

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## UNIT 1

CONSONANTS.....	1
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	2
STORY ONE "SAVING" .....	3
STORY ONE.....	4
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	5
ANALYSIS .....	6
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	7
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	8
MORE THAN ONE MEANING.....	9
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	10
THE BEST WORD .....	11
KNOW THE STORY .....	12
SAYINGS.....	13
DIALOGUE PUNCTUATION .....	14
CHOICES.....	15
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	16

## UNIT 2

CONSONANT REVIEW.....	17
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	18
STORY TWO "EUROPE" .....	19
STORY TWO .....	20
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	21
ANALYSIS .....	22
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	23
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	24
MORE THAN ONE MEANING.....	25
COMMAS.....	26
RETELLING .....	27

SPELLING .....	28
WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION .....	29
COMPARE AND CONTRAST .....	30
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	31
DESCRIPTIVE WRITING .....	32

### UNIT 3

VOWELS.....	33
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	34
STORY THREE "THE LADY" .....	35
STORY THREE .....	36
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY.....	37
ANALYSIS .....	38
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	39
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	40
MAIN IDEA.....	41
NOUNS, VERBS, ADJECTIVES.....	42
SUBJECTS .....	43
SUBJECT AND VERB AGREE.....	44
NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS.....	45
READING CHARTS.....	46
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	47
EDITING AND PROOFING.....	48

### UNIT 4

VOWELS.....	49
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	50
STORY FOUR "A SAD STORY" .....	51
STORY FOUR .....	52
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY.....	53
ANALYSIS .....	54
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	55
EXPRESSIONS .....	56

FINDING THE MEANING .....	57
FICTION.....	58
CONTRACTIONS .....	59
CONTRACTIONS .....	60
CONTRACTIONS .....	61
PERSUASIVE SPEAKING.....	62
PERSUASIVE WRITING .....	63
VIEWS .....	64

## UNIT 5

Y WORDS.....	65
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW .....	66
STORY FIVE "PROGRESS".....	67
STORY FIVE.....	68
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	69
ANALYSIS .....	70
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	71
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	72
FINDING THE MEANING .....	73
PLURAL .....	74
PLURALS.....	75
POSSESSIVE .....	76
ABBREVIATIONS .....	77
LISTENING FOR FACTS.....	78
SYLLABLES.....	79
MAIN IDEA.....	80

## UNIT 6

SUFFIX -ER.....	81
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW .....	82
STORY SIX "COMMERCIALS" .....	83
STORY SIX.....	84
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	85

ANALYSIS .....	86
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	87
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	88
FINDING THE MEANING .....	89
PROPER AND COMMON .....	90
COMPARE.....	91
GATHERING DATA.....	92
PROPAGANDA.....	93
PROPAGANDA.....	94
BIAS.....	95
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	96

## UNIT 7

VERBS.....	97
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	98
STORY SEVEN "GETTING A JOB" .....	99
STORY SEVEN .....	100
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY.....	101
ANALYSIS .....	102
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	103
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	104
FINDING THE MEANING .....	105
KINDS OF NONFICTION.....	106
PARTS OF SPEECH .....	107
PUNCTUATION.....	108
HELP WANTED ADS.....	109
JOB INTERVIEW .....	110
COMPARE.....	111
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	112

## UNIT 8

NOUNS AND VERBS .....	113
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	114

STORY EIGHT "HIGHWAY DANGER" .....	115
METAPHOR.....	116
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	117
ANALYSIS .....	118
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	119
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	120
FINDING THE MEANING .....	121
KINDS OF SENTENCES .....	122
FACT AND OPINION.....	123
SPELLING .....	124
FINDING INFO.....	125
THINK ABOUT THE STORY .....	126
GETTING READY TO WRITE .....	127
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	128

## UNIT 9

ADJECTIVES.....	129
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW .....	130
STORY NINE "FABLES".....	131
STORY NINE .....	132
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	133
ANALYSIS .....	134
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	135
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	136
FINDING THE MEANING .....	137
IDIOMS AND PROVERBS.....	138
IDIOMS AND PROVERBS.....	139
THEME .....	140
CONTRACTIONS .....	141
DIALOGUE PUNCTUATION .....	142
WRITE YOUR IDEAS .....	143
RETELL .....	144

