

Vocabulary Size Test¹

Circle the letter a-d with the closest meaning to the key word in the question.

1. SEE: They **saw** it.
 - a. cut
 - b. waited for
 - c. looked at
 - d. started
 2. TIME: They have a lot of **time**.
 - a. money
 - b. food
 - c. hours
 - d. friends
 3. PERIOD: It was a difficult **period**.
 - a. question
 - b. time
 - c. thing to do
 - d. book
 4. FIGURE: Is this the right **figure**?
 - a. answer
 - b. place
 - c. time
 - d. number
 5. POOR: We are **poor**.
 - a. have no money
 - b. feel happy
 - c. are very interested
 - d. do not like to work hard
 6. DRIVE: He **drives** fast.
 - a. swims
 - b. learns
 - c. throws balls
 - d. uses a car
 7. JUMP: She tried to **jump**.
 - a. lie on top of the water
 - b. get off the ground suddenly
 - c. stop the car at the edge of the road
 - d. move very fast
 8. SHOE: Where is your **shoe**?
 - a. the person who looks after you
 - b. the thing you keep your money in
 - c. the thing you use for writing
 - d. the thing you wear on your foot
 9. STANDARD: Her **standards** are very high.
 - a. the bits at the back under her shoes
 - b. the marks she gets in school
 - c. the money she asks for
 - d. the levels she reaches in everything
 10. BASIS: This was used as the **basis**.
 - a. answer
 - b. place to take a rest
 - c. next step
 - d. main part
1. MAINTAIN: Can they **maintain** it?
 - a. keep it as it is
 - b. make it larger
 - c. get a better one than it
 - d. get it
 2. STONE: He sat on a **stone**.
 - a. hard thing
 - b. kind of chair
 - c. soft thing on the floor
 - d. part of a tree
 3. UPSET: I am **upset**.
 - a. tired
 - b. famous
 - c. rich
 - d. unhappy
 4. DRAWER: The **drawer** was empty.
 - a. sliding box
 - b. place where cars are kept
 - c. cupboard to keep things cold
 - d. animal house
 5. PATIENCE: He has no **patience**.
 - a. will not wait happily
 - b. has no free time
 - c. has no faith
 - d. does not know what is fair
 6. NIL: His mark for that question was **nil**.
 - a. very bad
 - b. nothing
 - c. very good
 - d. in the middle
 7. PUB: They went to the **pub**.
 - a. place where people drink and talk
 - b. place that looks after money
 - c. large building with many shops
 - d. building for swimming
 8. CIRCLE: Make a **circle**.
 - a. rough picture
 - b. space with nothing in it
 - c. round shape
 - d. large hole
 9. MICROPONE: Please use the **microphone**.
 - a. machine for making food hot
 - b. machine that makes sounds louder
 - c. machine that makes things look bigger
 - d. small telephone that can be carried around
 10. PRO: He's a **pro**.
 - a. someone who is employed to find out important secrets
 - b. a stupid person
 - c. someone who writes for a newspaper
 - d. someone who is paid for playing sport etc

¹ The test is created by Paul Nation, Victoria University of Wellington, and found at <http://www.lex tutor.ca/>. This test is freely available and can be used by teachers and researchers for a variety of purposes.

Third 1000

1. SOLDIER: He is a **soldier**.
 - a. person in a business
 - b. student
 - c. person who uses metal
 - d. person in the army
2. RESTORE: It has been **restored**.
 - a. said again
 - b. given to a different person
 - c. given a lower price
 - d. made like new again
3. JUG: He was holding a **jug**.
 - a. A container for pouring liquids
 - b. an informal discussion
 - c. A soft cap
 - d. A weapon that explodes
4. SCRUB: He is **scrubbing** it.
 - a. cutting shallow lines into it
 - b. repairing it
 - c. rubbing it hard to clean it
 - d. drawing simple pictures of it
5. DINOSAUR: The children were pretending to be **dinosaurs**.
 - a. robbers who work at sea
 - b. very small creatures with human form but with wings
 - c. large creatures with wings that breathe fire
 - d. animals that lived a long time ago
6. STRAP: He broke the **strap**.
 - a. promise
 - b. top cover
 - c. shallow dish for food
 - d. strip of material for holding things together
7. PAVE: It was **paved**.
 - a. prevented from going through
 - b. divided
 - c. given gold edges
 - d. covered with a hard surface
8. DASH: They **dashed** over it.
 - a. moved quickly
 - b. moved slowly
 - c. fought
 - d. looked quickly
9. ROVE: He couldn't stop **roving**.
 - a. getting drunk
 - b. travelling around
 - c. making a musical sound through closed lips
 - d. working hard
10. LONESOME: He felt **lonesome**.
 - a. ungrateful
 - b. very tired
 - c. lonely
 - d. full of energy

