

## Voluminous Vocabulary:

### Fiona Fly and the Great American Bake-off

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

**Example:** "Having a passion, specifically a pastime or hobby, like cooking, helps you gain back that important sense of self."

Based on the context clues above, passion means:

- A. Something you dislike
- B. A strategy or plan for how to do something
- C. **Something you love doing**

If a person has a passion for cooking, what other things can you think of that someone can have a passion for? **People can have passions for sports, painting, or singing.**

1. Fiona was a sweet fly, with not an ounce of sass spewing from either antenna. She wasn't into loud music, wild hairstyles, or ripped jeans. She was kind, nurturing, and always considered the needs of others above herself.

Based on the context clues above, sass means:

- A. An important meeting
- B. Courage
- C. Back-talk (a person who is sassy might say things that other people would be afraid to say)

Can you think of a person who is full of sass or someone you might describe as sassy? Sometimes teenagers or kids who are older, are described as sassy — that means the same thing.

2. Whatever the reason, she put an "out of commission" sign on the door to the kitchen and got right down to business.

Based on the context clues above, out of commission means:

- A. Available
- B. In a hurry (if a person is out of commission, they are in a hurry)
- C. Not working (if a person is out of commission, they are unavailable)

Can you think of a time when you were out of commission? If you broke a bone in your arm and you are a baseball player, you were out of commission for a few weeks, meaning you couldn't play baseball until your arm healed or you had your cast removed.

3. "Never mind that," Fiona thought thumbing through Garbage Grandeur Magazine in search of the perfect recipe.

Based on the context clues above, grandeur means:

- A. A type of dumpster where trash is kept
- B. impressive, impressiveness (as in, a magazine about "fancy garbage")
- C. Hard-working

Can you use the word grandeur in a sentence? The boy looked out at the grandeur of his grandparents' Minnesota farm.

4. As an Olympic gymnast who competed in flies' fitness championships, he stored everything from still rings to stationary bikes in his basement!

Based on the context clues above, stationary means:

- A. Not moving
- B. Impressive
- C. Fast

Name something that is stationary. A mailbox on a street corner is stationary.

5. Fiona set to work, freeing a sack of frozen crickets from the freezer, a can of extra-large water bugs from the pantry, and a smattering of ripe, juicy cherries from the refrigerator.

Based on the context clues above, smattering means:

- A. Large amount
- B. Package
- C. Handful

Can you use the word smattering in a sentence? The hungry grandma ate a smattering of strawberries.

6. The flies hovered in the kitchen eager for take-off as Fiona finished a slice of toast and marmalade jam at breakfast later that morning.

Based on the context clues above, hovered means:

- A. Stayed in one place in the air
- B. Flew around
- C. Moved very slowly

Can you use the word hovered in a sentence? The paper airplane hovered in the sky before landing in a nearby bush.

7. The flies agreed that each dish was unique and special and with utmost confidence, KNEW she would impress a panel of Garbage Gurus, come Saturday.

Based on the context clues above, gurus means:

- A. Group of people who are inexperienced
- B. Group of people who are an expert at something
- C. Group of people who are radical or edgy

Can you think of a group of people who are gurus, or experts at something? Scientists are considered gurus because they are very smart and know a lot about chemistry, biology, physics, and the earth!

8. "Oh my!" she gasped, gazing at photos of some of the world's most prestigious dumpsters.

Based on the context clues above, prestigious means:

- A. Very special
- B. Disgusting
- C. Boring

Do you know of any places in the world that are prestigious places to visit? Julliard is a prestigious music college in New York. Very talented music students study there.

9. Frederick reclined in his easy chair.

Based on the context clues above, reclined means:

A. Laid back (to recline is to lay back)

B. Sat up (to recline is to sit up)

C. Relaxed (to recline is to relax)

Why would a person recline in a chair? If you are taking a nap or wanted to relax, you might recline in a chair. It is a comfortable position to be in.

10. The twins immersed themselves in a game of Fly Zap!

Based on the context clues above, immersed means:

A. Enjoyed

B. Busy or involved in

C. Short trip

Can you think of a time when you might immerse yourself in something?

You might immerse yourself in writing a poem or short story. For example, "The young woman immersed herself in the art of poetry."

\*\*\*EXTRA CREDIT\*\*\*

11. The icing on the cake was when Fiona set a smile on the face of the usually persnickety F. Firefly.

Based on the context clues above, persnickety means:

- A. Very particular about how things are done
- B. An extremely messy person
- C. Someone who gets angry often.

A student might be persnickety when it comes to how they organize the inside of their desk. They like things "just so."

12. From broiled beetles to gourmet pies and pastries, it seemed as if these culinary connoisseurs and their exotic taste buds were almost impossible to impress, notably F. Firefly from Dumpster Divers on television!

Based on the context clues above, connoisseur means:

- A. A person who is an expert on food, art, or music
- B. A person who is uneducated
- C. Someone who gets confused easily

Someone who collects paintings from well-known artists might be considered a connoisseur of fine art.

13. "Hush, now! It's rude to point," she reminded them, failing to acknowledge the unassuming nerves that seemed to have gotten the best of her.

Based on the context clues above, unassuming means:

A. Showy, flashy

B. Someone or something that is not easily noticed (but it's there)

C. Something that is obvious

In music for example, if you were to say that a musician has "unassuming piano prowess," that's a way of acknowledging that the artist is good at playing the piano but is not flashy or showy. They might play very well but play softer or quieter and not as aggressive as someone else. It doesn't mean that they are not a good musician because they are playing their instrument more delicately. The same is true with nerves. Most people get nervous, however some people are better at hiding their nerves than others. Just because you are good at hiding your nerves, doesn't mean that you don't feel nervous.



14. From broiled beetles to gourmet pies and pastries, it seemed as if these culinary connoisseurs and their exotic taste buds were almost impossible to impress, notably F. Firefly from Dumpster Divers on television!

Based on the context clues above, exotic means:

A. Common, ordinary

B. Unique, unusual

C. Lovely

Exotic animals, (such as a rare bird) are unique and often colorful or interesting to look at. When you have exotic taste buds, you are usually the type of person who will try new foods that might ordinarily seem weird or appear to have a funny taste or flavor. You might be the type of person who would LIKE the flavor of such foods.