

## QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

### Practice 11

#### MULTIPLE MEANINGS

1. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

- I may be old-fashioned, but I can't understand the fashion for wearing colours that clearly \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.
- When arranging meetings with overseas companies, it's important not to \_\_\_\_\_ with their local public holidays.
- Samantha has decided to pull out of the filming because her views always seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ with those of the director.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

- I don't think the actor who plays the \_\_\_\_\_ in that new film has been miscast.
- The project \_\_\_\_\_ stretched right across the floor and it was clear that somebody was going to trip over it.
- Newcastle have gone into the \_\_\_\_\_ with 30 points, and it looks as if they will win the tournament.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

- Before I joined the local film club, time used to really \_\_\_\_\_ at weekends.
- Look I don't want to get involved in your family problems, so please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me into this argument.
- In their search for the case of missing diamonds, the police sent frogmen to \_\_\_\_\_ a nearby pond.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

- This is a very delicate \_\_\_\_\_, so I think we'd better discuss it in private.
- The latest \_\_\_\_\_ of Music Magazine contains an article about child prodigies.
- I don't want to make an \_\_\_\_\_ of it, but I was very disappointed by the way you behaved at the cinema last night.

5 \_\_\_\_\_

- Although Clara doesn't have many lines to say, she appears in almost every \_\_\_\_\_ in the film.
- I know you were annoyed with me, but there was no need to make such a \_\_\_\_\_ in front of all my friends.
- The police sometimes ask victims to return to the \_\_\_\_\_ of a crime in the hope that they will remember some further details of what happened.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

2. For questions 1-6, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

**Film posters**

Film posters used to be considered worthless ephemera once they'd (1) \_\_\_\_\_ their purpose –to get bums on seats. They took up too much space in warehouses and were destroyed by the thousand. No one (2) \_\_\_\_\_ it worthwhile to lay them down on acid-free paper to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ them from discolouring, still less to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ against pinholes and creases, in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the day when they might be worth large sums of money.

With the passage of time, however, more and more people came to regard film posters as works of art, and as the traditional art market is normally beyond ordinary people's (6) \_\_\_\_\_, film posters represented images they could afford.

- |                  |              |                |             |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. A served      | B performed  | C satisfied    | D delivered |
| 2. A appreciated | B considered | C imagined     | D wondered  |
| 3. A avoid       | B hide       | C store        | D prevent   |
| 4. A keep        | B guard      | C shield       | D save      |
| 5. A prediction  | B investment | C anticipation | D foresight |
| 6. A stretch     | B touch      | C clutch       | D reach     |

**LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point**

3. Choose five of the following verbs expressing ways of talking. Explain what they mean exactly (connotations and nuances of meaning between them) and write a sentence which exemplifies their specific meaning. You will get 0.2 points for each verb successfully defined and exemplified.

MUMBLE – WHISPER – GOSSIP – CHAT – STUTTER – MURMUR

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**REPHRASING**

4. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given.

1. When the fire alarm went off, the lesson ended.

**POINT**

The fire alarm went off, \_\_\_\_\_.

2. One of the actors was too ill to appear that night.

**PREVENTED**

That night, one actor \_\_\_\_\_ by illness.

3. Although it seemed trivial, Denise wished she'd reported the incident.

**REGRETTED**

Trivial \_\_\_\_\_ reporting the incident.

4. Only John's decisive intervention saved the project from being a complete disaster.

**SO**

Had John \_\_\_\_\_, the project would have been a complete disaster.

5. You may enter the ruins but you must put on protective footwear.

**PROVIDING**

You may enter the ruins \_\_\_\_\_.

6. This exhibition confirms that Lawley is indeed a leading artist.

**BORNE**

Lawleys' reputation as a leading artist \_\_\_\_\_ this exhibition.

7. I was really taken aback when Sue turned up at the party.

**BY**

Sue's \_\_\_\_\_ complete surprise.

**WORD-FORMATION**

5. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

**The migration of birds**

Migration is the perilous (0) **SEASONAL** journey undertaken by many bird SEASON

species. In the northern hemisphere it is prompted by the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of food. SCARCE

Migrants are also (2) \_\_\_\_\_ programmed to respond to the changing length of GENE

the day as autumn approaches. Nevertheless, in the tropics, where there is

little variation in the amount of daylight, migration is still a surprisingly common

(3) \_\_\_\_\_. OCCUR

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Many birds will display considerable restlessness before beginning their journeys. Their (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to the earth's magnetic field helps them navigate, SENSE  
but inexperienced birds may get things (5) \_\_\_\_\_ wrong and end up far from SPECTACLE  
their intended destination.

