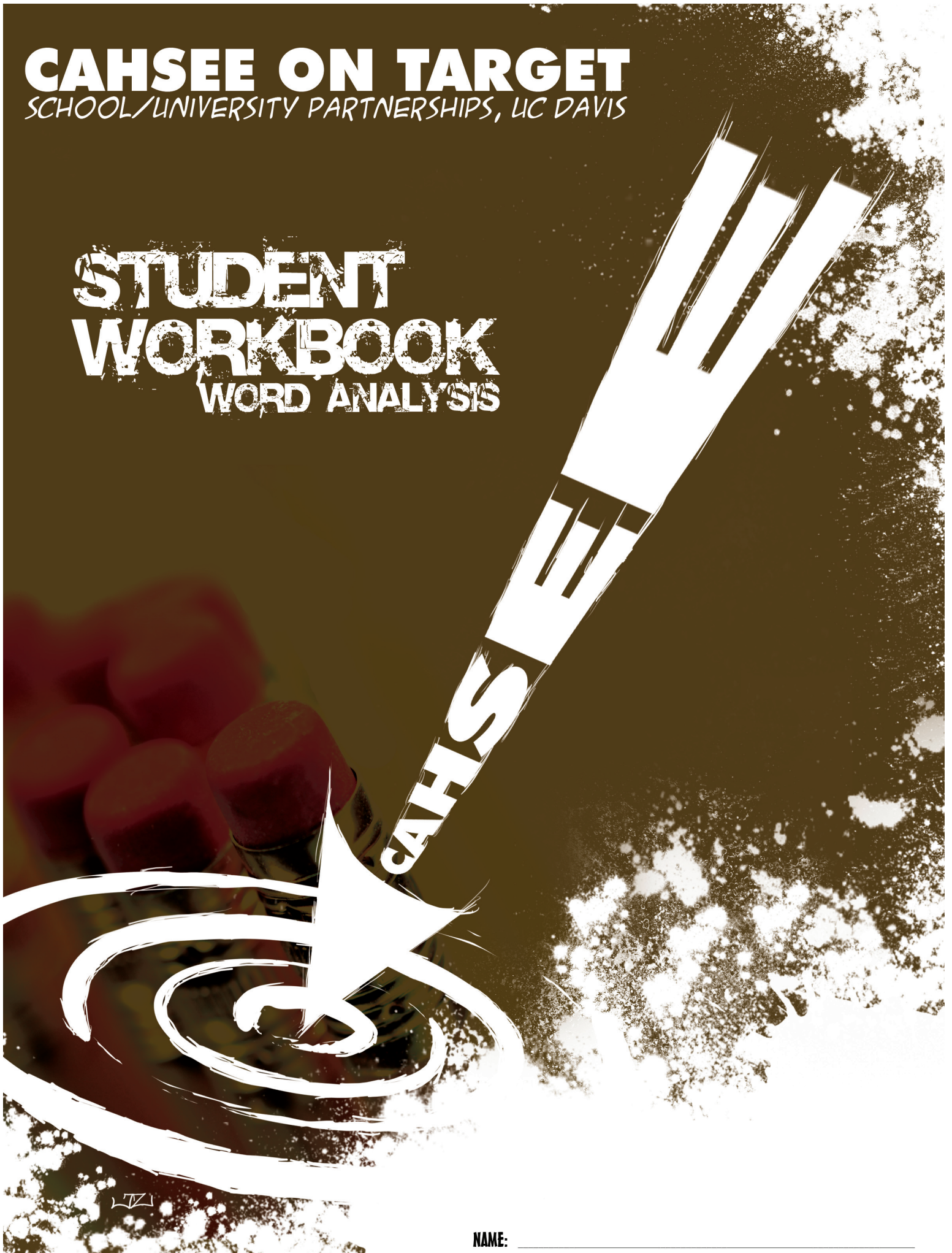


CAHSEE ON TARGET

SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS, UC DAVIS

STUDENT WORKBOOK

WORD ANALYSIS



NAME: _____



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CAHSEE ON TARGET
English Language Arts Curriculum

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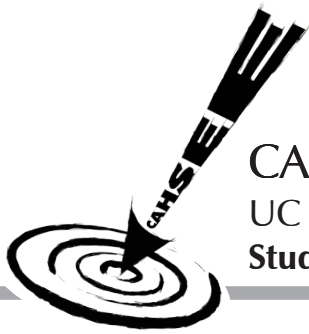
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INTRODUCTION TO THE CAHSEE

The **CAHSEE** stands for the California High School Exit Exam. The English Language Arts section of the CAHSEE consists of **72 multiple-choice** questions (**45 reading** items and **27 writing** items) and **one essay** (accounting for **18%** of the section).

