

Cambridge 7

Test 1, Reading passage 1:

Let's go bats

Nocturnal:

An animal that is nocturnal is active at night_ happening at night.

- Alcohol may also contribute to nocturnal hypoxemia by causing narrowing of the upper airways.
- During their nocturnal forays, they can travel as far as 30 miles in their search for supper.

Scrape:

To remove something from a surface using the edge of a knife, a stick.

- I'll have to scrape the ice off the windscreen before we set off.
- We scraped our shoes on the doorstep to get the mud off them.

Manoeuvre:

A skilful or carefully planned action intended to gain an advantage of yourself.

- Each maneuver in their rearguard action has taken them further away from intuitive notions about that exciting enterprise referred to as science.
- She saw that Defies and Johannes were attempting the same maneuver.

Lantern:

A lamp that you can carry, consisting of a metal container with glass sides that surrounds a flame or light.

- And thus attired, each of us having a lantern in our hands, we went into the salt mine.
- This is because there are so many domes and the lantern of each is pierced with windows.

Searchlight:

A very bright electric light that turns in any direction, used for finding people, guarding places.

- At the perimeter of the base they were testing their searchlights for the oncoming night.
- Behind the huge mirrors and searchlights were buildings full of food and supplies.

Pinprick:

A very small area or DOT of something.

- A thousand pinpricks of scalding steam grew to knife-points and the knives twisted.
- More pinpricks of light were moving down there.

Bounce:

If light or sound bounces, it hits a surface and then moves quickly away from it.

- *She tried to mail him several times but the message always bounced.*
- *Two boys stood on the corner bouncing basketballs.*

Weird:

Very strange and unusual, and difficult to understand or explain.

- *It's a weird feeling to go back to a place that you lived in a long time ago.*

- *The museum has a collection of the weirdest sculptures I've ever seen.*

Uncanny:

Very strange and difficult to explain.

- And he has this uncanny ability to synthesize concepts from a few isolated observations.
- He had an uncanny way of making me feel simple.

Dumb:

Stupid, unable to speak because of angry or surprise.

- He stared in dumb misery at the wreckage of the car.
- If we look dumb enough, someone's bound to come and help us out.

Reading passage 2:

Making every drop count

Entwine:

To twist two things together or to wind one thing around another.

- A skilled historian is able to entwine his inventory material with evidence gathered from a variety of other sources.
- For helices to entwine together they must be of the same handedness, like the strands of a rope.

Dam:

A special wall built across a river or stream to stop the water from flowing, especially in order to make a lake or produce electricity.

- A high dam would end their migration, irrevocably.
- He was absolutely convinced that building a dam in Yosemite Valley was the proper thing to do.

Aqueduct:

A structure like a bridge that carries water across a river or valley.

- A miniature aqueduct led water from the spring into a well at the garth's Centre.
- After another island with half blocked off by Hampstead Wharf there are two aqueducts.

Spin:

To turn around and around very quickly.

- Spin the wheel of the bicycle to make sure that it is fastened correctly.
- I sat back and watched the ceiling fan spin above me.

Sanitation:

To protection of public health by removing and treating waste, dirty water.

- Everywhere there is a total lack of understanding about hygiene, antiseptics, and the importance of sanitation.
- He was assassinated the day after addressing a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis.

Quadruple:

To increase and become four times as big or as high, or to make something increase in this way → double, triple.

- After three weeks, the youngster has tripled or even quadrupled its weight.
- Between 1949 and 1950, he quadrupled the number of regular Vietminh battalions to one hundred and seventeen.

Reading passage 3:

Education psyche

Psyche:

Someone's mind, or their deepest feelings, which control their attitudes and behavior.

- First, you must expand your psyche to accommodate the bigger and better.
- I've pursued him down the disappearing paths of my own psyche.

Auditorium:

The part of a theatre where people sit when watching a play, concert.

- Rough terraces of seats were fashioned to serve as an auditorium.
- Few minutes late, I slipped into the half-full auditorium, spotted Sergei near the back, and sat beside him.

Fatigue:

Very great tiredness, exhaustion.

- Moreover, fatigue from untreated sleep apnea may lead to motor-vehicle accidents.
- But nobody who regularly uses the motorway can say they haven't been warned about the dangers of driver fatigue.

Baroque:

Relating to the much decorated style of art, music, building that was common in Europe in the 17th and early 18th centuries.

- Castrati made themselves eunuchs both for art's sake and for jobs in baroque Rome.
- He found old manuscripts and adapted or arranged them for groups performing ancient and baroque music

Ritual:

A ceremony that is always performed in the same way, in order to mark an important religious or social occasion.

