

Strong Active Terms (SAT) Workout

The following sentences provide context clues to the meaning of words that appear in the January 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.

- These are **fleeting** moments of precious value. They will never come our way again.
Ⓐ special Ⓑ neverending Ⓒ passing Ⓓ endless
- In my paper, I argued that the institution of slavery was a **catalyst** for the Civil War. It never would have started otherwise.
Ⓐ prompt Ⓑ trial Ⓒ fan Ⓓ worry
- This is a **robust** cup of tea. My eyes are finally open!
Ⓐ weak Ⓑ strong Ⓒ sweet Ⓓ bitter
- Beyonce has many songs in her concert **repertoire**. She is prepared to sing them all.
Ⓐ trial Ⓑ collection Ⓒ performance Ⓓ audition
- Christopher Paolini has been called a literary **prodigy**. He wrote his first book when he was only 15 years old.
Ⓐ singer Ⓑ fake Ⓒ actor Ⓓ genius
- The children did not understand that putting candy in their mother's purse would be considered **pilfering** by the management of Walmart.
Ⓐ helping Ⓑ serving Ⓒ stealing Ⓓ joking
- The traitor has committed a **multitude** of sins, and will not be forgiven for a single one of them.
Ⓐ minimum Ⓑ endless Ⓒ temple Ⓓ large number
- When you say one plus one equals two, you're **infallible**. Nobody can say you don't know basic math.
Ⓐ wrong Ⓑ precise Ⓒ correct Ⓓ trying
- As human beings, our **primal** needs are food, shelter, clothing, and water.
Ⓐ forgotten Ⓑ endangered Ⓒ original Ⓓ subtle
- Lucy was a **diminutive** child with an unexpectedly bad temper and loud voice.
Ⓐ boisterous Ⓑ giant Ⓒ tall Ⓓ tiny