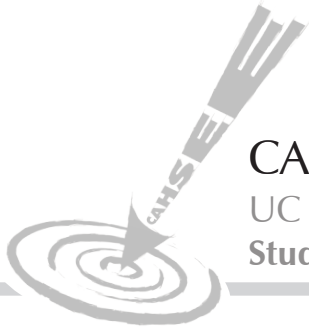
The items span across **6** distinct strands:

- Word Analysis: 7 Questions
- Reading Comprehension (Informational Text): 18 Questions
- Literary Response & Analysis: 20 Questions
- Writing Conventions: 15 Questions
- Writing Strategies: 12 Questions
- Writing Applications: 1 Essay (18% of the total score)

WHAT IS CAHSEE ON TARGET?

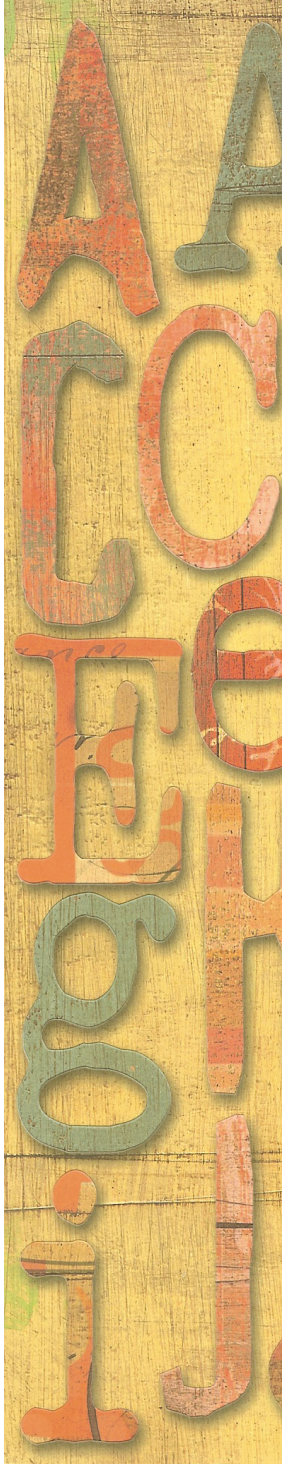
CAHSEE on Target is a tutoring course specifically designed for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The goal of the program is to pinpoint each student's areas of weakness and to then address those weaknesses through classroom and small group instruction, concentrated review, computer tutorials and challenging games.

Each student will receive a separate workbook for each strand and will use these workbooks during their tutoring sessions. These workbooks will present and explain each concept covered on the CAHSEE, and introduce effective strategies for reading comprehension, essay writing, and text revision.



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WHAT IS WORD ANALYSIS?

When we read, we often come upon unfamiliar words. How do we figure out the meaning? Looking the word up in the dictionary is one way, but this may not always be convenient or possible (as in a test).

Word Analysis refers to strategies used to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. In this packet, you will learn seven such strategies.

Strategies for Deducing Meaning

1. Context Clues (& Signal Words)
2. Multiple-Choice Strategies
3. Structural Clues
4. Direction
5. Charge
6. Word Association
7. Deconstruction

While there are only seven CAHSEE questions that directly test your word analysis skills, the ability to approximate the meaning of unfamiliar words is a skill that comes into play whenever we read and will be key to your success in every CAHSEE strand (including math).



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VOCABULARY STRATEGY 1: CONTEXT CLUES

Context clues are words in a sentence or paragraph that help the reader deduce (reason out) the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

A. Types of Context Clues

There are five major types of context clues:

1. **Synonym Clue:** Sometimes an unfamiliar word is used as a synonym (a word having either the same or **similar** meaning as another word). You can **infer** (figure out) the meaning of the unfamiliar word by replacing it with the familiar word.

Example: *I feel completely satiated; in fact, I am so **full** that I could not possibly eat another morsel of food.*

“Full” is a **synonym** for “satiated.” We can conclude that the word “satiated” means full or satisfied.