- After an elaborate ritual, the boys are formally accepted into the tribe.
- The ritual is performed in order to thank the Sun Goddess for the rice harvest.

Emulate:

To do something or behave in the same way as someone else, especially because you admire them.

- Denis hung back, unsure whether he dared emulate his superior.
- Inventors like Edison, Westinghouse, and Bell were popular heroes, to be emulated by younger men.

Test 2, reading passage 1:

Why pagodas don't fall down

Flimsy:

Something that is flimsy is not strong or well-made, and will break easily.

- After all, he had little to go on - the evidence was too flimsy.
- In some spots, villagers were building cinder-block houses, a sturdy if ugly improvement over their flimsy bamboo shacks

Topple:

To become unsteady and then fall over, or to make something do this.

- Clinging to each other, Melanie laughing, they toppled in slow motion to the floor.
- They may indeed topple it, but not in the way he anticipated.

Pagoda:

A Buddhist TEMPLE (= religious building) that has several levels with a decorated roof at each level.

- He just went to the pagoda until he met someone who spoke his dialect.
- There is no dividing line between the pagoda and life outside.

Unscathed:

Not injured or harmed by something.

- Few retailers were left unscathed by the recession.
- The bullet grazed the side of his head, leaving him virtually unscathed.

Dampen:

To make something slightly wet.

- Demand for gasoline has been dampened by the recession.
- If you dampen your piece of paper before you start painting it will be easier to paint evenly.

Peg:

A short piece of wood, metal, or plastic that is attached to a wall or fits into a hole, used especially to hang things on or to fasten thing together.

- Green in the chrome of the Harley, in the beach towel hung on a peg.
- His voice was nasal, to the extent that it sounded as if there was a clothes peg clipped on to his nose.

Wedge:

A piece of wood, metal that has one thick edge and one pointed edge and is used especially for keeping a door open or for splitting wood.

- Carefully cut a thin wedge out of the cake.
- Instead of driving a wedge between lovers, a child can expand and deepen that love

Brick:

A hard block of baked clay used for building walls, house.

- A sudden gust of rain dashed against the red bricks that were already stained in patches by water.

- Inside, the church has cream-washed walls, a brick floor and green painted pews.

Batter:

To hit someone or something many times, in a way that hurts or damage them.

- Each year, perhaps 4 million women are battered by their husbands.
- Teachers suspect that the child is being battered regularly by his parents.

Eaves:

The edges of a roof that stick out beyond the wall.

- Every house seemed to have at least one, sometimes several, of the distinctive mud-baked nests under its eaves.
- Grass was growing inside it, and hornets, birds, and spiders were living in the eaves.

Gushing:

Expressing praise, pleasure in a way that other people think is too strong.

- Heard in the context of his and Holly's gushing sympathy, it sounded very like the truth.
- With her bouffant hairdo, elaborate plumage, gushing charm and bright smile she is a caricature of a countess

Porcelain:

A hard shiny white substance that is used for making expensive plates, cups.

- Firemen and villagers formed a chain to ferry furniture and porcelain to safety.
- I held my breath and examined the exquisite little porcelain feathers and the pink and white porcelain crab-apple blossoms.

Tile:

A flat square piece of baked clay or other materials, used for covering walls, floors.

- But eventually he found one that was almost empty with tall arch windows and broken tiles about the floor.
- Just inside the big double entrance doors were hundreds of tiles which never seemed to be sold.

Craftsmen:

Someone who is very skilled at a particular craft.

- However, the similarity between these motifs is sufficiently close to suggest the work of the same craftsman.
- The original designs were made by highly skilled craftsmen.

Grasp:

To take and hold something firmly.

- Fame has come suddenly, and Peyton is finding it hard to grasp.
- Science lessons should be taught in a way that makes the material easier to grasp.

Tightrope:

A rope or wire high above the ground that someone walks along in a CIRCUS

- But he's been doing very well at it despite having to learn terrifying new skills, like walking a tightrope
- But Blondin had made the horizontal tightrope his own.

Jolt:

To move suddenly and roughly, or to make someone or something move in this way.

- Father Gannon added, his sudden pronged laughter jolting up her spine.
- He thought it was a twig breaking but then something jolted his memory.

Reading passage 2:

The true cost of food

Collateral:

Property or other goods that you promise to give someone if you cannot pay back the money they lend you SYN security.

- If unsecured, no specific assets are pledged as collateral for the loan.
- The firm pledges its inventory as collateral for a short-term loan, but the lender has no physical control over the inventory.

