

BARRON'S

The Leader in Test Preparation



ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL®

6TH EDITION

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- A fully updated list of 500 words that frequently appear on the TOEFL
- Definitions, sample sentences, and practice exercises to build your word power
- An overview of each section of the TOEFL iBT and ITP
- A Reading Section test with answers to help you assess your test-taking readiness

LESSON 11

- **amenity**
- **disperse**
- **dwelling**
- **element**
- **elementary**
- **eliminate**
- **emerge**
- **emphasize**
- **encircle**
- **erratic**
- **exaggerate**
- **integral**
- **justify**
- **mention**
- **mortify**
- **prevalent**
- **release**

amenity

n. something that makes life easier or more enjoyable

syn. convenience

She missed all the *amenities* of home when she went camping.
One expects many *amenities* at a five-star hotel.

disperse

v. to cause to move in many different directions

adj. dispersed

syn. circulate

The high winds and rain *dispersed* the crowd.
After the hurricane, *dispersed* belongings cluttered the street.

dwelling

n. where people live

n. dweller
v. dwell

syn. house

Cavelike *dwelling*s have been discovered throughout the world.
City *dweller*s often have trouble adjusting to life in the country.

element

n. a part of the whole
*environment

adj. elemental
n. element*

syn. component

City dwellers are out of their *element* in the country.
Hard work and perseverance are the basic *elements* of success.

elementary *adj.* simple in structure, easy to do
 syn. primary

The solution to the problem was actually quite *elementary*.
 You must take *Elementary* Physics before you can enroll in the advanced course.

eliminate *v.* to remove, free oneself of something
adj. eliminated *syn.* delete
n. elimination

Mistakes must be *eliminated* before you hand in a term paper.
 The *elimination* of the runner from the race was decided by the judge.

emerge *v.* to come into view, or existence
n. emergence *syn.* appear

It took an hour for the newborn chick to *emerge* from its egg.
 The sun *emerged* from the thick rain clouds, giving hope that the game would be played.

emphasize *v.* to show that something is especially important or exceptional
adv. emphatically
adj. emphatic *syn.* highlight
n. emphasis

The professor *emphasized* certain aspects of the historical period.
 When asked if they would like to leave class early, the students answered with an *emphatic* "yes."

encircle *v.* to make a circle around
adj. encircled *syn.* surround

The players *encircled* their coach after winning the big game.
 The *encircled* celebrity actually became afraid of her fans.

erratic

adv. erratically

adj. no regular pattern in thinking or movement; changeable without reason

syn. inconsistent

The artist's paintings have an *erratic* quality, some being excellent, and others mediocre.

The unstable chemical reacted *erratically*.

exaggerate

adj. exaggerated
n. exaggeration

v. to make something more than what it is

syn. overstate

The federal government *exaggerated* the success of its programs.

To say that his business is successful would be a slight *exaggeration*.

integral

adv. integrally
n. integrality

adj. to be an essential or basic part of something

syn. vital

Knowledge of spelling is an *integral* part of writing in any language.

A film's music is *integral* to drawing the viewers into the story.

justify

n. justification
adj. justifiably

v. to show to be right or reasonable; to support

syn. defend

The young boy could not *justify* his rude behavior.

There was no *justification* for the criminal's attack.

mention

adj. mentioned
n. mention

v. to say; relate in written form

syn. remark

Theatergoers often *mention* that they enjoy watching movies on a large screen.

The book *mentioned* above was included in the bibliography that was handed out in class last week.

mortify

n. mortification

v. to embarrass

syn. humiliate

He was *mortified* upon forgetting his lines during the play.

She *mortified* her son by showing Alice his baby pictures.

prevalent *adj.* existing widely or commonly
n. prevalence *syn.* commonplace

Comfortable trade winds are *prevalent* in the Caribbean islands.
There is a *prevalence* of disease where poor sanitation conditions exist.

release *v.* to allow to come out; to give freedom
n. release *syn.* free

A new movie was just *released*.
The *release* of the Supreme Court's decision was expected today.

MATCHING

Choose the synonym

1. **amenity**
(A) advice
(B) convenience
(C) element
(D) emphasis
2. **justify**
(A) defend
(B) conform
(C) disperse
(D) forbid
3. **mention**
(A) surround
(B) remark
(C) assert
(D) clarify
4. **mortify**
(A) frighten
(B) humiliate
(C) criticize
(D) extinguish
5. **exaggerate**
(A) impress
(B) dominate
(C) elaborate
(D) overstate
6. **disperse**
(A) circulate
(B) classify
(C) distort
(D) encircle
7. **release**
(A) free
(B) restore
(C) settle
(D) block
8. **vital**
(A) rigid
(B) complex
(C) erratic
(D) integral
9. **commonplace**
(A) elementary
(B) rudimentary
(C) prevalent
(D) uniform
10. **emerge**
(A) join
(B) distort
(C) appear
(D) release

LESSON 11—MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Kapok is made from the silky fiber that **encircles** the seeds of the tropical silk-cotton tree. This dense mat of cottony fibers surrounds each seed within the fruit. However, unlike cotton fibers, kapok fibers do not lend themselves to spinning. Since they are water resistant and buoyant, kapok fibers were extensively used for padding and insulation until the development of synthetic fibers.