2. **Comparison Clue:** Sometimes an unfamiliar word is used in a comparison with a familiar word or group of words.

Example: *The children huddle around their teacher, **like baby chicks around a mother hen.***

The children are being **compared** to baby chicks around a mother hen; we can conclude, then, that “huddle” means “crowd together closely.”

Note: The phrase “like baby chicks around a mother hen” is a **simile**.

A simile is a literary device that uses the words “**like**” or “**as**” to **describe** one thing **by comparing it** with another.



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3. **Contrast Clue:** Sometimes an unfamiliar word may be used in contrast to a familiar word or group of words. You can **infer** the meaning of the unfamiliar word by giving it the **opposite** meaning of the familiar word.

Example: *Unlike Robin, who is **full of life**, Rachel is lackluster.*

The opposite of “full of life” is “empty of life.” The word “lackluster” is used to **contrast** Robin and Rachel. We can conclude, then, that the word “lackluster” means “lacking liveliness.”

4. **Explanation Clue:** Sometimes an unfamiliar word may be followed with an explanation, in which a familiar word or group of words is used.

Example: *Marsha is insatiable; **she can eat all day and never feel full**.*

Here, the second part of the sentence (“she can eat all day and never feel full”) is used to **explain** the first part of the sentence (“Marsha is insatiable”). We can conclude, then, that “insatiable” means “incapable of being full” or “incapable of being satisfied.”

5. **Example Clue:** Sometimes an unfamiliar word may be followed by an example, in which the familiar word is used.

Example: *In college, you can choose courses from a broad range of academic disciplines, such as **history, economics, mathematics, and psychology**.*

You are probably familiar with the **primary** (first) meaning of the word “discipline” - - control. But that doesn’t quite fit in the context of the above sentence. The word “discipline” also has a secondary meaning; we can use the context of the sentence to figure out this meaning. The word is followed by several examples: history, economics, mathematics, and psychology. (**Note:** The words “such as” let us know that examples will follow.) We can conclude, then, that each of these subjects is an **example** of a discipline and that the word “discipline” means “a branch of instruction or learning.”



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CAHSEE EXAMPLE

1. What does *delicate* mean as used in the following sentence?
Now more than 100 years old, many of Andersen's *delicate* paper cuttings still exist in a museum in Denmark devoted to his work.
 - A. thin
 - B. fragile
 - C. creative
 - D. old

Passage: "The Remarkable Paper Cuttings of Hans Christian Anderson"

Source: California Department of Education, 2004

In the example above, underline your clue words.

What is the correct answer? _____

CONTEXT CLUES IN SURROUNDING SENTENCES

Sometimes the clues to a word's meaning are not found in the same sentence. You must read a few sentences before and/or after the sentence in which the word appears.

Read the following passage and underline all of the words that provide clues to the meaning of "institutions."

California has many educational *institutions* that have been affected by the recent state budget cuts. Its public universities have been badly hit and will need to increase tuition. In addition, next year's funding for elementary, middle, and high schools has been cut significantly.

Meaning of institution: _____





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B. Signal Words

Context clues often follow “**signal words** and **phrases.**” These alert or “signal to” the reader that an important clue is coming.

Pay attention to these words when you are reading; they will help you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Let’s reexamine an earlier example:

Example: *In college, you can choose courses from a broad range of academic disciplines, **such as** history, economics, mathematics, and psychology.*

In the sentence above, the phrase “**such as**” signals to the reader that **examples** of academic “disciplines” will follow. Even if you are unfamiliar with the meaning of an academic “discipline,” you are probably familiar with all of the examples (history, economics, mathematics, psychology). You can therefore conclude that a “discipline” is a branch of instruction or learning.

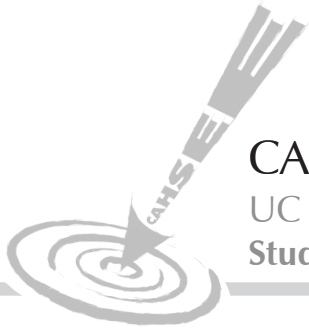
Example: *The Sacramento Bee is a quotidian publication **because** it is put out every day.*

In this sentence, “**because**” is a signal word. It alerts the reader that an **explanation** follows. Here, the words “every day” **define** the word “quotidian.”

