Vocabulary in context: precision among. . .

GRE vocabulary punishes approximate knowledge



Lesson `grev.vocab.V6`

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The idea

GRE vocabulary punishes approximate knowledge. Here every option is a near-synonym of the answer; only one matches the exact nuance the sentence builds.

What exact shade of meaning does the sentence build — deliberate or accidental, willful or impersonal, a state or an action, praising or faulting?

Predict the nuance in your own words before reading options; since all five are near-synonyms, eliminate by nuance, sense, register, and direction.

Watch every step

Careful crop rotation allowed the same field to give forth a heavier harvest each autumn than any of the neighboring plots managed to produce.

Which word best captures the quality the sentence describes?

- **A.** yield
- **B.** accrue ✗ *near-synonym, imprecise nuance*
- **C.** amass ✗ *wrong-sense word*
- **D.** proffer ✗ *wrong connotation/register*
- **E.** consume ✗ *antonym/contradicts context*

Why **A** — "yield." Select the one word whose nuance matches the prediction exactly.

Now a harder one

Within an hour of the announcement, the tiny support team was buried under far more messages than it could ever hope to read, let alone answer.

Which word best captures the quality the sentence describes?

A. saturate ✗ *near-synonym, imprecise nuance*

B. glut ✗ *wrong-sense word*

C. swamp ✗ *wrong connotation/register*

✓ **D.** inundate

E. deplete ✗ *antonym/contradicts context*

Why **D** — "inundate." Select the one word whose nuance matches the prediction exactly.

The method, in one line

Vocabulary in context: precision among near-synonyms, set 6

Predict the nuance in your own words before reading options; since all five are near-synonyms, eliminate by nuance, sense, register, and direction.

Would a second option 'sort of' work? Name what rules it out. The answer is the one you can defend against its nearest rival.

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ near-synonym, imprecise nuance

Selects a true synonym whose nuance (willfulness, scope, or emphasis) misfits the context.

⚠ wrong-sense word

Selects a word whose alternate sense (state vs action, literal vs figurative) does not match the context.

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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