The word **encircles** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ releases
- Ⓑ circulates
- Ⓒ surrounds
- Ⓓ disperses

2. Lewis and Clark's expedition's central objective, the discovery of the "water communication," was not realized. However, a huge blank space on the map of North America had been filled as a result of the expedition. The rumor and myth related to the American West had been **eliminated** and new knowledge about the Wild West was made known to the American people.

The word **eliminated** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ released
- Ⓑ circulated
- Ⓒ deleted
- Ⓓ exaggerated

3. The most **elementary** type of convection can be explained by the fact that heat rises. Convection currents permit buildings to be heated without the use of circulatory devices. The heated air moves solely by gravity. In the atmosphere, convection causes the wind to blow. Most severe weather conditions, such as tornadoes, result from particularly sharp convection currents.

The word **elementary** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ dispersed
- Ⓑ erratic
- Ⓒ prevalent
- Ⓓ primary

4. The key **element** of the air conditioner is a fluorocarbon refrigerant that flows constantly through the conditioner's mechanisms. It becomes a liquid and gives off heat when it is compressed, and becomes a gas and absorbs heat when the pressure is removed. The mechanisms that evaporate and compress the refrigerant are divided into two areas, one on the interior, which includes an air filter, fan, and cooling coil, and one on the exterior, which includes a compressor, condenser coil, and fan.

The word **element** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ amenity
- Ⓑ component
- Ⓒ purpose
- Ⓓ advantage

5. A common inhabitant of the southwest United States, the prairie dog lives in groups called coterie. A breeding coterie contains one male, one to four females, and the young of the past two years. Several coterie form large groups called wards, which are determined by the structure of the terrain. The wards in turn are united into towns—complex **dwelling**s of interconnecting burrows and many entrances. The towns may cover as many as 65 to 160 acres, which contain thousands of individuals.

The word **dwelling**s in the passage is closest in meaning to

- Ⓐ abodes
- Ⓑ systems
- Ⓒ tunnels
- Ⓓ shifts

6. The sport utility vehicle, or SUV, is the most popular type of automobile in the United States today. SUVs are spacious, powerful, and rugged; they have more room for passengers, equipment, groceries, and boxes than ordinary cars. Therefore, they are more commonly found in the country than in the city, and in some suburban neighborhoods they are **more prevalent than** compact cars or vans. Even their high consumption of gas has little effect on their popularity.

In stating that SUVs are **more prevalent than** compact cars, the author means that they

- (A) cost more than compact cars.
- (B) are more numerous than compacts.
- (C) take up more parking space.
- (D) use more gas than other vehicles.

7. Water whirlwinds, commonly called waterspouts, are whirling columns of air and watery mist. Brief whirlwinds are **erratic** in motion, but the longer-lasting ones move slowly with the prevailing winds and are more regular in their movement. Storms generate most waterspouts, but tornado spouts, generated in thunderstorms, in association with tropical cyclones, are the most dangerous.

The word **erratic** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) unique
- (B) inconsistent
- (C) arbitrary
- (D) complex

8. Partly because it has promoted U.S. interests, the Monroe Doctrine has had considerable effect and enjoyed strong support in the United States. It has been used to justify intervention in the internal affairs of other American nations. However, U.S. diplomatic relations are strained due to growing anxiety over the **prevalent** instability of Latin American politics and recent controversial interventions.

The word **prevalent** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) definite
- (B) determined
- (C) constant
- (D) commonplace

9. A caricature is a picture or other representation that **exaggerates** a particular physical, facial appearance, dress, or the manners of an individual to produce a distinct comical effect. It is used to ridicule political, social, or religious situations and institutions, or actions by individuals, groups, or classes of a society. The latter types of caricature are usually done with satirical rather than humorous intent, in order to encourage political or social change.

The word **exaggerates** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) emphasizes
- (B) astonishes
- (C) embellishes
- (D) fabricates

10. Geologic changes provide a convincing explanation for the puzzling way that plant species are spread around the world. The conifers of the genus *Araucaria*, for example, have large seeds that do not float in seawater and are **dispersed** only short distances. However, they have been found either as fossils or as actively growing plants on all continents and on some islands that appear to be fragments of continents.

The word **dispersed** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) scattered
- (B) discarded
- (C) arranged
- (D) released