

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
 - x c. looked at
 - d. started
2. TIME: They have a lot of **time**.
 - a. money
 - b. food
 - x c. hours
 - d. friends
3. PERIOD: It was a difficult **period**.
 - a. question
 - x b. time
 - c. thing to do
 - d. book
4. FIGURE: Is this the right **figure**?
 - a. answer
 - b. place
 - c. time
 - x d. number
5. POOR: We are **poor**.
 - x 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
 - x d. uses a car
7. JUMP: She tried to **jump**.
 - a. lie on top of the water
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x 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

- x d. main part

Second 1000

1. MAINTAIN: Can they **maintain** it?
 - x 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**.
 - x 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
 - x d. unhappy
4. DRAWER: The **drawer** was empty.
 - x a. sliding box
 - b. place where cars are kept
 - c. cupboard to keep things cold
 - d. animal house
5. PATIENCE: He has no **patience**.
 - x 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**.
 - x a. very bad
 - b. nothing
 - c. very good
 - d. in the middle
7. PUB: They went to the **pub**.
 - x 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
 - x c. round shape
 - d. large hole
9. MICROPONE: Please use the **microphone**.
 - a. machine for making food hot
 - x 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
 - x d. someone who is paid for playing sport etc

¹ The test was created by Paul Nation, Victoria University of Wellington, and can also be found at <http://www.lex tutor.ca/>. This test is freely available and can be used by teachers and researchers without seeking permission..

Third 1000

1. SOLDIER: He is a **soldier**.
 - a. person in a business
 - b. student
 - c. person who uses metal
 - x 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
 - x d. made like new again
3. JUG: He was holding a **jug**.
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x d. animals that lived a long time ago
6. STRAP: He broke the **strap**.
 - a. promise
 - b. top cover
 - c. shallow dish for food
 - x d. strip of material for holding things together
7. PAVE: It was **paved**.
 - a. prevented from going through
 - b. divided
 - c. given gold edges
 - x d. covered with a hard surface
8. DASH: They **dashed** over it.
 - x a. moved quickly
 - b. moved slowly
 - c. fought
 - d. looked quickly
9. ROVE: He couldn't stop **roving**.
 - a. getting drunk
 - x b. travelling around
 - c. making a musical sound through closed lips
 - d. working hard
10. LONESOME: He felt **lonesome**.
 - a. ungrateful
 - b. very tired
 - x c. lonely
 - d. full of energy

Fourth 1000

1. COMPOUND: They made a new **compound**.
 - a. agreement
 - x 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
 - x c. last one
 - d. answer
3. CANDID: Please be **candid**.
 - a. be careful
 - b. show sympathy
 - c. show fairness to both sides
 - x d. say what you really think
4. TUMMY: Look at my **tummy**.
 - a. cloth to cover the head
 - x b. stomach
 - c. small furry animal
 - d. thumb
5. QUIZ: We made a **quiz**.
 - a. thing to hold arrows
 - b. serious mistake
 - x c. set of questions
 - d. box for birds to make nests in
6. INPUT: We need more **input**.
 - x 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**?
 - x 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**.
 - x a. words
 - b. skill
 - c. money
 - d. guns
9. REMEDY: We found a good **remedy**.
 - x 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.
 - x 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

to a shop

Fifth 1000

1. DEFICIT: The company had a large **deficit**.
x 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**.
x 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
x 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
x 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
x d. rotted plant material
6. CUBE: I need one more **cube**.
x 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**.
x 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?
x 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**.
x a. break
b. small piece
c. short coat
d. rare jewel
10. BACTERIUM: They didn't find a single **bacterium**.
x 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