Enervate:

To make you feel tired and weak

- Feeling at once enervated and threatened, the enterprise collectively hunkers into a defensive, self-protective posture.
- He seems at first laconic and enervated, loathe to put a sentence together aloud.

Onward:

Moving forward or continuing.

- Her thoughts were so jumbled that they could only drive her onward.
- They see a county with oodles of expendable income and not enough places to spend it.

Partridge:

A fat brown bird with a short tail which is shot for sport and food.

- For domestic partridge, invariably the choker partridge, plan on a one-pound bird per person.
- Small game birds such as quail, squab, and partridge are enhanced by this marinade.

Lapwing:

A small black and white European bird with raised feathers on its head.

- Look out for lapwing and redshank in particular.
- Look out for birds such as redshank and lapwing.

Hedgerow:

A line of bushes growing along the edge of a field or road.

- Continue and cross the field to gate, keep the hedgerow on the right.

- He made good use of every piece of newspaper that he could pick up and every convenient hedgerow!

Loch:

A lake or part of the sea partly enclosed by land in Scotland.

- A sizable saithe dangling from its beak indicates another meal for its young up on the hill loch beyond the village.
- But there are two differences: Morar has a tourist fringe and its loch is of fresh water.

Algae:

A very simple plant without stems or leaves that grows in or near water.

- Specific ways of checking individual groups of algae are discussed below.
- So the algae hang on as debilitating parasites rather than evolving towards benign cooperation.

Staggering:

Extremely great or surprising.

- The results of the survey were staggering - over half the children said that they went to school without any breakfast.
- Apparently, we spend a staggering £2.4 billion a year on food for our pets.

Pasture:

Land or a field that is covered with grass and is used for cattle, sheep to feed on.

- As Balfour talked, the men casually watched the infested pasture.
- In some areas woodland, waste or upland pasture was cleared and developed and new settlements established.

Arable:

Relating to growing crops.

- Each family is provided with 3.5 ha of land of which 1 ha is used for rain-fed arable crops.
- In consequence, enclosure of arable was now creating more social problems than it could solve.

Prop:

To support something by leaning it against something, or by putting something else under next to, or behind it.

- He propped his bicycle against the fence and ran inside.
- Duncan had left Myeloski propping up the bar, drinking his customary vodka and Budweiser chaser.

Viable:

Able to continue to live or to develop into a living thing.

- They are in favor of the program, but they want strong assurances that it is viable.
- Nuclear energy is the only viable alternative to coal or gas.

Reading passage 3:

Makete integrated rural transport project

Grinding:

Very difficult and unpleasant, and never seeming to improve.

- There is no visible grinding poverty and no antagonism towards tourists.
- A terrible grinding crunch struck at us like a solid barrier.

Arduous:

Involving a lot of strength and effort.

- A walking stick is good for balance in the water and on the arduous grades.
- The lives of peasants are dictated by the arduous and endless cycle of their crops.

Wheelbarrow:

A small CART with one wheel and two handles that you use outdoors to carry things, especially in the garden.

- I clambered on to the wheelbarrow, to pray for a healing miracle, laying aside my glasses and hat.
- I secured the locks on the wheelbarrow, crawled under canvas and wrote up the log and two letters.

Test 3, reading passage 1:

Ant intelligence

Scrutiny:

Careful and thorough examination of someone or something.

- Closer scrutiny of the document revealed a number of interesting facts.
- Once you become famous your private life comes under public scrutiny.

Spark:

A quality of intelligence or energy that makes someone successful or fun to be with.

- A spark created by loose wires was the cause of the explosion.
- Jim is a really nice guy, but there's just no spark.

Chant:

To sing or say a religious song or prayer in a way that involves using only one note or TONE.

- We could hear monks chanting as we entered the monastery.
- He was there when the killers streamed down from the surrounding hills, chanting war cries.

Jingle:

To shake small metal things together so that they make a sound, or to make this sound.

- *A herd of goats crossed the beach, the bells around their necks jingling cheerfully.*
- *The coins in his pocket jingled together noisily.*

Slogan:

A short phrase that is easy to remember and is used in advertisements, or by politicians, organizations.

- *They've come up with a new advertising slogan for the product.*
- *Young men risked their lives to daub buildings with anti-government slogans.*

Fungus:

A simple type of plant that has no leaves or flowers and that grows on plants or other surfaces.

- A nightmare of wilt and mildew, of fungus and black spot.
- If the seed has protruded slightly above the sand during this growth a white fungus may be observed surrounding the area.

