

Part 3

Word Knowledge

Directions

This test has 25 questions about the meanings of words. Each question has an underlined word. You are to decide which one of the four words in the choices most nearly means the same thing as the underlined word and then mark the corresponding space on your answer sheet. Try the following sample questions:

S1. Repaired most nearly means:

- (A) replaced
- (B) fixed
- (C) cleaned
- (D) stored

Repaired most nearly means fixed, so B is correct.

S2. The envoy arrived late to the meeting.

- (A) chairperson
- (B) automobile
- (C) representative
- (D) lawyer

Envoy most nearly means representative, so C is correct.

Your score on this test is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Try to answer every question. Don't spend too much time on any one question.

When you begin, be sure to start with Question 1 in Part 3 of your test booklet and Question 1 in Part 3 on your answer sheet.




IF YOU FINISH BEFORE THE TIME IS UP, YOU MAY
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Part 3**Word Knowledge**

Time: 11 minutes; 35 questions

1. The gold was kept in a secure vault.
(A) locked
 (B) safe
(C) unknown
(D) thick
2. Assimilate most nearly means:
 (A) absorb
(B) react
(C) pretend
(D) lie
3. Her living room was untidy.
(A) small
(B) unfurnished
(C) carpeted
 (D) messy
4. The delegates were united in their aims.
(A) uplifted
 (B) in agreement
(C) unhappy
(D) argumentative
5. Margaret was finicky in her standards.
(A) silly
(B) lax
(C) careful
 (D) exacting
6. The radio was audible.
(A) missing
(B) silent
 (C) heard
(D) broken
7. He tried to goad his audience.
(A) insult
 (B) incite
(C) please
(D) bore
8. He ran headlong into the fight.
(A) headfirst
(B) reluctantly
(C) happily
 (D) recklessly
9. Flagrant most nearly means:
(A) quiet
(B) amazing
(C) delayed
 (D) glaring
10. His irritability was obvious to everyone.
 (A) apparent
(B) unknown
(C) annoying
(D) brought
11. Interior most nearly means:
(A) second-rate
(B) uneven
 (C) inside
(D) notable
12. The actions of the CEO were unconscionable.
(A) clever
(B) illegal
 (C) excessive
(D) automatic

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13. The sergeant gave his reasoned opinion.
(A) irate
✓(B) logical
(C) impressive
(D) uninformed
14. Abandoned most nearly means:
(A) derelict
(B) stressed
(C) alone
✓(D) deserted
15. The brass was burnished.
(A) yellow
(B) old
(C) expensive
✓(D) polished
16. The commodity was sold.
✓(A) product
(B) stock
(C) idea
(D) table
17. Her motives were oblique.
(A) pure
(B) emotional
✓(C) obscure
(D) amusing
18. Superfluous most nearly means:
(A) superior
✓(B) unnecessary
(C) helpful
(D) expensive
19. Anonymous most nearly means:
(A) well-known
✓(B) unknown
(C) insipid
(D) threatening
20. The pupil listened attentively.
✓(A) student
(B) teacher
(C) parent
(D) employee
21. Tragedy most nearly means:
(A) drama
✓(B) misfortune
(C) narration
(D) unhappy
22. She restrained her impulses.
(A) enjoyed
(B) hated
✓(C) controlled
(D) lied about
23. Trivial most nearly means:
✓(A) insignificant
(B) unpleasant
(C) useful
(D) hidden
24. Abate most nearly means:
(A) recover
(B) aid
(C) foreclose
✓(D) end
25. To commission most nearly means:
(A) to give
(B) to rescind
(C) to earn
✓(D) to authorize
26. He gave a succinct account of the events.
(A) passionate
(B) lengthy
(C) uncensored
✓(D) concise

