

ENGLISH VOCABULARY EXERCISE

TOPIC: Talking about work (casual)

Choose the best (most logical) response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. This job is too (*stressed-out/stressful*).
2. There's a lot of work, but I can (*deal/handle*) it.
3. I was (*hired/heard*) last month.
4. They (*fired/failed*) two of my co-workers, and I'm afraid I might be next.
5. I work (*at/in*) sales.
6. My (*commute/communion*) (= the time it takes me to get to work) isn't so bad.
7. The company has a reputation for treating their (*employees/employed*) well.
8. I usually don't eat in the (*lunchroom/lunch-zone*). I go out to eat.
9. The dress (*code/cut*) is casual.
10. I'm thinking about (*quitting/stopping*) my job.

TOPIC: Describing people (physical traits)

Choose the best response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. Jim is (*higher/taller*) than I am.
2. My sister is (*lower/shorter*) than I am.
3. My brother isn't fat, he's (*stocky/sticky*).
4. The word "skinny" is slightly more negative than the word (*thinning/thin*).
5. He's completely (*bold/bald*). He lost all of his hair years ago.
6. My sister works out every day, so she's in very good (*shaped/shape*).

7. He's not fat, but he has a bit of a (belly/fat).
8. He's six feet (high/tall).
9. He walks with a (limp/lump).
10. My grandfather has (trouble/problem) walking fast. (= he can't walk fast easily)
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Topic: Driving

Choose the word that best fits the sentence.

1. Hey, don't drive so fast or you'll get in an _____ .
a. accident
b. incident
2. The driver in front of me keeps changing _____.
a. lines
b. lanes
3. There is always a lot of _____ on this road.
a. traffic
b. travel
4. The police officer gave me a _____ for not signaling.
a. fare
b. ticket
5. I'm running low on gas. We have to _____ (get a full tank of gas).
a. fill up
b. fill in
6. The _____ is what one turns to go left or right.
a. round wheel
b. steering wheel
7. This road is so rough! There are so many _____.
a. potholes
b. roadholes

8. This road is under construction so we have to make a _____.
- a. goaround
 - b. detour
- ▼
9. Slow down! You're going 40 miles above the _____!
- a. speed limit
 - b. speed zone
- ▼
10. When you're driving in big cities, you should always look out for _____.
- a. pedestrians
 - b. cows
- ▼

Topic: **Restaurant (For customers, waiters/waitresses, restaurant staff)**

1. Could you please bring me another _____? This one is dirty.
- towel
 - napkin/serviette
2. As a customer, you should always say thank you when served something. It shows _____.
- appreciation
 - apprehension
3. Our _____ today is the vegetarian lasagna.
- specialty
 - special
4. What's your _____ wine (= a wine that is featured by a restaurant and often served in a carafe)?
- home
 - house
5. I'm sorry, it'll be about 10 more minutes for your _____.
- order
 - request
6. How was _____?
- all
 - everything

7. In some parts of the English speaking world, the word _____ is used instead of "waiter".
- server
 - servant
8. We're going to _____ the dessert.
- share
 - divide
9. We train our wait staff to _____ exceptional service.
- promise
 - provide
10. Can I get a _____ (= an addition to the main course) of salad?
- addition
 - side
-

Topic: Cleaning the house

1. Pass me the _____. I want to scrub the counter.
- brush
 - mop
 - broom
2. Pass me the _____. I want to sweep the floor.
- brush
 - broom
 - mop
3. Fill this _____ with water.
- bucket
 - brush
 - counter
4. The shelves are very _____.
- dusted
 - dusting
 - dusty
5. I already _____ my bed.
- did
 - arranged

made

6. The chemicals in this cleaning product can be _____ (= dangerous) to your health.

hazardous

haphazard

horrendous

7. This is the best product to _____ stains.

take

remove

kill

8. Make sure you _____ the hallway as well.

vacuum cleaner

vacuum

vacuum clean

9. We only use pet-_____ cleaning products.

happy

beneficial

friendly

10. We have a washing machine, but no _____ .

drying machine

dryer

drying device

Topic: **Planning a Trip/ Travel**

1. We still have to (book/make) a hotel and to buy our plane tickets.

2. I'm leaving tomorrow and I still haven't (packed/stacked) my suitcases.

3. I always get great deals on hotels because my friend is a (trip/travel) agent.

4. A "bed and " (breakfast/food) is a private home which takes in guests.

5. It is often very expensive to travel during (peak/expensive) season.

6. Arranging " " (acclimations/ accommodations) means arranging a place to stay

(like a hotel, guest house, etc.)