Fourth 1000

1. COMPOUND: They made a new **compound**.
 - a. agreement
 - b. thing made of two or more parts
 - c. group of people forming a business
 - d. guess based on past experience
2. LATTER: I agree with the **latter**.
 - a. man from the church
 - b. reason given
 - c. last one
 - d. answer
3. CANDID: Please be **candid**.
 - a. be careful
 - b. show sympathy
 - c. show fairness to both sides
 - d. say what you really think
4. TUMMY: Look at my **tummy**.
 - a. cloth to cover the head
 - b. stomach
 - c. small furry animal
 - d. thumb
5. QUIZ: We made a **quiz**.
 - a. thing to hold arrows
 - b. serious mistake
 - c. set of questions
 - d. box for birds to make nests in
6. INPUT: We need more **input**.
 - a. information, power, etc. put into something
 - b. workers
 - c. artificial filling for a hole in wood
 - d. money
7. CRAB: Do you like **crabs**?
 - a. sea creatures that walk sideways
 - b. very thin small cakes
 - c. tight, hard collars
 - d. large black insects that sing at night
8. VOCABULARY: You will need more **vocabulary**.
 - a. words
 - b. skill
 - c. money
 - d. guns
9. REMEDY: We found a good **remedy**.
 - a. way to fix a problem
 - b. place to eat in public
 - c. way to prepare food
 - d. rule about numbers
10. ALLEGE: They **alleged** it.
 - a. claimed it without proof
 - b. stole the ideas for it from someone else
 - c. provided facts to prove it
 - d. argued against the facts that supported it

Fifth 1000

1. DEFICIT: The company had a large **deficit**.
 - a. spent a lot more money than it earned
 - b. went down a lot in value
 - c. had a plan for its spending that used a lot of money
 - d. had a lot of money in the bank
2. WEEP: He **wept**.
 - a. finished his course
 - b. cried
 - c. died
 - d. worried
3. NUN: We saw a **nun**.
 - a. long thin creature that lives in the earth
 - b. terrible accident
 - c. woman following a strict religious life
 - d. unexplained bright light in the sky
4. HAUNT: The house is **haunted**.
 - a. full of ornaments
 - b. rented
 - c. empty
 - d. full of ghosts
5. COMPOST: We need some **compost**.
 - a. strong support
 - b. help to feel better
 - c. hard stuff made of stones and sand stuck together
 - d. rotted plant material
6. CUBE: I need one more **cube**.
 - a. sharp thing used for joining things
 - b. solid square block
 - c. tall cup with no saucer
 - d. piece of stiff paper folded in half
7. MINIATURE: It is a **miniature**.
 - a. a very small thing of its kind
 - b. an instrument to look at small objects
 - c. a very small living creature
 - d. a small line to join letters in handwriting
8. PEEL: Shall I **peel** it?
 - a. let it sit in water for a long time
 - b. take the skin off it
 - c. make it white
 - d. cut it into thin pieces
9. FRACTURE: They found a **fracture**.
 - a. break
 - b. small piece
 - c. short coat
 - d. rare jewel
10. BACTERIUM: They didn't find a single **bacterium**.
 - a. small living thing causing disease
 - b. plant with red or orange flowers
 - c. animal that carries water on its back
 - d. thing that has been stolen and sold to a shop

