentence and determine the meaning of the word using sentence clues or your prior knowledge. Then, explain what clues in the sentence helped you determine the word meaning, so you can keep reading a passage without a dictionary.

1. **Extraordinary:** Kevin may know how to layup a basketball, but my jump shot is **extraordinary**.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

2. **Establish:** Even though peace between the two formerly warring nations had been **established** for years now, the soldier still woke cold from dreams of battle.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

3. **Scrupulous:** I wanted to just set the table and be done with it, but my mother **scrupulously** arranged each napkin, dish, and utensil until they were in perfect alignment.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

4. **Consent:** Jake asked his mother for permission to go to his friend Rodney’s dance party, stating that his grades had improved, and he was quite pleased when she **consented**.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

5. **Vexed:** When Jose found out that his little brother Emilio carelessly broke his Xbox disc tray, Jose was **vexed** and sure let Emilio know it.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

6. **Tact:** Jane could have easily offended Bertha when she informed her that the dress did not fit her well, but Jane used **tact** and consideration when choosing her words, so Bertha understood without being hurt.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

7. **Emphatic:** Her parents really wanted her to attend the local university, but Shaniqua argued her case so **emphatically** and with such great passion, that her parents gave Shaniqua their consent.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

8. **Conjecture:** Stanley tried to determine the meaning of the vocabulary word, but there were so few clues in the sentence all he could do was hopelessly **conjecture** as to what the word might mean.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

9. **Ascertain:** The clues in the sentence were so helpful, Stanley was able to **ascertain** the meaning of the word beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Meaning: _____

What clues in the sentence lead you to your definition?

B. More Part 1 Practice (30 min.)

Practice using June 2019 Regents exam, Part 1, Passage C

Review your process, and then use your skills to read and answer the questions for Passage C.

C. Select Part 2 topic for next session (less than 5 min.)

During the next two sessions, we'll be taking a look at Part 2 of the exam, where you'll be asked to write an argumentative essay defending your position on a topic. This topic will **always** be a question beginning with "Should...?", so your answer or **position** will always contain the words "should" or "should not".

Next time, you'll be practicing strategies for outlining this type of argumentative essay. While you won't get a choice of topic on the actual exam, for our practice session, you can pick one of these topics that sound interesting to you! Take a look at the list of topics below and circle the one you'd like to focus on.

Past Exams' Part 2 Topics

June 2018: *Is graffiti vandalism?*

August 2017: *Should self-driving cars replace human drivers?*

January 2016: *Should food be genetically modified?*

June 2015: *Should college athletes be paid?*

January 2015: *Should extinct species be brought back into existence?*