7. Travel agents often ask you whether or not you would like to buy traveler's
(*insurance/policy*).

8. A (*package/combined*) tour/holiday is one that includes air, hotel, and often food.

9. A (*connecting/connect*) flight requires a passenger to change from one plane to another.

10. If you lose something at an airport, you should check at the airport's lost-and-
(*find/found*) office.

Topic: **Around the bedroom/sleeping**

1. Hey, it's your turn to _____ the bed.

- make
- do
- sleep

2. Can you close the _____? The neighbors can see everything.

- sheets
- curtains
- door

3. Can you get me another _____? It's going to be a cold night.

- blanket
- pillow
- pillow case

4. A pillow _____ is something you put on your pillow so it won't get dirty.

- sheet
- frame
- case

5. This room has no (electrical) _____.

- jacks
- circuit
- outlets

6. Could you please turn off the light? The light _____ is by the door.

- switch
- switcher
- turner

7. I need to wake up very early. Could you set the _____ for 6:00 AM?

- clock
- alarm
- ring

8. Please hang your clothes in the _____ and don't leave them on the floor.

- bed
- closet
- shelf

9. My girlfriend has cute pink _____ that she likes to wear around the house.

- blouse
- shirt
- slippers

10. I haven't worn _____ since I was a kid.

- ties
- pyjamas
- curtains

Topic: Emotions and Feelings

1. I used to be so _____, but now I worry about everything.

- carefree
- nervous
- sleepy

2. I am so _____ about starting university this year! I can't wait!

- depressed
- enthusiastic
- smart

3. I've been pretty _____ with my job, so I'm looking for a new one.

- unhappy

- satisfied
- happy

4. I was _____ with the architecture in Tokyo. It was amazing.

- content
- excited
- impressed

5. Katie is very _____ for all the help you have given her.

- unhappy
- great
- grateful

6. After we saw that horror movie, I felt _____ all night.

- frightened
- sympathetic
- convinced

7. Hey, stop yelling! Why are you so _____?

- convinced
- upset
- flattered

8. I was so _____ watching that movie that I fell asleep twice.

- excited
- bored
- impressed

9. When John saw his ex-girlfriend talking to another boy, he became very _____.

- afraid
- exhausted
- jealous

10. I got drunk and made a fool of myself at the party. Now I feel _____.

- surprised
- embarrassed
- insulted

Topic: **Emotions and Feelings**

1. If someone is easily angered, we say that person is short- _____.

- tempted
- tempered

2. I'm feeling a little _____ (= sad).

- down
- downed

3. I don't know what's wrong with my brother these days. He jumps down my _____ (= gives me a hard time) about every little thing.

- neck
- throat

4. To "lead someone _____" means to make someone think that something is going to happen, when you know it will not. "I thought that she loved me, but she was only leading me _____".

- in
- on

5. P1: Are you happy? P2: I'm more than happy... I'm _____!

- ecstatic
- static

6. He seems really _____ (= in a bad mood) today.

- crunchy
- grouchy

7. He really rubs me the wrong _____. = He really bothers me.

- way
- direction

8. P1: Are you _____ with the results? P2: Not really - I could have done better.

- pleased
- pleasant

9. P1: Are you sure you want to get married? P2: Yes, I'm _____.

- pausing
- positive

10. When someone is emotionally overstimulated or overexcited, we can say that this person is

- hyped
- hyper

Topic: **Emotions and Feelings**

1. He _____ my sister; He said that she was ugly.
 - insulted
 - distracted
2. I feel a little _____. It's hard for me to focus on things.
 - disappointed
 - distracted
3. Why are you so _____? Cheer up!
 - elated
 - gloomy
4. Robert was _____ (very happy) to hear that he got the job.
 - elated
 - gloomy
5. I'm a little _____ (shy/afraid) about speaking in public.
 - timid
 - thrilled
6. He is _____ about writing; he really loves it.
 - pessimistic
 - passionate
7. Ever since he realized that he loved her, he was very _____ to tell her. (he couldn't wait to tell her)
 - eager
 - easy
8. He wasn't just angry; he was _____! (very angry)
 - frightened
 - furious
9. I'm really _____ (irritated) at the way I was treated at the airport.
 - ashamed
 - annoyed

