Vocabulary in context: munificence vs. avarice

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



Lesson `grev.vocab.V18`

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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

The grasping landlord raised the rent the moment tenants signed, always angling for one more fee no matter how tight their budgets.

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

A. openly generous ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. greedily acquisitive

C. firmly assertive ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

D. quick to understand ideas ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

E. clumsy with the hands ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why **B** — "greedily acquisitive." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

Now a harder one

The openhanded host waved away all offers to split the bill and pressed leftovers and taxi fare on every departing guest.

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

A. tightfisted and grudging ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. welcoming to strangers ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

C. empty-handed ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

D. physically strong-gripped ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

E. generous; freely giving

Why E — "generous; freely giving." 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

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