Example: ***Unlike** Robin, who is full of life, Rachel is lackluster.*

In this sentence, “**unlike**” is a signal word. It lets the reader know that “lackluster” can be **contrasted** with “full of life.”





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Signal Words for Comparison (or Synonyms)

- and
- such as
- like
- similar to

Signal Words for Explanation

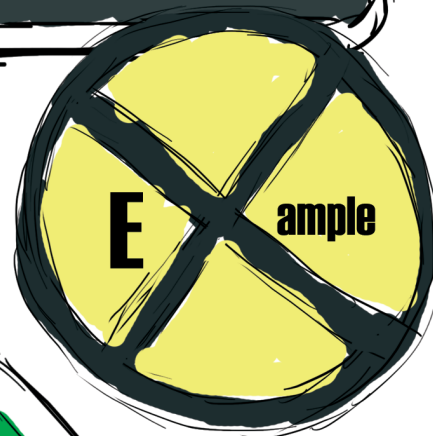
- because
- because of
- since
- in other words

Signal Words for Contrast

- however
- although
- though
- despite
- but
- in contrast to
- rather
- unlike
- on the other hand
- as opposed to
- nevertheless
- yet
- while

Signal Words for Example

- for example
- for instance
- such as
- like
- other
- one kind
- includes, including





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C. Punctuation Clues

Punctuation marks may also alert the reader to context clues:

1. Commas

Example: *Netsuke, a small figure of ivory, wood, metal, or ceramic, is a form of Japanese art.*

In the above sentence, the two **commas** (,) that enclose the words “a small figure of ivory, wood, metal, or ceramic” signal to the reader that a **definition** of the word “netsuke” follows.

2. Colons

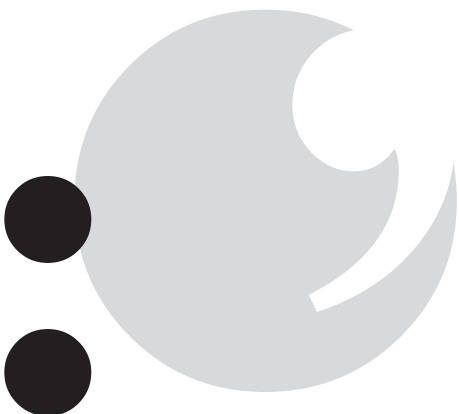
Example: *There are many different types of professions in society: law, medicine, accounting, and education.*

In the above sentence, the **colon** (:) signals to the reader that a list of examples will follow. Law, medicine, teaching, and accounting are all **examples** of professions.

3. Semicolons

Example: *Neil is such a cynic; he finds it difficult to believe that I would help him out of the goodness of my heart.*

In the above sentence, the **semi-colon** (;) signals to the reader that an **explanation** (or continuation of the thought) will follow. The fact that Neil ‘thinks the worst of everyone’ explains why the author believes that he is a cynic. A cynic is someone who believes that only selfishness motivates human actions.





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4. Parenthesis

Example: *Damian was fatigued (he hadn't slept for two days) and came straight home from school.*

In the above sentence, the **parentheses** () signal to the reader that an **explanation** is provided. Although you may not know what the word “fatigued” means, you can probably figure out its meaning through the explanation contained within the parentheses (he hadn't slept for days). Someone who hasn't slept for days is most probably very **tired**, and that is exactly what “fatigued means.”

5. Hyphens

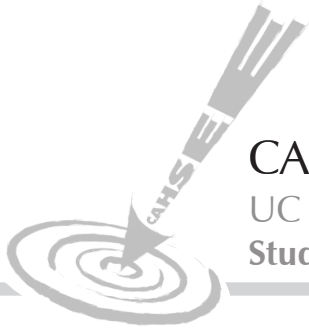
Example: *Once a nasal infection reaches the bronchial tubes, cilia—tiny hair-like structures — can act to prevent further damage.*

In the above sentence, the **hyphen** (—) signals to the reader that a **definition** follows. We know, therefore that “cilia” means tiny hair-like structures.

6. Dashes

Example: *Neurology--the science of the nerves and the nervous system-- is a popular major at our university.*

In the above sentence, the **dashes** (--) signal to the reader that a **definition** or **explanation** follows. We therefore know that “neurology” means the science of the nerves and the nervous system.



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EXERCISE: SIGNAL WORDS AND CONTEXT CLUES

List all signal words (or punctuation marks) and context clues for each sentence; then guess the meaning of the underlined word. The first one has been completed for you.

