Vocabulary in context: respect and reverence vs. . . .

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



Lesson `grev.vocab.V31`

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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

His proposal met only derision, the committee laughing it out of the room as absurd.

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

A. sincere praise ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. mockery, ridicule

C. harsh criticism ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

D. a mathematical division ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

E. a firm decision ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

Why **B** — "mockery, ridicule." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

Now a harder one

The experts scoffed at the amateur's theory, dismissing it with a laugh as beneath serious debate.

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

A. to earnestly endorse ✗ *opposite-meaning*

B. to gently tease ✗ *near-synonym-wrong-nuance*

C. to eat greedily ✗ *wrong-dictionary-sense*

D. to scuff or scrape ✗ *sound-alike-or-association*

E. to mock, jeer at

Why E — "to mock, jeer at." Choose the option closest to your predicted paraphrase.

The method, in one line

Vocabulary in context: respect and reverence vs. contempt...

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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