27. The real estate agent appraised the value of the house.
 (A) estimated
(B) criticized
(C) approved
(D) reduced
28. The politician exuded charisma.
(A) odors
(B) falseness
 (C) charm
(D) generosity
29. Burrow most nearly means:
(A) deepen
(B) hide
 (C) nestle
(D) jump
30. That custom still prevails.
(A) angers
 (B) persists
(C) surprises
(D) excites
31. The painting was priceless.
 (A) valuable
(B) cheap
(C) interesting
(D) unknown
32. That virus can be dormant for years.
(A) painful
(B) active
(C) acute
 (D) inactive
33. Fundamental most nearly means:
(A) radical
(B) religious
 (C) basic
(D) excessive
34. Private most nearly means:
 (A) secret
(B) sad
(C) first
(D) embarrassed
35. To emit most nearly means:
 (A) to give off
(B) to smell
(C) to contain
(D) to admit



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24. B. Determine the cost of each option. Choice A doesn't provide enough paint (2×25 gallons = 50 gallons). Choice B: $11 \times \$108 = \$1,188$. Choice C: $6 \times \$215 = \$1,290$. Choice D: $55 \times \$23 = \$1,265$. The lowest price is \$1,188.
25. D. Divide 532 by 4 to determine how many feet of shelving will be needed.
26. D. The train headed for Wichita traveled 55 miles per hour \times 3 hours = 165 total miles. The train headed for Des Moines traveled 70 miles per hour \times 3 hours = 210 total miles. Adding the distances together gives you the number of miles apart the two trains were after three hours: $210 + 165 = 375$. Another option: You can add the two rates of speed ($55 + 70$) and multiply the sum by 3 hours (125×3 hours = 375).
27. A. Convert the mixed number to inches. 3 feet 8 inches equals 44 inches (12 inches per foot \times 3 feet = 36 inches + 8 inches = 44 inches). 44 inches (length each section needs to be) \times 4 (number of sections needed) = 176 inches (total molding needed). To determine the amount of molding needed in feet, convert 176 inches into feet by dividing 176 inches by 12 inches. You get $14\frac{2}{3}$ feet, so the shortest board length is 15 feet.
28. A. One turkey breast costs \$8.50 minus 10% of \$8.50, or $\$8.50 - \$0.85 = \$7.65$. The other turkey breast is full price. $\$7.65 + \$8.50 = \$16.15$.
29. C. Don't let the number of miles traveled confuse you — you don't use them to solve the problem. $\frac{2}{3}$ of a 40-hour workweek is $\frac{2}{3} \times 40\% = 80\%$. Reduce the fraction: $80 \div 5 = 16$ hours per week spent traveling.
30. A. Simply add the cost of all the items: $\$23.00 + \$14.95 + \$7.98 + \$7.98 = \$53.91$.

Part 3: Word Knowledge Answers

Scoring well on the Word Knowledge subtest is crucial to your enlistment and career plans. The Word Knowledge subtest makes up part of the Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT), and your score on this determines if you can even enlist in the military. If your score is weak in this area, spend time reviewing the material and improving your vocabulary (see Chapter 4).

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 8. D | 15. D | 22. C | 29. C |
| 2. A | 9. D | 16. A | 23. A | 30. B |
| 3. D | 10. A | 17. C | 24. D | 31. A |
| 4. B | 11. C | 18. B | 25. D | 32. D |
| 5. D | 12. C | 19. B | 26. D | 33. C |
| 6. C | 13. B | 20. A | 27. A | 34. A |
| 7. B | 14. D | 21. B | 28. C | 35. A |

Part 4: Paragraph Comprehension Answers

The Paragraph Comprehension subtest can be a bit tricky. But you need to get a good score on this subtest to enlist and get the career you want. So pay special attention if you've missed more than a couple of these answers — you need some study time (see Chapter 5). Remember that rereading the paragraph several times to make sure that you have the right answer is perfectly fine.

1. C. The passage states that drug use can be helpful, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage defines differences between misuse and abuse, so Choice B is wrong. Although it may be true, the passage doesn't mention Choice D.