1. Working with a tutor may have many beneficial results; one positive outcome is that you may feel more comfortable asking questions in a one-on-one setting than you would in a large classroom.

Signal Word/s (or Marks): Semicolon (;)

Context Clue/s: one positive outcome is

Meaning of beneficial: positive, advantageous

2. I despise broccoli, but I adore spinach.

Signal Word/s: _____

Context Clue/s: _____

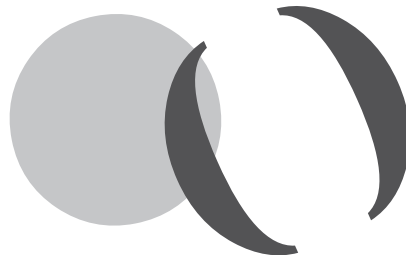
Meaning of despise: _____

3. My itinerary for this trip includes a three-day stay in Italy and a cruise to Greece.

Signal Word/s: _____

Context Clue/s: _____

Meaning of itinerary: _____





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Student Workbook: Word Analysis Strand

4. In contrast to my sister, who is quite taciturn, I am extremely talkative.

Signal Word/s: _____

Context Clue/s: _____

Meaning of taciturn: _____

5. I have found Michael rather duplicitous at times; for example, he encouraged me to apply for the promotion but then he voted against me.

Signal Word/s: _____

Context Clue/s: _____

Meaning of duplicitous: _____

6. Success on the job entails a number of skills: it requires strong analytical, communication and organization skills.

Signal Word/s: _____

Context Clue/s: _____

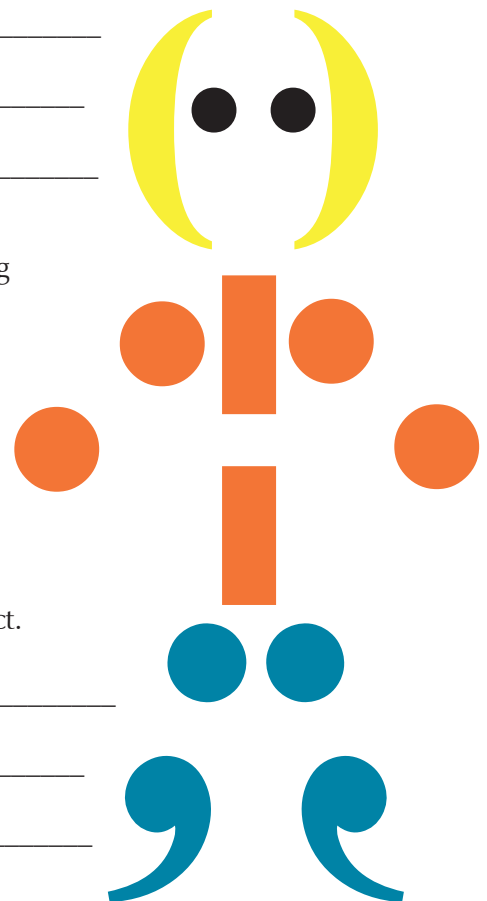
Meaning of entails: _____

7. While I do not necessarily concur with all of his viewpoints, I completely agree with his recent decision to delay the project.

Signal Word/s: _____

Context Clue/s: _____

Meaning of concur: _____



WZ



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VOCABULARY STRATEGY 2: MULTIPLE-CHOICE STRATEGIES

On the CAHSEE you will be asked to find the meaning of a word that appears in a sentence from a reading passage. Let's look at two strategies for answering these types of questions on the CAHSEE:

Strategy A: Don't look at the choices until the end.

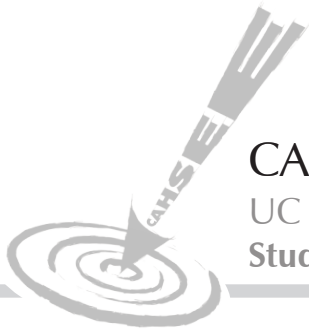
1. **Cover** the answer choices **with your hand**.
2. Go back to the passage to determine **how** the **word is used** in context. (Note: These clues may appear in the same sentence or in the sentence/s before and/or after the word.)
3. **Underline** clue words.
4. Before looking at the answer choices, **write what you think** the word means. (What word would fit in the context?)
5. **Examine** the **choices**. **Eliminate** answer **choices** that are very **different** from your word. **Pick** the answer **choice** that **most closely matches** your word.