Sixth 1000

1. DEVIIOUS: Your plans are **devious**.
 - a. tricky
 - b. well-developed
 - c. not well thought out
 - d. more expensive than necessary
2. PREMIER: The **premier** spoke for an hour.
 - a. person who works in a law court
 - b. university teacher
 - c. adventurer
 - d. head of the government
3. BUTLER: They have a **butler**.
 - a. man servant
 - b. machine for cutting up trees
 - c. private teacher
 - d. cool dark room under the house
4. ACCESSORY: They gave us some **accessories**.
 - a. papers allowing us to enter a country
 - b. official orders
 - c. ideas to choose between
 - d. extra pieces
5. THRESHOLD: They raised the **threshold**.
 - a. flag
 - b. point or line where something changes
 - c. roof inside a building
 - d. cost of borrowing money
6. THESIS: She has completed her **thesis**.
 - a. long written report of study carried out for a university degree
 - b. talk given by a judge at the end of a trial
 - c. first year of employment after becoming a teacher
 - d. extended course of hospital treatment
7. STRANGLE: He **strangled** her.
 - a. killed her by pressing her throat
 - b. gave her all the things she wanted
 - c. took her away by force
 - d. admired her greatly
8. CAVALIER: He treated her in a **cavalier** manner.
 - a. without care
 - b. politely
 - c. awkwardly
 - d. as a brother would
9. MALIGN: His **malign** influence is still felt.
 - a. evil
 - b. good
 - c. very important
 - d. secret
10. VEER: The car **veered**.
 - a. went suddenly in another direction
 - b. moved shakily
 - c. made a very loud noise
 - d. slid sideways without the wheels turning

Seventh 1000

1. OLIVE: We bought **olives**.
 - a. oily fruit
 - b. scented pink or red flowers
 - c. men's clothes for swimming
 - d. tools for digging up weeds
2. QUILT: They made a **quilt**.
 - a. statement about who should get their property when they die
 - b. firm agreement
 - c. thick warm cover for a bed
 - d. feather pen
3. STEALTH: They did it by **stealth**.
 - a. spending a large amount of money
 - b. hurting someone so much that they agreed to their demands
 - c. moving secretly with extreme care and quietness
 - d. taking no notice of problems they met
4. SHUDDER: The boy **shuddered**.
 - a. spoke with a low voice
 - b. almost fell
 - c. shook
 - d. called out loudly
5. BRISTLE: The **bristles** are too hard.
 - a. questions
 - b. short stiff hairs
 - c. folding beds
 - d. bottoms of the shoes
6. BLOC: They have joined this **bloc**.
 - a. musical group
 - b. band of thieves
 - c. small group of soldiers who are sent ahead of others
 - d. group of countries sharing a purpose
7. DEMOGRAPHY: This book is about **demography**.
 - a. the study of patterns of land use
 - b. the study of the use of pictures to show facts about numbers
 - c. the study of the movement of water
 - d. the study of population
8. GIMMICK: That's a good **gimmick**.
 - a. thing for standing on to work high above the ground
 - b. small thing with pockets to hold money
 - c. attention-getting action or thing
 - d. clever plan or trick
9. AZALEA: This **azalea** is very pretty.
 - a. small tree with many flowers growing in groups
 - b. light material made from natural threads
 - c. long piece of material worn by women in India
 - d. sea shell shaped like a fan
10. YOGHURT: This **yoghurt** is disgusting.
 - a. grey mud found at the bottom of rivers
 - b. unhealthy, open sore
 - c. thick, soured milk, often with sugar and flavouring
 - d. large purple fruit with soft flesh