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Time: 11 minutes; 35 questions

1. Enlisted personnel sometimes receive hazard pay.
(A) bonus
(B) frequent
 (C) danger
(D) injury
2. It was a sturdy table.
 (A) well-built
(B) ugly
(C) thick
(D) small
3. Summit most nearly means:
 (A) pinnacle
(B) plateau
(C) limit
(D) calling
4. Brevity is the soul of wit.
(A) beauty
(B) intelligence
 (C) terseness
(D) humor
5. Tiresome most nearly means:
(A) steady
(B) fatigued
 (C) tedious
(D) punctual
6. He facilitated her promotion.
(A) hindered
 (B) helped
(C) disliked
(D) ignored
7. The attorney appeared in court.
(A) defendant
(B) judge
(C) journalist
 (D) lawyer
8. The spectator enjoyed the game.
(A) competitor
 (B) observer
(C) referee
(D) organizer
9. The metal had a luster.
(A) scratch
(B) value
 (C) shine
(D) spot
10. The teacher cited some examples.
(A) memorized
(B) finished
 (C) specified
(D) examined
11. The committee members concurred.
 (A) agreed
(B) argued
(C) disagreed
(D) ate
12. Illustrious most nearly means:
(A) illustrated
 (B) famous
(C) foolish
(D) intelligent

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13. Fallacious most nearly means:
 (A) invalid
(B) delightful
(C) noisy
(D) overlooked
14. The farmer cultivated several crops.
(A) fertilized
(B) sold
 (C) grew
(D) ruined
15. The goods were transported yesterday.
(A) donated
 (B) conveyed
(C) destroyed
(D) trucked
16. Rigid most nearly means:
(A) strong
(B) weak
(C) pliable
 (D) inflexible
17. He did a commendable job.
(A) difficult
(B) commanding
 (C) praiseworthy
(D) repetitive
18. Deplore most nearly means:
(A) accept
(B) insult
 (C) disapprove
(D) salute
19. Sparse most nearly means:
(A) space
 (B) meager
(C) brief
(D) thirsty
20. Inflammable most nearly means:
(A) fireproof
(B) irritating
(C) poisonous
 (D) explosive
21. The dog yearned for a bone.
(A) barked
(B) dug
(C) begged
 (D) longed
22. The customs agent confiscated the goods.
(A) bought
(B) noticed
 (C) seized
(D) stole
23. The wound was mortal.
(A) dangerous
(B) superficial
(C) deep
 (D) fatal
24. Illusion most nearly means:
 (A) mirage
(B) distant
(C) sight
(D) perspective
25. It was a fantastic sight.
(A) simple
(B) illusory
(C) typical
 (D) strange
26. Mature most nearly means:
(A) old
(B) organized
 (C) adult
(D) childish