In the past, the return dates could be predicted with great precision but climate change makes this harder. Although it is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for birds to return earlier ADVANTAGE  
than their rivals so they can establish territories, getting back too early could have incalculable consequences for their long-term survival. However, some birds are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ reducing the distances they migrate in response to a PROGRESS  
milder climate. Their adaptability in such a short period in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ terms has EVOLVE  
greatly surprised scientists.

**IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS B – 1 point.**

6. List 10 idioms related to "animals". Explain their meaning and exemplify. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

**AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH – 1 point**

7. At times, American and British English refer to the same concept by using two completely different words (different words, same meaning). Include 10 examples and explain what they mean.

ANSWER KEY

1. MULTIPLE MEANINGS

1 CLASH/INTERFERE

- I may be old-fashioned, but I can't understand the fashion for wearing colours that clearly **clash/interfere** with one another.
- When arranging meetings with overseas companies, it's important not to **clash/interfere** with their local public holidays.
- Samantha has decided to pull out of the filming because her views always seemed to **clash/interfere** with those of the director.

2 LEAD

- I don't think the actor who plays the **lead** in that new film has been miscast.
- The project **lead** stretched right across the floor and it was clear that somebody was going to trip over it.
- Newcastle have gone into the **lead** with 30 points, and it looks as if they will win the tournament.

3 DRAG

- Before I joined the local film club, time used to really **drag** at weekends.
- Look I don't want to get involved in your family problems, so please don't **drag** me into this argument.
- In their search for the case of missing diamonds, the police sent frogmen to **drag** a nearby pond.

4 ISSUE

- This is a very delicate **issue** so I think we'd better discuss it in private.
- The latest **issue** of Music Magazine contains an article about child prodigies.
- I don't want to make an **issue** of it, but I was very disappointed by the way you behaved at the cinema last night.

5 SCENE

- Although Clara doesn't have many lines to say, she appears in almost every **scene** in the film.
- I know you were annoyed with me, but there was no need to **make such a scene** in front of all my friends.
- The police sometimes ask victims to return to the **scene** of a crime in the hope that they will remember some further details of what happened.

Comentado [Office1]: To make a scene: "montar un numerito"

2. MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. **A served**      B performed      C satisfied      D delivered

Comentado [Office2]: To serve the/a purpose (collocation)

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- |                  |                     |                       |                  |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2. A appreciated | <b>B considered</b> | C imagined            | D wondered       |
| 3. A avoid       | B hide              | C store               | <b>D prevent</b> |
| 4. A keep        | <b>B guard</b>      | C shield              | D sabe           |
| 5. A prediction  | B investment        | <b>C anticipation</b> | D foresight      |
| 6. A stretch     | B touch             | C clutch              | <b>D reach</b>   |

**Comentado [Office3]:** Prevent sb/sth from

**Comentado [Office4]:** Guard against

**3. LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point**

(Remember that you should only define and exemplify 5 of the following)

**Mumble:** "to say something in a way that is not loud or clear enough so that your words are difficult to understand" → *He mumbled something about not wanting to go to work.*

**Whisper:** "to speak very quietly to somebody so that other people cannot hear what you are saying" → *'That's Tim,' she whispered in my ear.*

**Gossip:** "to talk about other people's private lives, often in an unkind way" → *I can't stand here gossiping all day.*

**Chat:** "to talk in a friendly informal way to somebody" → *My kids spend hours chatting on the phone to their friends.*

**Stutter:** "to speak with pauses and repeating the same sound or syllable, habitually from fear or excitement" → *'W-w-what?' he stuttered.*

**Murmur:** "speak in a soft, quiet voice that is difficult to hear clearly" → *He murmured something in his sleep.*

**Comentado [Office5]:** A synonym is *stammer*.

**4. REPHRASING**

1. When the fire alarm went off, the lesson ended.

**POINT**

The fire alarm went off, at which point the lesson ended.

**Comentado [Office6]:** This is a case of a relative clause with a preposition, which is introduced in Advanced Level 2. Other examples include combinations such as *during which time, in which case; all of which, some of whom, several of which, many of which, etc.*

2. One of the actors was too ill to appear that night.

**PREVENTED**

That night, one actor was prevented from appearing/acting by illness.

3. Although it seemed trivial, Denise wished she'd reported the incident.

**REGRETTED**

Trivial though/as it may seem, Denise regretted not reporting the incident.

**Comentado [Office7]:** Another way of conveying the concessive meaning would be: *however trivial it may seem*.

4. Only John's decisive intervention saved the project from being a complete disaster.

**SO**

Had John not intervened so decisively, the project would have been a complete disaster.

5. You may enter the ruins but you must put on protective footwear.

**PROVIDING**

You may enter the ruins providing you put on protective footwear.

6. This exhibition confirms that Lawley is indeed a leading artist.

**BORNE**

Lawley's reputation as a leading artist is borne out by this exhibition.

