Vocabulary in context: composure versus turmoil

A vocabulary-in-context question is answered by the sentence, not by a memorized. . .



Lesson `grev.vocab.V12`

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The idea

A vocabulary-in-context question is answered by the sentence, not by a memorized gloss. The sentence almost always plants a clue — a defining phrase, an example, a contrast, or a consequence — that pins down which meaning the writer intends.

What clue in the sentence fixes the intended meaning of the word, and what plain paraphrase does that clue predict?

Predict a paraphrase from the clue before reading the options. Then match, discarding opposites, wrong-nuance near-synonyms, wrong dictionary senses, and sound-alikes.

Watch every step

After the frantic harvest, the whole village sank into deep repose, sleeping late and moving slowly for a week.

As used in the sentence, 'repose' most nearly means

A. restless activity ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. idle boredom ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

C. restful calm

D. to place trust in ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

E. to state again ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why C — "restful calm." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

Now a harder one

The wedding was a sedate affair, with soft music, quiet conversation, and not a single raucous toast.

As used in the sentence, 'sedate' most nearly means

A. wild and boisterous ✗ *opposite-meaning*

✓ **B.** calm and unhurried

C. gloomy and mournful ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

D. to drug into calmness ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

E. seated and stationary ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why B — "calm and unhurried." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

The method, in one line

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Predict a paraphrase from the clue before reading the options. Then match, discarding opposites, wrong-nuance near-synonyms, wrong dictionary senses, and sound-alikes.

Could my choice replace the word and preserve the sentence's logic? Have I resisted the opposite, the almost-right synonym, and the alternate sense the context rules out?

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ opposite-meaning
Selects a meaning roughly opposite to the one the clue requires.

⚠ near-synonym-wrong-nuance
Selects a meaning in the right general family but with the wrong precise nuance for this sentence.

Name the trap before you pick — most wrong answers are one of these two.

Try it, then watch the walk-through

Explore this live

Watch the walk-through