27. Indigenous most nearly means:

- (A) native
- (B) poor
- (C) indecent
- (D) delirious

28. They terminated his contract.

- (A) bought
- (B) extended
- (C) sold
- (D) ended

29. The beverage was fragrant.

- (A) good-smelling
- (B) brewed
- (C) ice-cold
- (D) unusual

30. Null most nearly means:

- (A) zero
- (B) dull
- (C) unskilled
- (D) rapid

31. She was a tennis fanatic.

- (A) observer
- (B) zealot
- (C) player
- (D) coach

32. Black tie was obligatory.

- (A) optional
- (B) voluntary
- (C) infamous
- (D) required

33. Ridicule most nearly means:

- (A) mock
- (B) support
- (C) ride
- (D) silly

34. Pardon most nearly means:

- (A) courtesy
- (B) excuse
- (C) believe
- (D) respect

35. Mythical most nearly means:

- (A) imaginary
- (B) truthful
- (C) resourceful
- (D) insightful



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22. B. Subtract the speed of the plane from the speed of the balloon to determine how much longer it took the balloonist:
- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 13 days | 12 hours | 16 minutes | 13 seconds |
| <u>- 4 days</u> | <u>10 hours</u> | <u>15 minutes</u> | <u>7 seconds</u> |
| 9 days | 2 hours | 1 minute | 5 seconds |
23. A. Divide the total cost by the number of boxes purchased to determine the cost per box: $\$48 \div 12 = \4 .
24. D. Multiply 20×0.05 to determine how many more miles per gallon the car will get. The answer is 1. Then add number of additional miles per gallon the car will get to the original number of miles per gallon the car gets to reach the new average: $1 + 20 = 21$.
25. B. First determine the original number of screws in the box: 3 dozen = $3 \times 12 = 36$. Then subtract the number used from the original amount to determine the number of screws left: $36 - 27 = 9$. 9 is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a dozen: 9 of 12 = $\frac{3}{4}$. When you reduce $\frac{3}{4}$, you get $\frac{3}{4}$.
26. D. Divide $10\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$. You can perform this operation by multiplying $10\frac{1}{2}$ by the inverse of $\frac{3}{4}$: $10\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{3} = 2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{3} = 8\frac{2}{3}$. This fraction, reduced, becomes 14.
27. B. First multiply length \times width to determine the area of the patio: 12 feet \times 14 feet = 168 square feet. Next determine the area in square inches that needs to be covered: 168 square feet \times 12 inches = 2,016 square inches. Finally, divide that answer by the size of the stones to determine the number of stones needed: $2,016 \div 8 = 252$.
28. D. Calculate the amount of the deduction by multiplying her salary by the percent deducted: $\$25,000 \times 28\% = \$25,000 \times 0.28 = \$7,000$. Subtract that product from the salary to determine the net pay: $\$25,000 - \$7,000 = \$18,000$.
29. B. 10 gallons (the number of gallons you need to know the cost of) is 2×5 (the number of gallons for which you have a price), so the cost of 10 gallons is 2 times the price of 5 gallons, or $\$115 \times 2$.
30. C. Multiply the height of the stack in feet by 12 to determine the height of the stack in inches: $6 \times 12 = 72$ inches. Divide that number by 4 inches, the thickness of each board to determine the number of pieces of lumber in the stack: $72 \div 4 = 18$.

Part 3: Word Knowledge Answers

If your score on the Word Knowledge subtest has improved since you took the first test, congratulations. If not, don't be too surprised. Improving your score on this subtest in a short period of time can be difficult. But it can be done. Review the information we provide in Chapter 4 and set aside time each day (maybe several times a day, depending on how soon you plan on taking the ASVAB) to memorize words, roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Your score on the Word Knowledge subtest is important — it counts toward your AFQT score.

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 8. B | 15. B | 22. C | 29. A |
| 2. A | 9. C | 16. D | 23. D | 30. A |
| 3. A | 10. C | 17. C | 24. A | 31. B |
| 4. C | 11. A | 18. C | 25. D | 32. D |
| 5. C | 12. B | 19. B | 26. C | 33. A |
| 6. B | 13. A | 20. D | 27. A | 34. B |
| 7. D | 14. C | 21. D | 28. D | 35. A |

Part 3

Word Knowledge

Directions

This test has 25 questions about the meanings of words. Each question has an underlined word. You are to decide which one of the four words in the choices most nearly means the same thing as the underlined word and then mark the corresponding space on your answer sheet. Try the following sample questions:

S1. Articulate most nearly means:

- (A) talkative
- (B) tall
- (C) athletic
- (D) quiet

Articulate most nearly means talkative, so the correct answer is A.

S2. He renounced his title.

- (A) disavowed
- (B) renamed
- (C) enjoyed
- (D) bought

Renounced most nearly means disavowed, so the correct answer is A.

Your score on this test is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Try to answer every question. Don't spend too much time on any one question.

When you begin, be sure to start with Question 1 in Part 3 of your test booklet and Question 1 in Part 3 on your answer sheet.