Aphid:

A type of small insect that feeds on the juices of plants.

- An hour and there was a speck of yellow on the horizon as tiny as an aphid.
- Ants often farm colonies of aphids on garden plants, feeding off their honeydew, while protecting the aphids from predators.

Herd:

To bring people together in a large group, especially roughly.

- Later yet we are herded down to the basement, told to crouch and to cover our heads with our arms.
- Observe people being herded like cattle through airports and theaters.

Nest:

A place where insects or small animals live.

- About as pleasant to come across as a nest of vipers.
- Individuals could invest in stocks and bonds themselves, creating their own retirement nest eggs.

Forage:

To go around searching for food or other supplies.

- Writers who need a good title have often foraged in Shakespeare or the Bible.
- A light rum and tonic in hand, he abandoned his post for the kitchen to forage for food.

Scout:

A soldier, plane, that is sent to search the area in front of an army and get information about the enemy.

- But the scouts were very aware that the fear of war was never far from their minds.
- But the decision seems to be a hit with the scouts.

Maze:

A complicated and confusing arrangement of streets, road.

- Its importance in enabling people to use lawyers to guide them through the baffling maze of legal rules is self-evident.
- Players search for the princess by uncovering clues, solving puzzles and navigating a medieval maze.

Precaution:

Something you do in order to prevent something dangerous or unpleasant from happening.

- Nevertheless, it makes sense to take a few simple precautions.
- The district officer wanted to know if suitable precautions had been taken to avoid the elephants.

Mesh:

Two ideas or things mesh, they fit together very well.

- Fortunately, they meshed nicely with the neo-mercantilist enthusiasms of the Labor government.
- That does not mesh with the reports from the region at the moment.

Outstrip:

To do something better than someone else or be more successful.

- Even the most primitive computer can outstrip the human brain in certain types of calculation.
- Girls are now outstripping boys in all school subjects.

Megalopolises:

A very large, heavily populated city or urban complex.

Weed:

A wild plant growing where it is not wanted that prevents crops or garden flowers from growing properly.

- Everyone called me a weed when I was at school because I was so bad at sports.
- Dorothea bent down and pulled weeds out of the garden.

Reading passage 2: Population movements and genetics

Peninsula:

A piece of land completely surrounded by water but joined to a large area of land.

- *Although the rebel numbers are small, there are known to be many infiltrators and sympathizers on the peninsula.*
- *But it is obvious that one relatively small peninsula cannot contain this missionary zeal indefinitely.*

Incisor:

One of the eight teeth at the front of your mouth.

- *He laughed, revealing powerful white incisors.*
- *A sweet chestnut lay close by, its glossiness marred by decisive incisor scratch marks.*

Molar:

One of the teeth at the back of the mouth that are used for breaking up food.

- *And so what if her dentures are a few molars short of the set.*
- *Digestion of the molars by mammalian predators varies considerably.*

Credence:

The acceptance of something as true.

- *But they don't get any credence here and several of our most respected lawyers, doctors and public servants are black.*
- *Political economy and class perspectives on urban sociology lend little credence to this type of analysis.*

Reading passage 3:

Mediterranean:

A sea surrounded by the countries of South Europe, North Africa, and southwest Asia.

Immense:

Extremely large SYN enormous.

- *People who travel by rail still read an immense amount.*
- *Regular visits from a social worker can be of immense value to old people living alone.*

Surveillance:

When the police, army etc. watch a person or place carefully because they may be connected criminal activities.

- *Banks are installing surveillance cameras to prevent robberies.*
- *Television surveillance in public areas should help to make housing developments safer.*

Culprit:

The person who is guilty of a crime or doing something wrong, victim.

- *The police did everything they could to try and track down the culprit, but he was never caught.*
- *Any of the eight inmates of the manor could be the culprit.*

Relaunch:

A new effort to sell a product that is already on sale.

- *A solid deal, and possibly a relaunch of the product, will happen by year-end, says Interactive.*
- *Noble stores before the relaunch, believes it will become a best seller this time around.*

Test 4, reading passage 1:

Pulling strings to build pyramids

Sledge:

A small vehicle used for sliding over snow, often used by children or in some.

- *Fiennes developed severe frostbite after removing a glove while attempting to retrieve a sledge from freezing water.*
- *Walter did not use a sledge to raise the action.*

Aeronautics:

The science of designing and flying planes.

- *He launched into bus production and truck transport, before expanding to aeronautics.*

- It stems from someone trying to apply a basic equation from aeronautics to the flight of the bee.