7. I was really taken aback when Sue turned up at the party

**BY**

Sue's arrival at the party took me by complete surprise.

**5. WORD-FORMATION**

**The migration of birds**

Migration is the perilous (0) **SEASONAL** journey undertaken by many bird species. In the northern hemisphere it is prompted by the (1) **SCARCITY** of food. Migrants are also (2) **GENETICALLY** programmed to respond to the changing length of the day as autumn approaches. Nevertheless, in the tropics, where there is little variation in the amount of daylight, migration is still a surprisingly common (3) **OCCURRENCE**. Many birds will display considerable restlessness before beginning their journeys. Their (4) **SENSITIVITY** to the earth's magnetic field helps them navigate, but inexperienced birds may get things (5) **SPECTACULARLY** wrong and end up far from their intended destination. In the past, the return dates could be predicted with great precision but climate change makes this harder. Although it is (6) **ADVANTAGEOUS** for birds to return earlier than their rivals so they can establish territories, getting back too early could have incalculable consequences for their long-term survival. However, some birds are (7) **PROGRESSIVELY** reducing the distances they migrate in response to a milder climate. Their adaptability in such a short period in (8) **EVOLUTION / EVOLUTIONARY** terms has greatly surprised scientists.

SEASON

SCARCE

GENE

OCCUR

SENSE

SPECTACLE

ADVANTAGE

PROGRESS

EVOLVE

**Comentado [Office8]:** Synonym: *shortage*

**6. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS B – 1 point.**

**To have ants in one's pants:** "to be unable to sit or remain calm out of nervousness or excitement". *Lisa had ants in her pants the day before her interview.*

**To chicken out:** "to decide not to do something out of fear (usually just before). *I was going to take a ride on Geoff's motorcycle, but I chickened out when he gave me a helmet to wear.*

**Comentado [AB9]:** According to the instructions of the exercise, you would have to include 10 idioms only. Here you have a more comprehensive list, though more idioms could be added, by all means.

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**To get the lion's share:** "to get the greatest percentage". *My aunt got the lion's share of the inheritance.*

**In the dog house:** "to be in trouble with another person". *I don't think Marsha is coming out tonight. She's still in the dog house for forgetting Aaron's birthday.*

**To let the cat out of the bag:** "to reveal a secret". *Who let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party?*

**To make a beeline:** "to go straight for something". *My grandma made a beeline for the smoking room as soon as she got off the airplane.*

**To pig out:** "to eat a lot of something". *I pigged out on pancakes so I don't have room for lunch.*

**To smell a rat:** "to suspect/be suspicious". *I asked my brothers not to tell my parents that I went out, but I could smell a rat as soon as I opened the door.*

**Straight from the horse's mouth:** "directly From the original source". *I know Jenny is pregnant, because I heard it straight from the horse's mouth.*

**To be a dark horse:** "a person who does not tell other people much about their life, and who surprises other people by having interesting qualities". *You're such a dark horse! You never told me you'd got married!*

**Donkey's (years):** "a very long time". *I haven't seen you for donkey's (years)!*

**A red herring:** "an unimportant fact, idea, event, etc. that takes people's attention away from the important ones". *He deliberately threw a red herring into the conversation.*

**To have a bee in one's bonnet:** "to think or talk about something all the time and to think that it is very important". *Our teacher has a bee in his bonnet about punctuation.*

**To be a bookworm:** "a person who likes reading very much". *I could have never imagined he would become such a bookworm!*

**7. AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH – 1 point**

BrE	AmE	Meaning
Pavement	Sidewalk	"a flat part at the side of a road for people to walk on"
Aubergine	Eggplant	"a vegetable with shiny dark purple skin and soft white flesh"
Tin	Can	"a metal container in which food and drink is sold; the contents of one of these containers"
Courgette	Zucchini	"a long vegetable with dark green skin and white flesh"
Waistcoat	Vest	"a short piece of clothing with buttons down the front but no sleeves, usually worn over a shirt and under a jacket, often forming part of a man's suit"
Autumn	Fall	"the season of the year between summer and winter, when leaves change colour and the weather becomes colder"
Boot	Trunk	"the space at the back of a car that you put bags, cases, etc. in"

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Car park	Parking lot	"an area or a building where people can leave their cars"
Dummy	Pacifier	"a specially shaped rubber or plastic object for a baby to suck"
Holiday	Vacation	"a period of time when you are not at work or school"
Lift	Elevator	"a machine that carries people or goods up and down to different levels in a building or a mine"
Lorry	Truck	"a large vehicle for carrying heavy loads by road"
Motorway	Highway	"a wide road, with at least two lanes in each direction, where traffic can travel fast for long distances between large town"
Petrol	Gas	"a liquid obtained from petroleum, used as fuel in car engines, etc."

For more words, please check the following link:

<https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/british-american.htm>