## UNIT 10

HARD AND SOFT SOUNDS .....	145
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW .....	146
STORY TEN "CRASH" .....	147
STORY TEN .....	148
WORDS AND PHRASES .....	149
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	150
ANALYSIS .....	151
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	152
VOCABULARY USAGE .....	153
FINDING THE MEANING .....	154
LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE .....	155
FIGURATIVE .....	156
COMPOUND WORDS .....	157
OUTLINE .....	158
OUTLINE .....	159
POINT OF VIEW .....	160

## UNIT 11

SILENT E .....	161
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW .....	162
STORY ELEVEN "EARLY MAN" .....	163
STORY ELEVEN .....	164
WORDS AND PHRASES .....	165
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY .....	166
ANALYSIS .....	167
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	168
VOCABULARY USAGE .....	169
FINDING THE MEANING .....	170
NONFICTION .....	171
PUNCTUATION .....	172
LISTENING .....	173

SPELLING .....	174
HISTORY TIME LINE .....	175
SEQUENCING.....	176

## UNIT 12

PREFIXES .....	177
IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW.....	178
STORY TWELVE "HEALTH" .....	179
STORY TWELVE.....	180
STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY.....	181
ANALYSIS .....	182
DISCUSS THE STORY .....	183
VOCABULARY USAGE.....	184
FINDING THE MEANING .....	185
THINK .....	186
TIME TRAVELING WITH TENSES .....	187
PARENTHESES .....	188
ASK QUESTIONS.....	189
FINDING INFORMATION.....	190
KEYWORDS.....	191
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	192
<b>IMPORTANT WORDS AND MEANINGS .....</b>	<b>193</b>

# FICTION

Stories about people and events that are not real are fiction. Scientists have found that reading fiction makes the brain work better.

Story Four is realistic fiction. The story about Henry is made up, but it could be real.

Realistic fiction is not true, but could happen. Some events, people, and places may even be real. Realistic stories are about everyday problems and relationships.



Read the excerpt from *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scout, the main character, is talking. Atticus is her father.

Atticus had promised me he would wear me out if he ever heard of me fighting any more; I was far too old and too big for such childish things, and the sooner I learned to hold in, the better off everybody would be.

*FYI: An excerpt is a part or passage taken from a book, play, or other text.*

## The Game: Check the sentences that are realistic fiction.

- ☐ Our dog brought the newspaper in each morning and put it on the sofa.
- ☐ With a snap of his fingers, the fire began to burn merrily in the fireplace.
- ☐ After the campfire had gone out, the campers crawled into their tents.
- ☐ At the stroke of midnight, all the clocks in the house began to chime.
- ☐ The girl quietly crept up the stairs to her bedroom.
- ☐ The frog and toad danced around the toadstool.
- ☐ The full moon shone brightly in the night sky.



Read the excerpt from *To Kill a Mockingbird* again. Is it realistic fiction? Why?

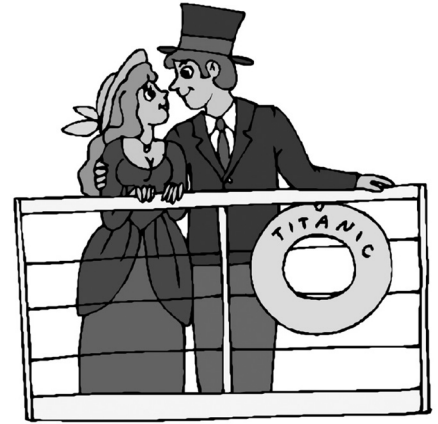
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## IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW

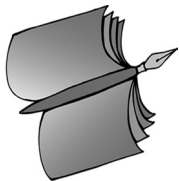
Important words to know:

1. advise – to give advice  
Advise him not to sail on the *Titanic*.
2. ambition – the desire to succeed  
Ruby's ambition is to be a leader.
3. anxious – worried; an uneasy feeling  
When I am anxious, my hands get sweaty.
4. definite – having limits; exact; sure  
The umpire said the play was a definite out.
5. description – a statement that tells about something; a picture in words  
Leo gave a description of the mugger.
6. equipment – tools, machines, or materials needed for a job  
I know how to use lawn-mowing equipment.
7. inspire – to cause enthusiasm  
Our coach will inspire the team to do their best!
8. previous – prior; earlier  
He watched the previous show.
9. substitute – to take the place of  
A pinch runner is a substitute who comes in for a player who is on base.
10. venture – go; risk  
We will venture deep into the jungle.



