Vocabulary in context: skepticism and doubt...

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



Lesson `grev.vocab.V26`

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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

A note of dubiety crept into her voice; she clearly half-doubted the very excuse she was offering.

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

A. firm certainty ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. outright denial ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

C. a doubtful or questionable matter ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

D. a feeling of doubt

E. a duty or obligation ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why **D** — "a feeling of doubt." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

Now a harder one

After the scam, locals grew leery of any stranger offering easy money, suspecting a trick behind every promise.

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

A. openly trusting ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. warily suspicious

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

D. casting a sly, lustful glance ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

E. blurred or bleary of sight ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why **B** — "warily suspicious." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

The method, in one line

Vocabulary in context: skepticism and doubt against...

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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