

Vocabulary Strategy

USING CONTEXT CLUES TO FIND NUANCE

A word can have many shades of meaning, or nuances. Though the word *abstraction* denotes removal from concrete reality, its context—the surrounding words—can express various nuances. For example, if you say a car that runs on water is a “mere *abstraction* because technology is nonexistent,” your use of *mere* and *nonexistent technology* suggests that the idea is unrealistic.

Directions: Use context to determine the nuance of the bold faced words in each sentence. Circle the correct answer.

1. The laborers hands were **callous** from many years of hard work.
a. rough c. calm
b. cold d. red
2. Sarah acted **callous** towards her former boyfriend at the party.
f. rough h. calm
g. cold j. red
3. I rode my bike to the corner to **post** a letter.
a. pole c. mail
b. publish d. station
4. Connor **posted** one last entry to his blog before going to bed.
f. pole h. mail
g. publish j. station
5. The sergeant yelled for his squad to **retreat**.
a. vacation c. refuge
b. withdraw d. recede
6. The scientists measured the glaciers **retreat** at about 2 inches per year.
f. vacation h. refuge
g. withdraw j. recede