

Synonyms in context 1

Select the word which is **MOST SIMILAR** in meaning to the word underlined in the sentence or phrase on the left. Use a dictionary and thesaurus to help you. There is no time limit. There is only one right answer for each question. Indicate your answer by circling one of the letters A - E.

1.

	A	B	C	D	E
I <u>rarely</u> go.	often	seldom	really	never	sometimes

2.

	A	B	C	D	E
It is a <u>forgery</u> .	mistake	factory	masterpiece	fake	fault

3.

	A	B	C	D	E
A <u>tedious</u> book.	thick	famous	boring	notorious	tremendous

4.

	A	B	C	D	E
<u>Singed</u> hair.	short	curly	burnt	brunette	blond

5.

	A	B	C	D	E
A tremendous <u>feat</u> .	gala	fiesta	future	achievement	victory

6.

	A	B	C	D	E
He's <u>industrious</u> .	diligent	lazy	indolent	manufacturing	working

7.

	A	B	C	D	E
A <u>handy</u> tip.	useless	useful	sharp	blunt	possible

Punctuation 1

Identify **PUNCTUATION ERRORS** in each part of the text. Circle **ONE** of the options A-D, or N if you think there are no errors. The time limit is 4 minutes – time yourself!

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
1. Stopping for just a moment to catch her breath, Lucy looked up to see, the bus turning right just
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
2. ahead of her; She took a deep breath and started running as fast as her legs would carry her.
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
3. Thinking she'd never make it to the bus stop in time. she was on the point of giving up the chase,
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
4. but filling her lungs to capacity with several: deep breaths, she summoned up an extra spurt of
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
5. energy and continued sprinting along the road. "Im just going to make it!" she blurted out, to
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
6. the consternation of a pedestrian! walking towards her from the opposite direction. Ahead, she
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
7. could see the bus starting to slow down and signal as it approached the next bus stop. It came to
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
8. a halt and the passenger's queuing at the stop made for the opening doors. With a last dash, Lucy
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
9. jumped on board too, grinning widely at the bemused driver. She flashed her bus pass at her
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
10. and walked, nonchalantly up the aisle towards the back row. She was aware that one or two of
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
11. the other passengers were turning their heads to look at her, one of them discernibly muttering
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | A | | B | | C | | D | | N | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
12. something. Lucy took little notice, focusing instead on regaining control of her now spent breath

Spelling 1

Identify **SPELLING ERRORS** in each part of the text. Circle **ONE** of the options A-D, or N if you think there are no errors. The time limit is 3 minutes.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
1. The young Princess was especialy fond of music and drawing. Her education was designed to
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
2. prepare her for her future position as Queen of England, but the Princess did not know that she
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
3. was likely to be the Queen one day. She read much, mainly histery books, and these were often
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
4. chosen for her by her uncle. The family life was regular and simple. Lessons, a walk or drive, a few
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
5. simple plesures made up her typical day. Breakfast was at half past eight, lunch at half past one,
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
6. and dinner at seven. Afternoon tea at four was alowed only when she was an older child, and
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
7. even then it was as a treat. The Queen herself once said: "I was brought up very simpley - never
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
8. had a room to myself till I was nearly grown up - always slept in my mother's room till I came
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
9. to the thrown." It is interesting to note what those who knew little Victoria at this time say about
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
10. her. She was, we are told, exceedingly afectionate, very full of high spirits, fond of life in the
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
11. open air. During the years which followed she went more into society and payed visits to
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
12. interesting places. Everywhere that she went she was recieved with great enthusiasm.

Missing letters 1

Fill in the missing letters in the word on the right, which is **THE SAME** or **SIMILAR** in meaning to the word on the left. Write them in neatly. You should not use a dictionary. The time limit is 5 minutes.