### The Game: Fill in the blanks using the words.

- advise    ambition    anxious    definite    description
1. I read the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sinking of the *Titanic*.
  2. It was Bruce Ismay's \_\_\_\_\_ to build an "unsinkable" ship.
  3. Captain Smith did not \_\_\_\_\_ anyone about the shortage of lifeboats.
  4. The icebergs put the ship at a \_\_\_\_\_ risk.
  5. Most of the people did not feel \_\_\_\_\_ about the trip.
- equipment    inspire    previous    substitute    venture
1. Captain Smith had \_\_\_\_\_ trouble with other ships.
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the *Titanic* was the best that money could buy.
  3. It is foolish to \_\_\_\_\_ near the edge of an iceberg.
  4. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ for safety.
  5. Heroes \_\_\_\_\_ us to do our best.



Write a sentence using "anxious."

\_\_\_\_\_

## STORY SEVEN

### Getting A Job

Job hunting inspires terror in most people. Losing a job is nothing to be ashamed of, nor is it always a sign of failure. In fact, sometimes a job loss may be good luck. (#1)

Imagine that a friend lost his job and came to you for help. How would you advise him? Would you tell him to look for a different and more suitable type of job? Would you also tell him not to feel obligated to take the first opening that comes along?

To avoid an unhappy situation, he should think about the demands of the work involved and his ability to meet those demands. (#2)



When you choose an occupation, be honest with yourself. Can you handle the responsibility of the job you want? Some jobs require years of education. It takes planning to get that kind of training. Meanwhile, draw up an honest estimate of your abilities and your weaknesses. (#3)

You must decide the lowest income you can accept. Your tastes may run more to cars and expensive clothes than to simple life, but you have to be realistic. Know what your skills are worth on the labor market. You may be surprised or even disappointed to learn that you are not worth as much as you thought. Don't abandon hope; just get more training. (#4)

Your skills learned at a former job may help you in training for a new one. For example, if you repaired machines at another job, you might be good at fixing electrical equipment. Your past experience might help you get a job repairing electrical equipment. Corporations are usually eager to train good workers who have ambition. You show that your experience would be useful in a new job by writing this information on job applications. (#5)

Fill out job applications completely, honestly, and neatly. A lot is at stake, so this is no time to invent substitutes for what has really happened in your life. Application blanks require definite information. Follow the instructions and make your answers brief and clear. For example, you may be asked to tell your personal plans. Are you looking for a job with security, or are you willing to take the risk of an unusual venture? Would you work a night shift or move to a new town? Be careful of fine points, such as the description of previous jobs and the position you want. These factors are important to employers. (#6)

#### **The Game: Complete the sentence.**

Draw up an honest estimate of your abilities and your \_\_\_\_\_.

## STORY SEVEN

Employers find it annoying to be kept waiting. Your prospects may be harmed if you arrive late! Of course, even when you are on time, you may have to wait. Your palms may be damp, and you may feel nervous. This is normal. Once you begin talking with the employer, you will find that the atmosphere will seem friendlier. (#7)



How you dress for a job interview is important. Your appearance should be clean, neat, and professional. Remember, you are in competition for a job, and you want your best points to show. If you were an employer looking for an assistant, wouldn't you hire the person who was neat, clean, and well-dressed instead of someone who was dirty and sloppy? (#8)

After you get the job, there might be a short interval before you actually start work. A few days may be needed for a doctor's exam or a background check for a security clearance. When these things are done, all you need to do is to get to work on time and work hard, at least until your vacation! (#9)

**The Game: Write the paragraph number where the words or phrases are found.**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. inspires terror _____       | 2. good luck _____                        |
| 3. more suitable type of _____ | 4. feel obligated _____                   |
| 5. occupation _____            | 6. tastes may run _____                   |
| 7. abandon hope _____          | 8. a lot is at stake _____                |
| 9. take the risk _____         | 10. fine points _____                     |
| 11. annoying _____             | 12. prospects _____                       |
| 13. palms _____                | 14. atmosphere will seem friendlier _____ |
| 15. are in competition _____   | 16. interval _____                        |

## STORY TITLE AND SUMMARY

A title is a short descriptive phrase or just one word that catches a reader's attention.

A summary is in a reader's own words. It gives the main points of the story.



**The Game: Read the story again. Write a title for it.**

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**The Game: Write a one-paragraph summary of the story.**

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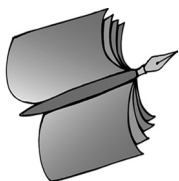
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Do the author's ideas about job hunting make sense? Why?

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