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Part 3**Word Knowledge**

Time: 11 minutes; 35 questions

1. Repulsive most nearly means:
 (A) offensive
(B) acceptable
(C) smelly
(D) suitable
2. The fruit was edible.
(A) wax
(B) expensive
(C) foreign
 (D) digestible
3. The dog pounced.
 (A) jumped
(B) sniffed
(C) ran
(D) barked
4. Pretense most nearly means:
(A) polite
 (B) dishonesty
(C) stress
(D) appearance
5. Her boss was annoying.
(A) professional
(B) serious
 (C) bothersome
(D) present
6. Her conversation was incoherent.
(A) eloquent
(B) succinct
 (C) unintelligible
(D) amusing
7. He tried to appease the audience.
 (A) satisfy
(B) irritate
(C) neglect
(D) ignore
8. She established proof.
(A) offered
(B) invented
(C) demanded
 (D) demonstrated
9. He concluded his remarks quickly.
(A) spoke
 (B) ended
(C) translated
(D) read
10. Avocation most nearly means:
 (A) hobby
(B) occupation
(C) vacation
(D) education
11. Presume most nearly means:
(A) assert
(B) pressure
(C) reconsider
 (D) assume
12. Her eyesight was acute.
 (A) sharp
(B) poor
(C) unusual
(D) tested

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13. Her amazement was genuine.
(A) accent
(B) appearance
(C) awareness
✓(D) astonishment
14. Her thoughts on the matter were inconsequential.
(A) profound
(B) disturbing
✓(C) irrelevant
(D) confused
15. Municipality most nearly means:
(A) mayor
(B) road
(C) kingdom
✓(D) town
16. He was an amateur astronomer.
(A) veteran
✓(B) novice
(C) interested
(D) pleased
17. I had ambition.
(A) money
(B) prestige
✓(C) drive
(D) donuts
18. The rose was crimson.
(A) blooming
(B) colorful
(C) fragrant
✓(D) red
19. The equipment was expendable.
(A) priceless
✓(B) replaceable
(C) expensive
(D) heavy
20. She was exempt from gym class.
(A) banned
✓(B) excused
(C) tired
(D) refreshed
21. The meal was sufficient.
✓(A) adequate
(B) well-prepared
(C) exceptional
(D) poor
22. Defective most nearly means:
✓(A) flawed
(B) noticeable
(C) rare
(D) durable
23. The rain was intermittent.
(A) steady
(B) forecasted
✓(C) occasional
(D) needed
24. The doctor gave the patient a cursory examination.
(A) in-depth
(B) painful
(C) unnecessary
✓(D) superficial
25. Erroneous most nearly means:
(A) acceptable
(B) misbehaving
(C) obedient
✓(D) false
26. Her answer was terse.
(A) defensive
(B) angry
(C) lengthy
✓(D) brief

27. His criticism was incessant.
(A) infrequent
 (B) constant
(C) justified
(D) noisy
28. He was arrested on a misdemeanor charge.
(A) theft
 (B) serious
(C) petty crime
(D) bogus
29. The water was frigid.
(A) warm
(B) fresh
(C) refreshing
 (D) cold
30. He concocted a story about me.
(A) told
(B) rehearsed
 (C) invented
(D) remembered
31. The guard on duty was vigilant.
(A) relaxed
(B) suspicious
 (C) watchful
(D) tired
32. Her former home was in Colorado.
 (A) previous
(B) current
(C) second
(D) abandoned
33. He had more than one option.
(A) requirement
 (B) choice
(C) preference
(D) need
34. My voice is strident.
(A) soft
(B) melodious
 (C) harsh
(D) baritone
35. Imperturbable most nearly means:
(A) impenetrable
 (B) serene
(C) anxious
(D) obnoxious



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1. A	8. D	15. D	22. A	29. D
2. D	9. B	16. B	23. C	30. C
3. A	10. A	17. C	24. D	31. C
4. B	11. D	18. D	25. D	32. A
5. C	12. A	19. B	26. D	33. B
6. C	13. D	20. B	27. B	34. C
7. A	14. C	21. A	28. C	35. B

Part 4: Paragraph Comprehension Answers

Because the military bigwigs use the Paragraph Comprehension subtest to determine if you even qualify for enlistment (it counts toward your AFQT score), you need to do well here. If you're still struggling, remember to take your time when you read the passages. And, after you read each question, you can quickly reread the passage just to make sure you're on the money. The information is in the paragraph; you just have to concentrate to pull it out. Turn to Chapter 5 if you still need additional help to pull off a good score on this subtest.

