

Voluminous Vocabulary:

There's No Such Thing as a Perfect Fly

Read each sentence or group of sentences below. Choose the BEST meaning for the underlined word.

Example: Fiona stormed into her flies' room, lowering the volume. Upon her way out, she caught a peculiar site. Standing in front of the adjacent bathroom mirror, stood Fillmore, holding a pair of scissors in one hand and a chunk of hair in the other.

Based on the context clues above, adjacent means:

- A. Sideways
- B. Broken
- C. Next to (as in, there is a bathroom next to the flies' bedroom)

Can you give an example of a time when you might use the word adjacent? You might say that the school secretary has a desk that is adjacent to the principal's office.

1. He thumbed through page after page of some of the fanciest hairstyles he had ever seen! It seemed the harder he looked, the more he disliked his hair as it was. Exhausted, he fell asleep, dreaming of Billy Ray and his magnificent mullet.

Based on the context clues above, mullet means:

A. Leather jacket

B. A hairstyle that is short on the top and long in the back

C. Necklace

Can you give an example of a mullet? Famous country musician Billy Ray Cyrus used to have a mullet. He had long hair down the back of his neck but it was very short on the top of his head.

2. Franny, assuming she was finished with HER wisdom for the day, noticed Fonzy beginning to whine about the sauce he had dripped on his clean, white shirt as he was loading dishes into the dishwasher.

Based on the context clues above, assuming means:

A. Something that you understand to be true

B. Accepting something

C. Fed up with something

Can you give an example of something that you might assume to be true? You can usually assume that the month of July is a month filled with mostly hot, sunny days in the state of California.

3. For the next several minutes, Fonzy locked himself in the bathroom, scrutinizing the scrape on his wing.

Based on the context clues above, scrutinizing means:

- A. Protecting
- B. Looking carefully at
- C. Washing, cleaning

Can you give an example of something you might scrutinize? You might scrutinize or carefully examine the results of your latest math test after your teacher grades it.

4. Fiona stormed into her flies' room, lowering the volume. Upon her way out, she caught a peculiar site. Standing in front of the adjacent bathroom mirror, stood Fillmore, holding a pair of scissors in one hand and a chunk of hair in the other.

Based on the context clues above, peculiar means:

- A. Odd, strange
- B. Completely normal
- C. Enjoyable

Can you give an example of something peculiar? There used to be a cartoon on Nickelodeon called Cat-Dog. It was a cartoon about a peculiar animal that was a combination of a cat and a dog. The cat's head was on one end of the body and the dog's head was on the other end of the body.

5. Franny, assuming she was finished with HER wisdom for the day, noticed Fonzy beginning to whine about the sauce he had dripped on his clean, white shirt as he was loading dishes into the dishwasher.

Based on the context clues above, whine means:

- A. Talk loudly about
- B. Bring something to life
- C. Complain

Can you give an example of something you might whine about? You might whine about having to do an extra homework assignment or project if your teacher assigns one.

6. "Ugggggggh! Would everyone just leave me alone? Please! Fillmore put down the scissors, moping on back to his room.

Based on the context clues above, moping means:

- A. Walking around in a good mood
- B. Running
- C. Walking around unhappy

Can you give an example of a time when you might be moping around? You might be seen moping around after your PE teacher announces that you will be running the mile.

7. "And just what do you think YOU'RE doing, young fly?" she asked, looked perplexed.

Based on the context clues above, perplexed means:

- A. Annoyed
- B. Confused
- C. Happy

Can you give an example of a time when you might be perplexed? You might be perplexed over seeing it rain in the month of July, a usually hot and sunny month in the state of California.

8. Attempting to be optimistic, he looked at Franny. "You don't suppose stains are in, do you?" he asked warily. "Like, maybe some of those musicians in your music magazine wear sloppy clothes on PURPOSE?"

Based on the context clues above, optimistic means:

- A. To be positive, look on the bright side
- B. To be strong and courageous
- C. To fight for what you believe in

Can you give an example of a time when you might feel optimistic? You might feel optimistic about getting good grades on your report card if you know you've been trying hard and doing really well in school.

9. He thumbed through page after page of some of the fanciest hairstyles he had ever seen! It seemed the harder he looked, the more he disliked his hair as it was. Exhausted, he fell asleep, dreaming of Billy Ray and his magnificent mullet.

Based on the context clues above, exhausted means:

- A. Very tired
- B. Energetic
- C. Shaky

Can you give an example of a time when you might feel exhausted? You might feel exhausted after a long day of taking the state-wide, school assessment test.

10. Oddly, the mastermind behind the mid-morning music, wasn't Franny.

Based on the context clues above, mastermind means:

- A. A sneaky person
- B. Someone who is brave
- C. Someone in charge of an idea or plan

Can you give an example of a mastermind? Someone who is a self-published author and oversees the design and production of their books, would be considered the mastermind behind the creation of those books.

EXTRA CREDIT

"Franny stopped in the hallway, snickering. She rolled her eyes. 'Ummmmm, sure Fillmore. Smooth move. Don't you know you have to grow your hair out first?'"

Based on the context clues above, snickering means:

- A. Laughing
- B. Making fun of someone
- C. Shouting

Can you use the word snickering in a sentence? When might you see or hear a person snickering? "The boy tagged his sister on the playground and snickering, ran to the safe zone." You might see someone snickering if a funny joke is told or if they are playing a fun game at recess.