10. I'm _____ of your house. I wish I had a house like yours.

envious

scared

Topic: **Emotions and Feelings**

This test will help you practice the difference between a word that causes an emotion/feeling (eg. exciting) and a word that shows that you experience a certain emotion/feeling (eg. excited). Good luck!

1. This film is really _____.

boring

bored

2. He got _____ listening to the lecture.

boring

bored

3. I'm so _____ that my friends are coming for a visit!

exciting

excited

4. Your friends are coming for a visit? That's so _____.

exciting

excited

5. We got _____ by the bureaucracy involved in getting our new passports.

frustrated

frustrating

6. The whole process is just really _____.

frustrated

frustrating

7. His mother was _____ by his progress.

amazed

amazing

8. He gave an _____ acceptance speech.

amazed

amazing

9. Most of the audience members were _____ by her rude behavior.

shocking

shocked

10. She wore a _____ new dress.

shocking

shocked

Topic: **Doctor/Illness**

1. I haven't been able to sleep in three days. I think I might have _____.

insomnia

a cold

the hiccups

2. Drinking water is one way to get rid of _____.

the hiccups

illness

fever

3. He smokes too much. Just look at the way he _____.

spits

sleeps

coughs

4. The baby was _____ a fever, so they took him to see the doctor.

causing

running

having

5. The doctor prescribed _____ for my rash.

water

lots of rest

an ointment

6. It's possible to become addicted to _____.

pain killers

- water
- a fever

7. After Will fell off his bike, his mother dressed his _____.

- wound
- blood
- damage

8. I _____ my ankle when I was playing basketball.

- ran
- fell
- twisted

9. Drinking tea with honey can help soothe _____.

- a hurting throat
- a hurt throat
- a sore throat

10. It's Spring, and my _____ are acting up again.

- allergies
- allergic
- allergic reaction

Topic: Food/ Cooking

1. The front-left (*burner/fire*) doesn't work on that stove.
2. I know a fantastic (*recipe/receipt*) for mushroom soup.
3. Pass me the hot sauce. This meal is too (*spicy/bland*).
4. What are we going to have for (*dessert/desert*)?
5. I can't eat that much. Whenever I eat a (*heavy/light*) meal, I get sleepy.
6. Don't eat that apple. It's (*rotten/rot*).
7. Meat that doesn't have a lot of fat is called (*unfat/lean*) meat.

8. Fresh squeezed juice is very (*nutritious/nutritional*).
9. In a restaurant, you can order your steak "rare", "medium", or "well "
(*cooked/done*).
10. I once got food (*poison/poisoning*) from eating raw fish.

Topic: **Food/ Cooking**

Choose the best (most logical) response to complete each of the following sentences. Choose from the following words: **bland, raw, complicated, sweet, washed, salty, spicy, melted, thick, stale**.

1. The soup is too because you've put too much salt in it.
2. The coffee is too because you've put too much sugar in it.
3. The stew is too because you've put too many hot peppers in it.
4. The stew is too because you didn't add enough water to it.
5. The ice cream has because you left it outside the freezer.
6. This dish is too . You should add some spices to it.
7. This recipe is too . Don't you have any simpler recipes?
8. This bread is not fresh. It's .
9. These vegetables are not cooked. They are .
10. This fruit is dirty. It hasn't been .

