Vocabulary in context: originality against. . .

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



Lesson `grev.vocab.V25`

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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

With inventive flair he solved the shortage by repurposing scrap that everyone else had thrown away.

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

A. unimaginative ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. hardworking ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

C. fabricated or made up ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

D. attentive or watchful ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

E. creatively original

Why E — "creatively original." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

Now a harder one

'Follow your dreams' struck the graduates as trite, a slogan so often repeated it had lost any power to move them.

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

A. fresh and stirring ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. dull from overuse

C. false ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

D. worn thin by rubbing ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

E. remorseful or contrite ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why B — "dull from overuse." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

The method, in one line

Vocabulary in context: originality against convention and. . .

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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Watch the walk-through