Eighth 1000

1. ERRATIC: He was **erratic**.
 - a. without fault
 - b. very bad
 - c. very polite
 - d. unsteady
2. PALETTE: He lost his **palette**.
 - a. basket for carrying fish
 - b. wish to eat food
 - c. young female companion
 - d. artist's board for mixing paints
3. NULL: His influence was **null**.
 - a. had good results
 - b. was unhelpful
 - c. had no effect
 - d. was long-lasting
4. KINDERGARTEN: This is a good **kindergarten**.
 - a. activity that allows you to forget your worries
 - b. place of learning for children too young for school
 - c. strong, deep bag carried on the back
 - d. place where you may borrow books
5. ECLIPSE: There was an **eclipse**.
 - a. a strong wind
 - b. a loud noise of something hitting the water
 - c. The killing of a large number of people
 - d. The sun hidden by a planet
6. MARROW: This is the **marrow**.
 - a. symbol that brings good luck to a team
 - b. Soft centre of a bone
 - c. control for guiding a plane
 - d. increase in salary
7. LOCUST: There were hundreds of **locusts**.
 - a. insects with wings
 - b. unpaid helpers
 - c. people who do not eat meat
 - d. brightly coloured wild flowers
8. AUTHENTIC: It is **authentic**.
 - a. real
 - b. very noisy
 - c. Old
 - d. Like a desert
9. CABARET: We saw the **cabaret**.
 - a. painting covering a whole wall
 - b. song and dance performance
 - c. small crawling insect
 - d. person who is half fish, half woman
10. MUMBLE: He started to **mumble**.
 - a. think deeply
 - b. shake uncontrollably
 - c. stay further behind the others
 - d. speak in an unclear way

Ninth 1000

1. HALLMARK: Does it have a **hallmark**?
 - a. stamp to show when to use it by
 - b. stamp to show the quality
 - c. mark to show it is approved by the royal family
 - d. Mark or stain to prevent copying
2. PURITAN: He is a **puritan**.
 - a. person who likes attention
 - b. person with strict morals
 - c. person with a moving home
 - d. person who hates spending money
3. MONOLOGUE: Now he has a **monologue**.
 - a. single piece of glass to hold over his eye to help him to see better
 - b. long turn at talking without being interrupted
 - c. position with all the power
 - d. picture made by joining letters together in interesting ways
4. WEIR: We looked at the **weir**.
 - a. person who behaves strangely
 - b. wet, muddy place with water plants
 - c. old metal musical instrument played by blowing
 - d. thing built across a river to control the water
5. WHIM: He had lots of **whims**.
 - a. old gold coins
 - b. female horses
 - c. strange ideas with no motive
 - d. sore red lumps
6. PERTURB: I was **perturbed**.
 - a. made to agree
 - b. Worried
 - c. very puzzled
 - d. very wet
7. REGENT: They chose a **regent**.
 - a. an irresponsible person
 - b. a person to run a meeting for a time
 - c. a ruler acting in place of the king
 - d. a person to represent them
8. OCTOPUS: They saw an **octopus**.
 - a. a large bird that hunts at night
 - b. a ship that can go under water
 - c. a machine that flies by means of turning blades
 - d. a sea creature with eight legs
9. FEN: The story is set in the **fens**.
 - a. low land partly covered by water
 - b. a piece of high land with few trees
 - c. a block of poor-quality houses in a city
 - d. a time long ago
10. LINTEL: He painted the **lintel**.
 - a. Beam over the top of a door or window
 - b. small boat used for getting to land from a big boat
 - c. beautiful tree with spreading branches and green fruit
 - d. board showing the scene in a theatre

Tenth 1000

1. AWE: They looked at the mountain with **awe**.
 - a. worry
 - b. interest
 - c. wonder
 - d. respect
2. PEASANTRY: He did a lot for the **peasantry**.
 - a. local people
 - b. place of worship
 - c. businessmen's club
 - d. poor farmers
3. EGALITARIAN: This organization is **egalitarian**.
 - a. does not provide much information about itself to the public
 - b. dislikes change
 - c. frequently asks a court of law for a judgement
 - d. treats everyone who works for it as if they are equal
4. MYSTIQUE: He has lost his **mystique**.
 - a. his healthy body
 - b. the secret way he makes other people think he has special power or skill
 - c. the woman who has been his lover while he is married to someone else
 - d. the hair on his top lip
5. UPBEAT: I'm feeling really **upbeat** about it.
 - a. upset
 - b. good
 - c. hurt
 - d. confused
6. CRANNY: We found it in the **cranny**!
 - a. sale of unwanted objects
 - b. narrow opening
 - c. space for storing things under the roof of a house
 - d. large wooden box
7. PIGTAIL: Does she have a **pigtail**?
 - a. a rope of hair made by twisting bits together
 - b. a lot of cloth hanging behind a dress
 - c. a plant with pale pink flowers that hang down in short bunches
 - d. a lover
8. CROWBAR: He used a **crowbar**.
 - a. heavy iron pole with a curved end
 - b. false name
 - c. sharp tool for making holes in leather
 - d. light metal walking stick
9. RUCK: He got hurt in the **ruck**.
 - a. hollow between the stomach and the top of the leg
 - b. pushing and shoving
 - c. group of players gathered round the ball in some ball games
 - d. race across a field of snow
10. LECTERN: He stood at the **lectern**.
 - a. desk to hold a book at a height for reading
 - b. table or block used for church sacrifices
 - c. place where you buy drinks
 - d. very edge

