

Strong Active Terms (SAT) Workout

The following sentences provide context clues to the meaning of words that appear in the February/March 2007 issue of *Writing*. Use them to help you select the correct definition.

Example:

I understand your **quandary**—as an animal lover, you don't want to dissect a frog. However, dissecting an avocado is not a logical substitute.

Ⓐ excitement Ⓑ dilemma Ⓒ nervousness Ⓓ joy

The correct answer is Ⓑ dilemma. Why? Notice how the context clues *don't want to dissect a frog* and *however* tell you that *quandary* has a negative connotation. It is not a positive word. If you're still not sure of the answer, try plugging in each of the answer choices to see what fits.

- Tony is an **exemplary** soldier. His courage and determination earned him a Purple Heart award.
Ⓐ model Ⓑ sample Ⓒ exempt Ⓓ important
- This **brumal** weather makes my lips chapped.
Ⓐ brilliant Ⓑ wintry Ⓒ sunny Ⓓ humid
- Gill's hair looks like a bird's **nidifice**. It is wiry, bushy, and wild.
Ⓐ cocoon Ⓑ nest Ⓒ maze Ⓓ garden
- The **gormless** duo tripped and fell all over each other.
Ⓐ balanced Ⓑ envious Ⓒ athletic Ⓓ stupid
- The librarian's **archaic** methods of research stunned the young children. They, after all, had started using laptops when they were toddlers.
Ⓐ ambiguous Ⓑ outdated Ⓒ alert Ⓓ fast
- Have you ever been **transfixed** by the sunset? I can't tear my eyes away from the gorgeous scenery. .
Ⓐ captivated Ⓑ disgusted Ⓒ tired Ⓓ interested
- Pirate Puzzles* is a **defunct** magazine. You won't find it at any newsstands; only in library archives.
Ⓐ defiant Ⓑ dead Ⓒ dramatic Ⓓ flimsy
- The thought of having to parallel park was so **daunting** to Philip that he decided not to take the road test on his birthday.
Ⓐ exciting Ⓑ dividing Ⓒ alarming Ⓓ inspiring
- You really need to **marshal** your thoughts and look at the situation from a calm perspective.
Ⓐ scramble Ⓑ organize Ⓒ scratch Ⓓ permit
- The Internet has become an **inextricable** part of contemporary life, both in terms of how we get things done at work and how we get things done in our personal lives.
Ⓐ new Ⓑ difficult Ⓒ tiring Ⓓ essential