Example: *Tragically, many tropical rain forests are so threatened by overdevelopment that they may be completely eradicated by the end of the century.*

1. Cover the answer choices with your hand.
2. Look at the passage to see how the word is used in context.
3. Underline clue words in the sentence.
4. Write in a word that would fit the context. _____
5. Now look at the answer choices. Cross out all answer choices that are not synonymous with your word.

A. isolated B. destroyed C. rejuvenated D. expanded

D



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Strategy B: Try out each choice in the original sentence.

1. **Read** the sentence or paragraph in which the word appears.
2. When you get to word in question, **cover** it **with your hand**.
3. **Substitute each** of the answer **choices** for the word you have covered and **read the sentence**.
4. **Ask** yourself, "Does this word make sense in the sentence?"
5. **Cross out** those words that **do not fit** and **choose** the word that makes the **most sense** in the sentence.

CAHSEE Example

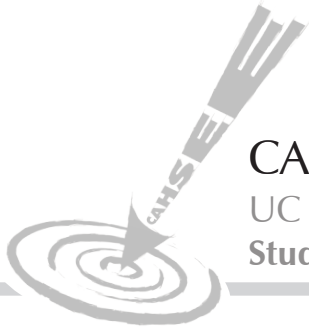
But in captivity, when their keepers unknowingly were giving them leaves contaminated with acid, the koalas were left with only two options: eat the poisonous leaves or starve.

- A. carried with
- B. polished with
- C. poisoned with
- D. grown from

Source: California Department of Education, 2004

1. Read the entire sentence.
2. Cover the word "contaminated" with your hand.
3. Substitute each of the choices and read the sentence.
4. Ask yourself, "Does this word make sense in the sentence?"
5. Cross out choices that do not make sense and choose the word that makes the most sense in the sentence.





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VOCABULARY STRATEGY 3: STRUCTURAL CLUES

- How does the word fit in the sentence?

Can you get a sense of the word's meaning by looking at where it appears?
Does it appear beside any words that you can associate it with?

- Type of Word: Is the word used as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb?

If it is used as a noun, is it singular or plural? Is it a proper noun or common noun?
If it is used as a verb, look at its tense: Is it past, present or future?
If it is used as an adjective, look at the noun it is modifying. Connect these.
If it is used as an adverb, look at the verb it is modifying. Connect these.