Topic: **Food/ Cooking**

1. This ingredient will bring a lot of (*flavor/indulgence*) to this dish.
2. Food from other countries is (still) sometimes called (*ethnic/ethical*) food.
3. (*hearty/hard*) flavor = strong flavor

4. How long do I have to (*steep/stop*) this tea?
 5. My doctor told me to cut down on junk food, and to eat (*nourishing/processed*) food instead.
 6. Rebecca is trying to (*cut out/cut off*) (= eliminate) meat from her diet.
 7. When buying food in a supermarket, it's important to read the (*label/paper*).
 8. You don't have to combine this food with anything. It's delicious on its (*own/one*).
 9. This is a very time-consuming dish. It requires a lot of preparation and (*cleanup/cleanliness*).
 10. These days, I put low- " (*fatty/fat*) milk in my coffee instead of cream.
-

Topic: **Food/ Cooking**

1. Spinach, kale, and other such leaf vegetables are sometimes referred to as (*leafy/leaf*) greens.
2. The flavor of this spice is too strong. It will (*overpower/overtake*) the other flavors.
3. Roasting a spice (*brings/takes*) out its flavor.
4. Take the soup off the burner and let it (*cold/cool*) for 30 minutes.
5. Is the flavor subtle or (*intense/intensive*)?
6. There are at least three ways to cook potatoes. You can fry them, bake them, or (*boil/bowl*) them.
7. Stir the sauce until it's the (*consistency/constancy*) (= thickness) of yogurt.
8. This has to be cooked over (*medium/middle*) heat.
9. You have to cook the broccoli over a low flame. = You have to (*simmer/summer*) the broccoli.
10. You have to work the dough with your hands. = You have to " (*knead/knit*) the dough.

Topic: **Common Mistakes/Errors**

1. I am very _____ about going to Mexico.

- excited
- exciting
- excitable

2. One of my teeth is _____.

- lose
- loose
- loss

3. I always get _____ when I have to speak in front of a large crowd.

- embarrassed
- ashamed
- shame

4. I am an _____ person. I don't like to rely on others.

- independence
- independent
- dependent

5. This news might _____ the outcome of the election.

- inflict
- effect
- affect

6. I was very _____, but I pretended that I was interested.

- boredom
- boring
- bored

7. Can you _____ me one of your pens?

- lend
- borrowed
- borrow

8. James had _____ with his friend today.

- the lunch
- lunch
- on lunch

9. My brother _____ know how to ski.

- not
- don't
- doesn't

10. _____ Polish people eat meat.

- Most
 - Almost
 - The most
-

Topic: **Common vocabulary mistakes/errors**

These exercises will help you eliminate some of the common mistakes made by people who study English as a second language. Do these practice tests and pretty soon you too will sound like a native speaker. For each of the questions below, choose the most natural-sounding option:

1. which sentence sounds more natural?

- In former times, Poland was a communist country.
- Poland used to be a communist country.

2. Which sentence is more correct?

- He's a good friend of mine.
- He's a good colleague of mine.

3. Which sentence sounds more natural?

- Tom signed the reverse of the check.
- Tom signed the back of the check.

4. Which sentence is correct?

- The American hymn is called "The Star Spangled Banner."
- The American national anthem is called "The Star Spangled Banner."

5. Which sentence is correct?

- Don't drive in the passing lane!
- Don't drive in the passing line!

6. Which sentence is correct?

- This is a two-lanes highway.
- This is a two-lane highway.

7. Do people still often use "it's raining cats and dogs" to mean "it's raining heavily"?

- Not really. It's an antiquated expression.
- Yes, it is still used very often.

8. Which sentence is correct?

- I am 37 years old.
- I am 37 years.

9. Which sentence is correct?

- I have 37 years.
- I'm 37.

10. Which sentence is correct?

- Mary is a single again.
- Mary is single again.

Topic: **Common vocabulary mistakes/errors - One or two words?**

Many people, even some native speakers, aren't always sure whether something should be written as two words or one. This exercise will help you practice making that distinction.

1. They used to live together, but now they live _____.

- a part
- apart

2. I gave him _____ of my inheritance.

- a part
- apart

3. That is an _____ different problem.

- all together
- altogether

4. They were sitting _____ in the living room.

- altogether
- all together

5. I would be able to single out _____ song of theirs that I like best.

any one

anyone

6. I don't see _____ here that I know.

any one

anyone

7. He spoke to me in _____ that made me feel very special.

a way

away

8. He will be _____ for the next two weeks.

away

a way

9. I'm _____ tired.

all ready

already

10. I'm _____ to go.

already

all ready

Topic: **At a party (parties, dinner parties, other social gatherings)**

Choose the word that best fits the sentence.