- B.** Although Choice A may be true, the passage doesn't mention it. The passage states that the home's resale value is a consideration, so Choice C is incorrect. The cost of the remodel is only one of several factors to consider, so Choice D is incorrect.
- C.** The passage states that pumas, mountain lions, and cougars are the same thing, so Choice A is incorrect. Nothing in the passage supports Choice B. The passage states that cougars live about 18 years in the wild, so Choice D is incorrect.
- B.** As the paragraph states, the Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that emphasized science, reason, and logic, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage says reason and logic were used to explain natural phenomenon, not that they couldn't explain natural phenomenon, so Choice C is incorrect. The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement, not an artistic movement, so Choice D is incorrect.
- A.** The passage says that professionals, not volunteers, have the skills needed to investigate fires, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage states that professional firefighters have more experience investigating the causes of fires, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage states that hiring professional firefighters is worthwhile, so Choice D is incorrect.
- B.** Although the passage states that 68 to 80 beats per minute is the normal pulse rate, nothing in the passage suggests that a lower rate is dangerous, so Choice A is incorrect. The passage states that athletes have slower pulses, not loss of a pulse, so Choice C is incorrect. Pulse rate is measured in beats per minute, so Choice D is wrong.
- A.** The main point of the passage is to define epidemiology. Choices B, C, and D aren't the main points of the passage.
- B.** Choice A may be true, but the passage doesn't support the statement, so it's incorrect. The passage says that college students think computer skills have been more helpful than other skills, so Choice C is incorrect. The passage states that college students think that computer skills have helped them in their class work, so Choice D is incorrect.
- A.** Choice B isn't supported by the passage. Choice C is the opposite of what the author argues. The text doesn't support Choice D.
- C.** The passage says that most states punish voluntary manslaughter more severely than involuntary manslaughter, so Choice A is incorrect. The argument that punishing people more severely for voluntary manslaughter is unconstitutional isn't made in the passage, so Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't support Choice D.

Sample Questions

1. Small most nearly means
 - 1-A cheap.
 - 1-B round.
 - 1-C sturdy.
 - ✓ 1-D little.

2. Impair most nearly means
 - 2-A direct.
 - ✓ 2-B weaken.
 - 2-C improve.
 - 2-D stimulate.

3. Cease most nearly means
 - ✓ 3-A stop.
 - 3-B start.
 - 3-C change.
 - 3-D continue.

4. The wind is variable today.
 - 4-A Mild
 - 4-B Steady
 - ✓ 4-C Shifting
 - 4-D Chilling

5. The student discovered an error.
 - ✓ 5-A Found
 - 5-B Entered
 - 5-C Searched
 - 5-D Enlarged

6. Do not obstruct the entrance to the building.
 - ✓ 6-A Block
 - 6-B Enter
 - 6-C Leave
 - 6-D Cross

Answers and Explanations

- 1-D *Little* most closely means the same as *small*. The other choices clearly are not related in any way to the word *small*.
- 2-B Of all the choices, *weaken* most closely means the same as *impair*. *Impair* means to *decrease in strength, amount, or quality*.
- 3-A *Stop* most nearly means *cease*. *Start* and *continue* are opposites of *cease*, while *change* is not related to the word *cease*.
- 4-C The word “shifting” could replace “variable” in this sentence. *Variable* means *changing* or *subject to change*.
- 5-A The word “discovered” can be replaced by “found” in this sentence. *Discovered* means *to have uncovered* or *found*.
- 6-A *Obstruct* can be replaced by the word “block.” *Obstruct* means to *impede* or *interfere*.