Example: *Some of the Sequoias in these forests are several hundred years old.*

Probable meaning of Sequoias: _____

Example: *The putrid odor seemed to be coming from the garbage cans.*

Probable meaning of putrid: _____







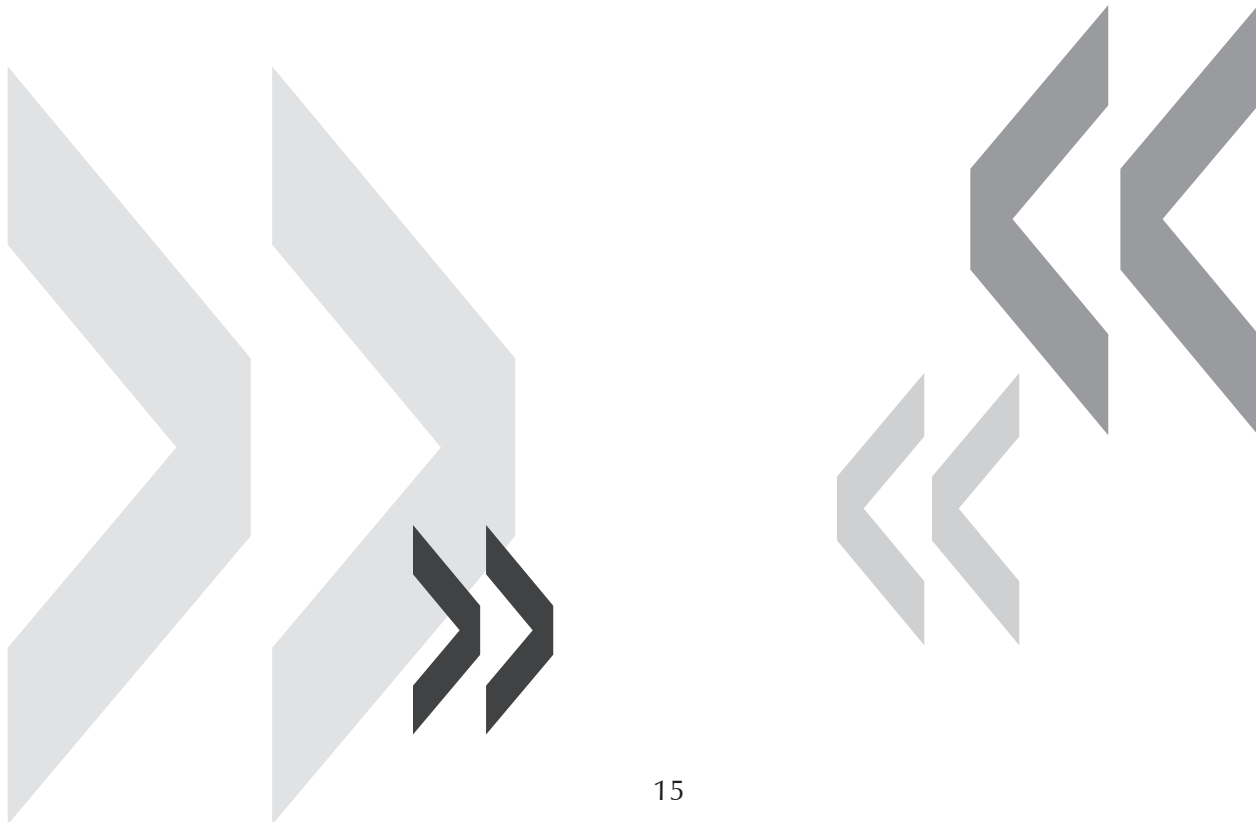
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VOCABULARY STRATEGY 4: DIRECTION

Use signal words, phrases, and punctuation marks to determine the direction of the word.

SAME DIRECTION 	CHANGE DIRECTION 
and	however
because, since	although, though
including	nevertheless
in fact	but
indeed	in contrast to
; (semi-colon)	rather
: (colon)	despite, yet





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Vocabulary Exercise

Mark the direction of the underlined word in each passage and guess the word's meaning.