1. tranquillity p ____ ____ ce
2. essential n ____ ____ ____ ssary
3. shook tre ____ ____ led
4. trip e ____ ____ ursion
5. weary t ____ ____ ____ d
6. frighten sc ____ ____ ____
7. interfered me ____ ____ led
8. bite ____ ip
9. right c ____ ____ ____ ect
10. laughed chu ____ ____ ____ ed
11. broad w ____ ____ ____
12. kind tho ____ ____ ____ tful
13. find dis ____ ____ ____ er
14. remaining l ____ ____ t
15. hopeful optim ____ ____ tic

Comprehension 9

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow it. Time limit: **11 minutes**

Aiken

1. It was one September evening. All the people of the village were standing by their doorsteps talking about their bad harvest and what the chances were of getting a reasonable price for their poor crops.

All at once a humming noise came up from the riverside. It came nearer and nearer, and all the

5. people stopped talking and began to look down the village road. And coming up the road past the horse stables was a small man with a long beard. Some horses strained to see who was making the strange sound. The man seemed to be humming something over and over. As he came nearer, the people of the village could make out the words: "Have you any work for Aiken? Any work for Aiken?"
10. The village folk, who were quite unused to strangers, crowded around the little man. They saw that his face was kind and gentle and that his eyes had a merry twinkle in them.

"Good sir," said an old man of the village, "tell us what you want and where you came from."

"I cannot well tell you where I came from," said the stranger genially. "My country is a nameless land and is very different from this land of yours. Back there, we all learn to serve, while here

15. every one wishes to be served. When there is no work for us to do at home, we sometimes set out to visit other lands to see if there is work we can do there. If you wish, I will stay here for a while. I want no pay - offer to pay me and I'll have to go home. All I ask for is a corner of the barn to sleep in, bread and vegetables and a warm bowl of soup at bedtime. I shall be ready to help anyone who needs me. I'll gather your sheep on the hill. I'll take in the harvest by
20. moonlight. I'll bake your bread on a busy day. I'll even tame those young colts in the stables."

No one knew quite what to say in answer to the man's strange request. It was an unheard-of thing for anyone to come and offer his services for nothing. Some thought it could not be true; other said it were better to have nothing to do with him.

But the miller offered the man a corner of his barn to sleep in, and his wife promised to make

25. him some broth at bedtime and to come down to the barn with it every evening. Then all the people of the village said, "Good night," and went to their homes. But some looked over their shoulders, suspicious that the little man was trying to deceive them all.

But if some were doubtful of him that night, they had a very different story to tell about him before a month had passed. Whatever he was or wherever he came from, he was the most

30. wonderful worker that they had ever known. The funny thing was, they rarely saw him. They might have gone to the miller's barn twenty times a day, and twenty times a day they would have found nothing but a heap of straw and an empty broth bowl.

But whenever there was work to be done - a farmyard to be made tidy, or a batch of bread loaves to be made, or a flock of sheep to be gathered together on a stormy night - Aiken

35. somehow always knew of it and helped just at the right time.

And maybe he would never have gone away if everyone in the village had remembered that he would not work for pay. But a good man of the village forgot, and one day he planned to give something to Aiken. "He should not work for nothing," said the man. "He has already worn out his coat and trousers and shoes working for us all."

40. So one day he put some money in an envelope, enough for new clothing and shoes, and laid the envelope by the side of the empty bowl of broth in the miller's barn. Aiken vanished that same day as anyone from his land was sure to do if someone tried to pay them for work. And all the people of the village talked of the kind deeds of the little man who came one evening into their midst, and they wondered if he would ever come back again.

(Adapted from *Merry Tales* by Ada M. Skinner)

Now answer questions 1-15. You can look at the passage again if you need to, but do not use a dictionary. Choose the best answer by circling one of the options A. – E.

1. How were the village people feeling before Aiken arrived?
 - A. Weary.
 - B. Happy.
 - C. Anxious.
 - D. Relaxed.
 - E. Curious.
2. How often did strangers visit the village?
 - A. Sometimes.
 - B. Rarely.
 - C. Frequently.
 - D. Now and then.
 - E. Regularly.
3. Complete the following analogy: 'Horse is to stables as pig is to...
 - A. lairs.'
 - B. sties.'
 - C. dens.'
 - D. setts.'
 - E. warrens.'