Sixth 1000

1. DEVIIOUS: Your plans are **devious**.
x 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
x d. head of the government
3. BUTLER: They have a **butler**.
x 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
x d. extra pieces
5. THRESHOLD: They raised the **threshold**.
x 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**.
x 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.
x 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.
x a. without care
b. politely
c. awkwardly
d. as a brother would
9. MALIGN: His **malign** influence is still felt.
x a. evil
b. good
c. very important
d. secret
10. VEER: The car **veered**.
x 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**.
x 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
x 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
x 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
x c. shook
d. called out loudly
5. BRISTLE: The **bristles** are too hard.
x 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
x 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
x 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
x c. attention-getting action or thing
d. clever plan or trick
9. AZALEA: This **azalea** is very pretty.
x 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
x 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
x d. unsteady
2. PALETTE: He lost his **palette**.
a. basket for carrying fish
b. wish to eat food
c. young female companion
x d. artist's board for mixing paints
3. NULL: His influence was **null**.
a. had good results
b. was unhelpful
x c. had no effect
d. was long-lasting
4. KINDERGARTEN: This is a good **kindergarten**.
a. activity that allows you to forget your worries
x 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
x d. The sun hidden by a planet
6. MARROW: This is the **marrow**.
x 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**.
x a. insects with wings
b. unpaid helpers
c. people who do not eat meat
d. brightly coloured wild flowers
8. AUTHENTIC: It is **authentic**.
x a. real
b. very noisy
c. Old
d. Like a desert
9. CABARET: We saw the **cabaret**.
x 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**.
x 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
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x d. thing built across a river to control the water
5. WHIM: He had lots of **whims**.
 - a. old gold coins
 - b. female horses
 - x c. strange ideas with no motive
 - d. sore red lumps
6. PERTURB: I was **perturbed**.
 - a. made to agree
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x d. a sea creature with eight legs
9. FEN: The story is set in the **fens**.
 - x 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**.
 - x 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
 - x c. wonder
 - d. respect
2. PEASANTRY: He did a lot for the **peasantry**.
 - a. local people
 - b. place of worship
 - c. businessmen's club
 - x 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
 - x d. treats everyone who works for it as if they are equal
4. MYSTIQUE: He has lost his **mystique**.
 - a. his healthy body
 - x 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
 - x b. good
 - c. hurt
 - d. confused
6. CRANNY: We found it in the **cranny**!
 - a. sale of unwanted objects
 - x 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**?
 - x 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**.
 - x 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
 - x 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**.
 - x 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.
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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**.
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x 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
 x d. speech in the theatre by a character who is alone
4. REPTILE: She looked at the **reptile**.
 a. old hand-written book
 x 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
 x d. a chemical compound usually involving aluminium
6. REFECTORY: We met in the **refectory**.
 x 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
 x d. a substance that makes you excited
8. IMPALE: He nearly got **impaled**.
 a. charged with a serious offence
 b. put in prison
 x 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
 x c. a secret society
 d. a group of church women who follow a strict religious life
10. TRILL: He practised the **trill**.
 x 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
 - x c. are found in most countries
 - d. die away in the winter
2. TALON: Just look at those **talons!**
 - a. high points of mountains
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x d. official announcement
6. PLANKTON: We saw a lot of **plankton**.
 - a. poisonous weeds that spread very quickly
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x c. small dogs with long ears
 - d. houses built at holiday places
9. ATOLL: The **atoll** was beautiful.
 - x 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**.
 - x 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
 - x c. regular and widely accepted examples
 - d. examples discovered very recently
2. ATOP: He was **atop** the hill.
 - a. at the bottom of
 - x 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
 - x d. an animal with a pocket for babies
4. AUGUR: It **augured** well.
 - x 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
 - x d. rude
6. GAUCHE: He was **gauche**.
 - a. talkative
 - b. flexible
 - x c. awkward
 - d. determined
7. THESAURUS: She used a **thesaurus**.
 - x 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
 - x 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
 - x c. a line of mountains
 - d. the eldest son of the king
10. LIMPID: He looked into her **limpid** eyes.
 - x a. clear
 - b. tearful
 - c. deep brown
 - d. beautiful