1. The change did not occur overnight; on the contrary, it was progressive.

Direction: _____

Meaning of progressive: _____

2. I love taking a long walk early in the morning; in fact, I find the experience invigorating.

Direction: _____

Meaning of invigorating: _____

3. Rather than being destroyed, many historical buildings are now being preserved.

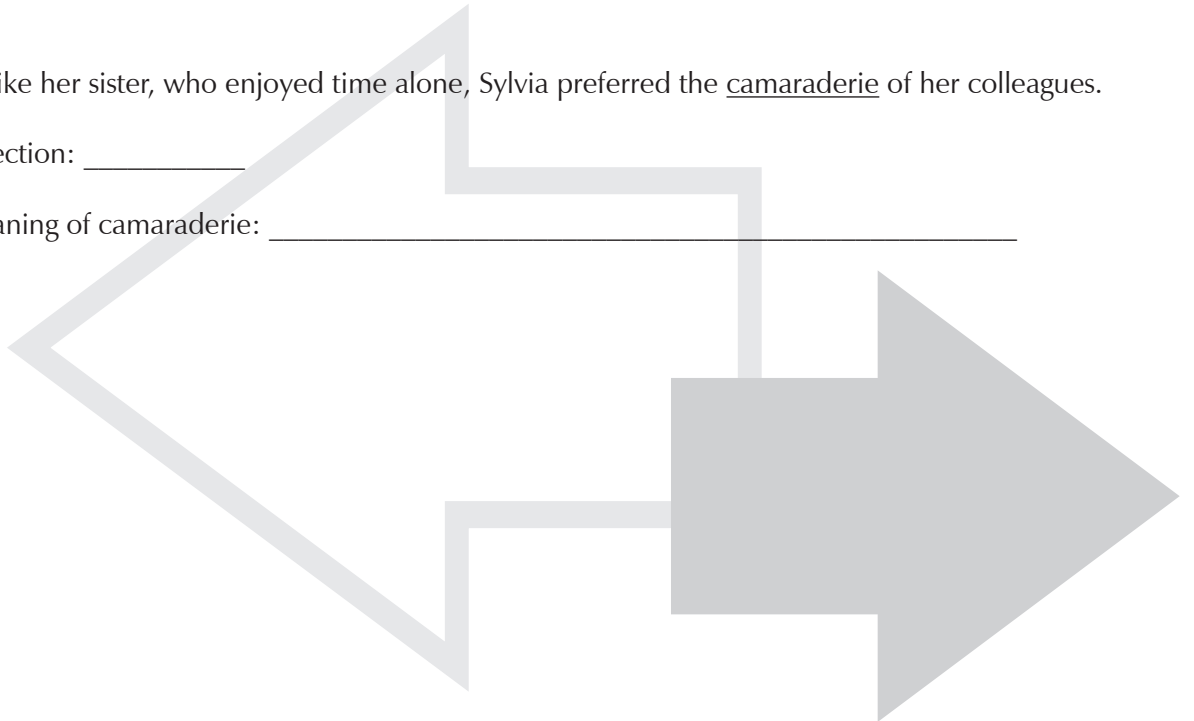
Direction: _____

Meaning of preserved: _____

4. Unlike her sister, who enjoyed time alone, Sylvia preferred the camaraderie of her colleagues.

Direction: _____

Meaning of camaraderie: _____





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

VOCABULARY STRATEGY 5: CHARGE

The charge of a word can be positive, negative or neutral:

positive: 

negative: 

neutral: 

 CHARGE WORDS	 CHARGE WORDS	 CHARGE WORDS
happy	frightened	work
honest	angry	change
brave	lazy	brunette
smile	cry	telephone

Exercise: For each sentence, write the charge of the underlined word.

1. When Mrs. Brown saw the horrible mess her students had made while she was absent, she became livid.

What is the charge of "livid"? _____

2. "I try to overlook many things," said Mr. Dalton, "but this mistake is so egregious that I will have to take action!"

What is the charge of "egregious"? _____

Note: If word is difficult to pronounce or decode, substitute it for xxxxx, or blah blah blah. It won't affect its meaning.

3. Fred was confident that he had performed well. Several people in the audience went even further and called his performance superlative.

What is the charge of "superlative"? _____



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4. Heidi has an inferiority complex; she has absolutely no confidence in herself.

What is the charge of "inferiority"? _____

5. The building is so old and dilapidated that the landlord can't find anyone willing to rent it.

What is the charge of "dilapidated"? _____

6. If you continue to disobey me, I will have to take punitive action.

What is the charge of "punitive"? _____

7. Never give up; always persevere!

What is the charge of "persevere"? _____

8. She woke up late and showed up to work with her hair disheveled and her clothes wrinkled.

What is the charge of "disheveled"? _____

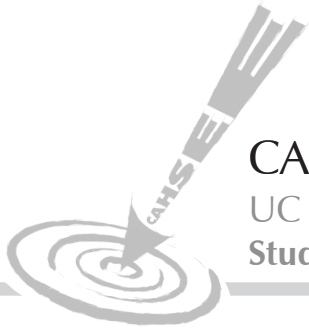
9. I found her story heart wrenching; I cried for hours.

What is the charge of "heart wrenching"? _____

10. When Mr. Franklin saw his daughter accept her award, he was overcome with mirth.

What is the charge of "mirth"? _____





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Vocabulary Exercise

1. Despite her lack of experience, Eleanor handled the difficult project commendably.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge: _____

Meaning of commendably: _____

2. Ethan is usually known for his brevity. Today, however, he was horribly long-winded.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of brevity: _____

Meaning of brevity: _____

3. Pompeii is one of many ancient cities destroyed by a catastrophic event.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of catastrophic: _____

Meaning of catastrophic: _____



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4. I find the man arrogant; he looks down on everyone around him.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of arrogant: _____

Meaning of arrogant: _____

5. He gingerly placed the delicate and priceless vase on the table and sighed with relief.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of gingerly: _____

Meaning of gingerly: _____

6. Because of the altercation, the two men never spoke to one another again.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of altercation: _____

Meaning of altercation: _____



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7. Jason is a genuine raconteur: he excels at telling stories that fascinate his listeners.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of raconteur: _____

Meaning of raconteur: _____

8. The divorce was extremely acrimonious. The husband and wife had really come to hate one another.

Signal Word/s or Punctuation Marks: _____

Context Clues: _____

Direction: _____

Charge of acrimonious: _____

Meaning of acrimonious: _____