1. We must have a little _____ one of these days!

a. invitation

b. get-together

2. Hey, come over Friday. We're having a _____ party for Betty.

a. birth date

b. birthday

3. P1: Can I have some of these shrimp? P2: _____ yourself!

a. Take

b. Help

4. Don't forget to _____ the hostess on her new dress.

a. compliment

b. greet

5. Hey, I know a party we can _____ (= show up without being invited).
a. break
b. crash
6. We're _____ a party next Saturday.
a. making
b. having
7. Steve and Linda are very social people. They love to _____ guests at their house.
a. visit
b. entertain
8. Hey, we just finished moving in to our new place. We're having a _____ party next week!
a. house moving
b. housewarming
9. A dinner when everyone brings food is called a _____ (dinner).
a. polite
b. potluck
10. Welcome. Make yourself _____.
a. like home
b. at home

Topic: **School/ University**

1. A complete listing of courses offered will be found in the class (*schedule/plan*).
2. Students must pay all their fees before the start of each (*semester/division*).
3. At university = At (*college/PhD*).
4. A college or university building containing living quarters for students is called a dormitory, or "" (*dorm/dormitorium*) for short.
5. Another way of saying "dormitory" is "student " (*residents/residence*).
6. A student from another university who comes to study for one or two semesters is called an (*exchange/elite*) student.
7. How many (*classes/class*) are you taking this semester?

8. What is the short form for "professor"? (*prof/fessor*).

9. A (*freshman/starter*) is someone in their first year of (an American) university.

10. A (*senior/leaver*) is someone in their final year of (an American) university.

Topic: **School/ University**

WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

TERM/SEMESTER - The academic year is usually divided into four (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) terms/semesters.

ESSAY - A short literary composition on a single subject, usually presenting the personal view of the author.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES - to sign up for classes.

TO TAKE NOTES - to quickly summarize (in writing) what someone says (during a lecture).

1. I have a lot of very difficult _____ this term.

- exams
- exam
- examination

2. To _____ means to study hard in a short period of time (usually before an exam).

- cramp
- cram
- crumb

3. I thought that the _____ I wrote for my Spanish Literature class was great, but I only got a C.

- essay
- article
- work

4. Did you pass? No, I _____!

- fled
- flipped
- failed

5. A _____ student is someone who already has an undergraduate degree, and is trying to get an M.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.

- graduating
- graduate
- gradual

6. A Masters _____ is something you have to write in order to obtain a Masters Degree.

- theory
- work
- thesis

7. The maximum _____ for undergraduate degree students is 21 credit hours in a semester.

- course load
- class number
- load

8. A _____ student, is one who doesn't have a full course load.

- part-time
- part-study
- full-time

9. When you write a _____, you're writing a formal written report that includes both research findings and your own ideas.

- test
- research paper
- research work

10. She is a very smart girl. She always gets good _____.

- gradients
- notes
- grades

Topic: **School/ College/ University 3**

WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

FRESHMAN/ SOPHOMORE/ SENIOR - Refers to first-year, middle-year, and final-year students.

ORIENTATION - An tour of the campus (university area) and information session for new students.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES - to sign up for classes.

TO MAJOR IN - to have a subject as your primary area of study.

1. When is your assignment _____? (By when does it have to be finished?)

- done
- due
- date

2. A _____ is what one receives after successfully completing four years of college/ university.

- decree
- plaque
- degree

3. Exams that are given during the middle of each semester are called _____.

- half-exams
- midterms
- middle terms

4. GPA stands for "grade point _____".

- average
- attack
- anomaly

5. An _____ is a graduate or former student of a school, college, or university.

- alumnus
- alibi
- albatross

6. What is your _____? = What is your main area of study?

- minor
- principal
- major

7. What are you going to do after you _____ (finish university)?

- graduate
- sum-up
- gradual

8. One of my friends is _____ in Sociology.

- majoring
- major
- main topic

9. _____ courses are ones that you must take in order to graduate.