Eleventh 1000

1. EXCRETE: This was **excreted** recently.
 - a. pushed or sent out
 - b. made clear
 - c. discovered by a science experiment
 - d. put on a list of illegal things
2. MUSSEL: They bought **mussels**.
 - a. small glass balls for playing a game
 - b. shellfish
 - c. large purple fruits
 - d. pieces of soft paper to keep the clothes clean when eating
3. YOGA: She has started **yoga**.
 - a. handwork done by knotting thread
 - b. a form of exercise for body and mind
 - c. a game where a cork stuck with feathers is hit between two players
 - d. a type of dance from eastern countries
4. COUNTERCLAIM: They made a **counterclaim**.
 - a. a demand made by one side in a law case to match the other side's demand
 - b. a request for a shop to take back things with faults
 - c. An agreement between two companies to exchange work
 - d. a top cover for a bed
5. PUMA: They saw a **puma**.
 - a. small house made of mud bricks
 - b. tree from hot, dry countries
 - c. very strong wind that sucks up anything in its path
 - d. large wild cat
6. PALLOR: His **pallor** caused them concern.
 - a. his unusually high temperature
 - b. his lack of interest in anything
 - c. his group of friends
 - d. the paleness of his skin
7. APERITIF: She had an **aperitif**.
 - a. a long chair for lying on with just one place to rest an arm
 - b. a private singing teacher
 - c. a large hat with tall feathers
 - d. a drink taken before a meal
8. HUTCH: Please clean the **hutch**.
 - a. thing with metal bars to keep dirt out of water pipes
 - b. space in the back of a car for bags
 - c. metal piece in the middle of a bicycle wheel
 - d. cage for small animals
9. EMIR: We saw the **emir**.
 - a. bird with long curved tail feathers
 - b. woman who cares for other people's children in Eastern countries
 - c. Middle Eastern chief with power in his land
 - d. house made from blocks of ice
10. HESSIAN: She bought some **hessian**.
 - a. oily pinkish fish
 - b. stuff producing a happy state of mind
 - c. coarse cloth
 - d. strong-tasting root for flavouring food

Twelfth 1000

1. HAZE: We looked through the **haze**.
 - a. small round window in a ship
 - b. unclear air
 - c. strips of wood or plastic to cover a window
 - d. list of names
2. SPLEEN: His **spleen** was damaged.
 - a. knee bone
 - b. organ found near the stomach
 - c. pipe taking waste water from a house
 - d. respect for himself
3. SOLILOQUY: That was an excellent **soliloquy!**
 - a. song for six people
 - b. short clever saying with a deep meaning
 - c. entertainment using lights and music
 - d. speech in the theatre by a character who is alone
4. REPTILE: She looked at the **reptile**.
 - a. old hand-written book
 - b. animal with cold blood and a hard outside
 - c. person who sells things by knocking on doors
 - d. picture made by sticking many small pieces of different colours together
5. ALUM: This contains **alum**.
 - a. a poisonous substance from a common plant
 - b. a soft material made of artificial threads
 - c. a tobacco powder once put in the nose
 - d. a chemical compound usually involving aluminium
6. REFECTORY: We met in the **refectory**.
 - a. room for eating
 - b. office where legal papers can be signed
 - c. room for several people to sleep in
 - d. room with glass walls for growing plants
7. CAFFEINE: This contains a lot of **caffeine**.
 - a. a substance that makes you sleepy
 - b. threads from very tough leaves
 - c. ideas that are not correct
 - d. a substance that makes you excited
8. IMPALE: He nearly got **impaled**.
 - a. charged with a serious offence
 - b. put in prison
 - c. stuck through with a sharp instrument
 - d. involved in a dispute
9. COVEN: She is the leader of a **coven**.
 - a. a small singing group
 - b. a business that is owned by the workers
 - c. a secret society
 - d. a group of church women who follow a strict religious life
10. TRILL: He practised the **trill**.
 - a. ornament in a piece of music
 - b. type of stringed instrument
 - c. Way of throwing a ball
 - d. dance step of turning round very fast on the toes

