

Voluminous Vocabulary:

Frances Feeds the Homeless

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

Example: "Despite the Palm Springs heat, he loved long walks on the Indian Canyon."

Based on the context clues above, canyon means:

- A. Something you dislike
- B. A strategy or plan for how to do something
- C. A deep valley with steep sides

Where have you seen a canyon? One example of a canyon is the Grand Canyon, located in Northern Arizona.

1. He was best friends with five, fantastic house flies, and except for the mailman, the UPS man, and those pesky squirrels who loved to taunt him, playing peek-a-boo behind lanky stems of palm trees on his block, he got along with everyone else.

Based on the context clues above, lanky means:

- A. Thin
- B. Rough
- C. Fat

2. He was best friends with five, fantastic house flies, and except for the mailman, the UPS man, and those pesky squirrels who loved to taunt him, playing peek-a-boo behind lanky stems of palm trees on his block, he got along with everyone else.

Based on the context clues above, pesky means:

- A. Agreeable
- B. Annoying, bothersome
- C. Disgusting

3. Between its rustic nightlife and colorful, Navajo décor addressing a scenic yet casual climate, Palm Springs, California was everything a perfect little pooch could bark for, and everything Frances needed to make that difference in the world.

Based on the context clues above, rustic means:

- A. Simple
- B. Fancy
- C. Old-fashioned

4. Between its rustic nightlife and colorful, Navajo décor addressing a scenic yet casual climate, Palm Springs, California was everything a perfect little pooch could bark for, and everything Frances needed to *make* that difference in the world.

Based on the context clues above, Navajo means:

- A. Symbolic of the tribe of South American Indians
- B. Impressive, grandiose
- C. Symbolic of the tribe of North American Indians

5. Franny saw a lake that turned out to be nothing but a mirage.

Based on the context clues above, mirage means:

- A. Something that exists in real life
- B. An image that looks real but isn't actually there
- C. Hot surface

6. It was a tranquil morning. The fronds on the palm trees were hardly rustling as Frances sat in his doghouse.

Based on the context clues above, tranquil means:

- A. Noisy
- B. Bothersome
- C. Peaceful

7. He was hard at work drawing plans for the makeshift shelter he hoped to build with the help of Finny and his fly friends.

Based on the context clues above, makeshift means:

A. Temporary

B. Permanent

C. Sturdy, strong

8. "You know son," Frederick said finishing his slice of pie, "Frances has really found his niche helping at the shelter. The importance of giving to those less fortunate is often overlooked but his heart is filled with love— the kind of love these dogs need."

Based on the context clues above, niche means:

A. House

B. A place or position suitable or appropriate for a person or thing

C. Purpose in life

9. Finny heard a snarl from behind the back gate. He knew it wasn't Frances. Frances was the friendliest dog on his block.

Based on the context clues above, snarl means:

A. Growl

B. Sweet talk

C. Cooperate, agree to

10. Frances swept their enclosures, gave them fresh food and water, and carried on lively conversations with each of them.

Based on the context clues above, enclosure means:

A. Small tract of land surrounded by a fence

B. Tiny cage

C. None of the above

EXTRA CREDIT

11. A chunky and lopsided tongue hung out the corner of Frances' mouth as he wagged his tail, itching for a scratch or two behind the ears.

Based on the context clues above, lopsided means:

A. Leaning to one side

B. Straight

C. Wet

12. He was best friends with five, fantastic house flies, and except for the mailman, the UPS man, and those pesky squirrels who loved to taunt him, playing peek-a-boo behind lanky stems of palm trees on his block, he got along with everyone else.

Based on the context clues above, taunt means:

A. Love

B. Hit

C. Tease

13. The peaceful, desert winds eventually lulled him to sleep.

Based on the context clues above, lulled means:

- A. Pulled, yanked
- B. Forcing someone to fall asleep
- C. To put to sleep or rest by soothing means

14. The fronds on the palm trees were hardly rustling as Frances sat in his doghouse.

Based on the context clues above, rustling means:

- A. Quiet
- B. To cause sound by moving or stirring
- C. Aggressive