- Elective
- Required

Recruited

10. A T.A., or _____, is someone who helps the professor by grading papers, preparing material, etc.

teaching administrator

teach assistant

teaching/teacher's assistant

Topic: **Shopping/ Mall/ Clothes**

WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

TO SHOPLIFT - To steal things from a store.

WE'RE OUT OF THAT SIZE - We have no more of that size.

FOOD COURT (n.) - An area (as in a shopping mall) where fast food is sold (usually around a common eating area).

DEAL (n.) - A bargain. Something bought at a low/good price.

1. The _____ room is where you try on clothes.

fitting

fighting

trying

2. P1: Can I help you find anything? P2: No, thanks. We're just _____.

looking/walking

looking/browsing

looking/shoplifting

3. Martin was caught _____ and was taken to the police station.

shopkeeping

shop taking

shoplifting

4. We have a special _____ in the store this week: Buy one item, get another one at half-price.

promotion

promulgation

promise

5. Does this shirt _____ any other colors?

have in

come with

come in

6. In some countries you are expected to _____ with a seller (= try to lower a stated price).

barter

bargain

talk

7. I saw a nice suit in a window _____ of a men's clothing store.

display

presentation

show

8. When I walked into the store, the _____ asked me if I needed help finding something.

worker

sales clerk

customer service

9. If your girlfriend asks you "Do I _____ in this?", you should always answer "No".

look good in this

look fat in this

seem fat in this

10. I couldn't find a _____ in the parking lot.

area

compartment

space

Topic: **Elections/Voting/Politics**

1. John never votes for Republican _____.

candidates

runners

2. Who won the _____ in your state?

choice

election

3. Who did you vote _____?

for

on

4. The election _____ are in. = We now know the election _____.

responses

results

5. George Bush won all the states in the South. = George Bush _____ the South.

swept

collected

6. A _____ is when one candidate wins an election by a large percentage.

sweep

landslide

7. Q: How many _____ can a US president serve? A: A US president is allowed to serve two _____.

turns

terms

8. If something "hangs in the balance", it is _____.

decided

undecided

9. The Democrats won a large number of _____ in the Senate.

seats

chairs

10. It is important that all the _____ are counted.

vote

votes

Topic: **Renovations/Home Improvement/Construction**

1. We are always _____ with our clients. We don't hide anything from them.

upfront

ahead

2. When you paint your walls you can use either a paint brush, or a paint _____.

- roll
- roller

3. How many _____ (= layers) of paint should I apply?

- goats
- coats

4. Many apartments have _____ floors.

- hardwood
- hard foot

5. A door sits on door _____.

- hinges
- hangars

6. A _____ store is a good place to buy building materials.

- software
- hardware

7. These bathroom floor _____ are really old. We should replace them.

- tiles
- tools

8. They were supposed to finish last week, but they're a little behind _____.

- timetable
- schedule

9. I fixed your toilet. I also replaced your pipe at no _____ (= for free).

- charge
- charger

10. Can I get that estimate in _____?

- print
- writing

Topic: **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: Recycling, global warming, conservation, etc. 1**

It's always good to be aware of certain environmental concerns. We all live on this planet and have to take care of it. Here's an exercise to help you practice talking/writing about the environment and some of the problems that many of us face every day.

1. Exhaust fumes cause a lot of _____, especially in big cities.

- recycling
- pollution

2. Everyone should learn to _____ (= save) energy. Using lights/lamps only when needed is a good way to do this.

- conserve
- converse

3. Nancy is _____ about pollution. This is why she walks to work instead of driving.

- cornered
- concerned

4. _____ is much healthier than driving, and it doesn't pollute the air.

- Baking
- Biking

5. David conserves water by not letting it _____ when he's not using it.

- run
- jog

6. I'd like to conserve water... But I feel dirty if I don't _____ three times a day!

- bath
- shower

7. Many unethical companies _____ their waste into rivers.

- dump
- give

8. _____, which is partly caused by exhaust fumes from cars, is a very big problem in many big cities across the world.

- Smog
- Smoke

9. _____ rain occurs when pollution in the air is absorbed by water droplets in clouds.

- Dirty
- Acid

10. Oil _____ pollute sea water and kill marine life.

- ☐ soil
- ☐ spills