Thirteenth 1000

1. UBIQUITOUS: Many weeds are **ubiquitous**.
 - a. are difficult to get rid of
 - b. have long, strong roots
 - c. are found in most countries
 - d. die away in the winter
2. TALON: Just look at those **talons**!
 - a. high points of mountains
 - b. sharp hooks on the feet of a hunting bird
 - c. heavy metal coats to protect against weapons
 - d. people who make fools of themselves without realizing it
3. ROUBLE: He had a lot of **roubles**.
 - a. very precious red stones
 - b. distant members of his family
 - c. Russian money
 - d. moral or other difficulties in the mind
4. JOVIAL: He was very **joyful**.
 - a. low on the social scale
 - b. likely to criticize others
 - c. full of fun
 - d. friendly
5. COMMUNIQUE: I saw their **communiqué**.
 - a. critical report about an organization
 - b. garden owned by many members of a community
 - c. printed material used for advertising
 - d. official announcement
6. PLANKTON: We saw a lot of **plankton**.
 - a. poisonous weeds that spread very quickly
 - b. very small plants or animals found in water
 - c. trees producing hard wood
 - d. grey clay that often causes land to slip
7. SKYLARK: We watched a **skylark**.
 - a. show with aeroplanes flying in patterns
 - b. man-made object going round the earth
 - c. person who does funny tricks
 - d. small bird that flies high as it sings
8. BEAGLE: He owns two **beagles**.
 - a. fast cars with roofs that fold down
 - b. large guns that can shoot many people quickly
 - c. small dogs with long ears
 - d. houses built at holiday places
9. ATOLL: The **atoll** was beautiful.
 - a. low island made of coral round a sea-water lake
 - b. work of art created by weaving pictures from fine thread
 - c. small crown with many precious jewels worn in the evening by women
 - d. place where a river flows through a narrow place full of large rocks
10. DIDACTIC: The story is very **didactic**.
 - a. tries hard to teach something
 - b. is very difficult to believe
 - c. deals with exciting actions
 - d. is written in a way which makes the reader unsure of the meaning

Fourteenth 1000

1. CANONICAL: These are **canonical** examples.
 - a. examples which break the usual rules
 - b. examples taken from a religious book
 - c. regular and widely accepted examples
 - d. examples discovered very recently
2. ATOP: He was **atop** the hill.
 - a. at the bottom of
 - b. at the top of
 - c. on this side of
 - d. on the far side of
3. MARSUPIAL: It is a **marsupial**.
 - a. an animal with hard feet
 - b. a plant that grows for several years
 - c. a plant with flowers that turn to face the sun
 - d. an animal with a pocket for babies
4. AUGUR: It **augured** well.
 - a. promised good things for the future
 - b. agreed well with what was expected
 - c. had a colour that looked good with something else
 - d. rang with a clear, beautiful sound
5. BAWDY: It was very **bowdy**.
 - a. unpredictable
 - b. enjoyable
 - c. rushed
 - d. rude
6. GAUCHE: He was **gauche**.
 - a. talkative
 - b. flexible
 - c. awkward
 - d. determined
7. THESAURUS: She used a **thesaurus**.
 - a. a kind of dictionary
 - b. a chemical compound
 - c. a special way of speaking
 - d. an injection just under the skin
8. ERYTHROCYTE: It is an **erythrocyte**.
 - a. a medicine to reduce pain
 - b. a red part of the blood
 - c. a reddish white metal
 - d. a member of the whale family
9. CORDILLERA: They were stopped by the **cordillera**.
 - a. a special law
 - b. an armed ship
 - c. a line of mountains
 - d. the eldest son of the king
10. LIMPID: He looked into her **limpid** eyes.
 - a. clear
 - b. tearful
 - c. deep brown
 - d. beautiful