Pulley:

A piece of equipment consisting of a wheel over which a rope or chain is pulled to lift heavy things.

- A fellow engineer came to check on the work, and to do so had to ascend on a rope pulley.
- As they ran over the pulleys, a slurry of sand or tungsten carbide was poured on the wire.

Scaffold:

A structure built next to a wall, for workers to stand on while they build, repair, or paint a building or a raised structure which was used in the past as a place to kill criminals by hanging them or cutting off their heads.

- He squeezed in time at the typewriter between the high-rise scaffolds and his duties as husband and father of two sons.
- On seeing the scaffold du Barry lost all control.

Rig:

To dishonestly arrange the result of an election or competition before it happens.

- Many of the game shows of the 1950s turned out to be rigged.
- They would never have got into power if the whole thing hadn't been rigged.

Trolley:

A large basket on wheels that you use for carrying bags, shopping etc.

- I saw a dwarf selling plastic combs, hair-bands and bobby-pins from a wooden trolley.
- Mrs. Danby dumped the cat-food in the trolley and came close to me.

Reckon:

To think or suppose something.

- This hotel is reckoned to be one of the best in the country.
- They reckon the French team's better than ours.

Jerk:

To move with a quick sudden movement, or to make part of your body move in this way.

- He jerked the string and the light came on.
- Isabel jerked her hand away from his and shoved it in her pocket.

Brute:

A man who is cruel, violent, and not sensitive.

- But it is also a story of brute resolve and drive, and courage at a crunch.
- Even his strong-man routine seems devoid of any intelligence or style and focuses, instead, upon brute force and muscle.

Debris:

The pieces of something that are left after it has been destroyed in an accident, explosion etc.

- Fragments of building debris can form a large part of the total number of finds from a site.
- Men on board pulled the wounded and the mangled bodies of the dead from beneath collapsed debris.

Foe:

Enemy

- Mitterrand drew France closer to the European Union and to Germany, its former foe.
- But the political field is inscribed with the logic of friend and foe.

Reading passage 2:

Endless Harvest

Fur:

The thick soft hair that covers the bodies of some animals, such as cats, dogs, and rabbits.

- Furs from the far north of Canada were exchanged for cotton and other goods.
- He raked his fingers through fur the color of weak tea, brown, red, golden tint of gaslight.

Archipelago:

A group of Small Island.

- For the rest, the archipelago could and did live off its own resources.
- Her scissors move through the material like a swimmer doing crawl, among the archipelago of tissue paper.

Crustacean:

An animal such as a LOBSTER or a CRAB that has a hard outer shell and several pairs of legs, and usually lives in water.

- As if it were something cumulative that accrued around me, like the hardening shell of a crustacean.
- It seemed surprised when the crustacean raised its claws and valiantly fought back.

Mollusc:

A type of sea or land animal that has a soft body covered by a hard shell.

- I pictured my navel, soft and curled like a mollusc.
- It is a small mollusc, the size of a mussel that starts life as a tiny free-swimming speck of jelly.

Herring:

A long thin silver sea fish that can be eaten.

- Girls, caught by the arm, have snow rubbed into their hair like salt into a herring.
- The herring was never quite considered a member of the fish family.

Statehood:

The condition of being an independent nation or the condition of being one of the states that make up a nation such as the US.

- Thus could economic statehood be achieved for the economic union?
- First there is the fact of statehood, with the implied acceptance of law and order by the people.

Sonar:

Equipment on a ship or SUBMARINE that uses SOUND WAVE s to find out the position of objects under the water.

- A dolphin is able to produce sonar clicks by forcing air through special passages and sinuses in its head.
- Navy salvage experts used sonar to help locate the area of submerged wreckage

Chum:

A good friend.

- Her school chums may disagree with her politics but they treat her respectfully and make sure their colleagues do, too
- I hardly knew Kapinsky, in fact I avoided him and his chums.

Subsistence:

The condition of only just having enough money or food to stay alive.

- If overtime is not paid subsistence can be claimed at own base.
- They were prisoners, for the most part, of a subsistence economy.

Reading passage 3:

Effect of noise

Plausible:

Reasonable and likely to be true or successful.

- I need to think of a plausible excuse for not going to the meeting.
- In any plausible way of forming Jupiter the hydrogen and helium are initially well mixed at a molecular level.

Arousal:

Excitement, especially sexual excitement.

- Feeling his swift arousal, she dragged her mouth from his to bury it against his warm neck.
- He wasn't unmoved either, and his slow arousal against her made her arch into him.