

Cambridge 10 General Reading:

Test A

Icon:

A small sign or picture on a computer screen that is used to start a particular operation.

- Click on the report icon to open the program.
- It's from here that you get your icon movie on to the desktop.

Heritage:

The traditional beliefs, values, customs etc of a family, country, or society.

- Looking at these paintings makes people proud of their Latin heritage.
- The town takes great pride in its architectural heritage.

Concession:

A reduction in the price of ticket, fees, for certain group of people.

- Pensioners and disabled people get special concessions on buses and trains.
- Under the previous administration, rich landowners were given generous tax concessions.

Pension:

An amount of money paid regularly by the government or company to someone who does not work anymore.

- He retired from the force with a disability pension.
- I don't know how you manage on your pension, Lil, I really don't.

Baton:

A short thin stick used by a conductor music.

- A baton twirler carried the flag.
- I saw one man being struck by a mounted officer's baton, picked up by some shocked onlookers and given first-aid.

Pit:

A hole in the ground, especially one made by digging.

- Many of the victims were buried in large pits.
- There are tiny scratches and pits on the windshield.

Recital:

A performance of music or poetry, usually given by one performer.

- A musical prodigy, he played solo recitals by age 12.
- The recital was in the grounds of an historic castle, in keeping with the growing fashion for outdoor opera.

Brochure:

A thin book giving information or advertising something.

- A handout or employee brochure with the basic facts can be distributed.
- An airborne, tremulous brochure proclaiming that the end is near.

Incentive:

Something that encourages you to work harder, start a new activity.

- Low prices give the farmers little incentive.
- The government is offering special tax incentives to people wanting to start up small businesses.

Assess:

To make a judgment about a person or situation after thinking carefully about it.

- He has written a guidebook that assesses the quality of Californian hotels.
- I took the ring to a jeweler to have its value assessed.

Amend:

To correct or make small changes to something that is written or spoken.

- Programs written in languages such as BASIC are very easy to edit and amend.
- To amend the Constitution voters must approve the measure in a referendum.

Tailor:

Someone whose job is to make men's clothes that are measured to fit each customer perfectly.

- He had been stripped and measured, and two tailors were now working on the clothes.
- The force's tailor in Brussels is refusing to provide uniforms until his bill is settled.

Track:

A narrow path or road with a rough uneven surface, especially one made by people or animals frequently moving through the same place.

- A narrow track leads from the road to the cabins.
- I really like the first two tracks on this album.

Demonstrable:

Able to be shown or proved.

- There is a demonstrable link between smoking and lung cancer.
- However, there is a demonstrable lack of systematic information in this area.

Interpersonal:

Relating to relationships between people.

- Interpersonal skill
- Interpersonal communication

Sustainable:

Able to continue without causing damage to the environment.

- Traditional agricultural methods employed by the local people are highly sustainable.
- All wood used in our furniture comes with a certificate saying it comes from sustainable forests

Inquiry (enquiry):

A question you ask in order to get information.

- An inquiry will be held to discover why the school's educational record is so bad.
- Local people are calling for an inquiry into the accident.

Sap:

1 the watery substance that carries food through a plant

2 a stupid person who is easy to deceive or treat badly

- By this stage the sap in the vine will have withdrawn into the roots.
- He is hardly a sentimental sap who is prone to vicarious patriotism.

Rip:

To tear something or be torn quickly and violently.

- Beth excitedly ripped open the package.
- Tom heard his shorts rip as he climbed over the gate.

Bury:

To put someone who has died in a grave.

- Some of the phone lines are buried beneath the streets.
- People may bury painful childhood memories to protect themselves.

Bewilder:

To confuse someone.

- But it bewildered him and, in a sense, made him resentful.
- His doctors were bewildered by the cause of such severe hives.

Chalk:

Soft white or grey rock formed a long time ago from the shells of small sea animals.

- He could smell the harsh carbolic soap of the orphanage, then the schoolroom with its dust and chalk.
- It makes a fertile soil for crops since here it is a mixture of clay and small particles of chalk.

Dull:

Not interesting or exciting.

- A dull opening Wednesday on Wall Street kept stock prices at low levels.

- I'm afraid I must seem very dull compared with all those interesting people you meet.

Swamp:

Land that is always very wet or covered with a layer of water.

- But witnesses in a nearby aircraft said the plane flew directly into the swamp.
- Tax revenues allocated for education disappeared into a swamp of corruption

Varnish:

A clear liquid that is painted onto things, especially things made of wood, to protect them, or the hard shiny surface produced by this.

- Like the secret of Stradivari's varnish, this extra dimension defies analysis.
- Six years ago she had begun stripping the blackened and crazed varnish off the interior woodwork.

Ignite:

1 to start burning, or to make something start burning

2 to start a dangerous situation, angry argument etc:

- If the mixture proves difficult to ignite, increase the proportion of ethylene.
- The compound ignites at 450 degrees Celsius.

Linoleum:

A floor covering made from strong shiny material.

- I played imaginary checkers on the linoleum grid of the barbershop floor.
- Only that cold linoleum under my feet was real right then, only that moment.

Cargo:

The goods that are being carried in a ship or plane.

- The ship was carrying a cargo of oil-drilling equipment.
- He said it contained his own private cargo and that he wanted to unload it himself.

Sandpaper:

Strong paper covered on one side with sand or a similar substance, used for rubbing wood in order to make the surface smooth.

- My voice is like sandpaper, I cough up gobs of phlegm, my liver feels like a sandbag.
- Small imperfections such as cuts and scratches can be sanded out with fine sandpaper.

Amber:

1 a yellowish brown color

2 a hard yellowish brown substance used to make jewelry.

- I study the amber until the waves of indecision and conflict about leaving Joe and the house recede.
- It stayed on her, pinning her down mercilessly, like a fly trapped in amber.

Bracelet:

A band or chain that you wear around your wrist or arm as a decoration, bangle.

- Lying on silk in the round leather box was a bracelet.
- She hates the girl with the dangle bracelet too.

Test B

Shuttle:

A plane, bus, or train that makes regular short journeys between two places.

- If I take the 6:30 shuttle, I'll be there in time for the meeting.
- A glorious bright turquoise liquid jersey pantsuit is the ultimate garb for travel by space shuttle.

Departure:

An act of leaving a place, especially at the start of a journey.

- There are several departures for Minneapolis every day.
- You should be at the airport an hour before departure.

Lounge:

A waiting room at an airport.

- In the lounge Lord Beddington was taking a short rest after the exigencies of luncheon.
- f luncheon. The car itself had the look of a narrow lounge in a posh London pub.

Luggage:

The, bags that you carry when you are travelling.

- A trail of missed connections and mislaid luggage follows these travelers.
- From now on, we will hand-search more luggage and screen more bags.

Recyclable:

Used materials or substances that are recyclable can be recycled.

- Both the glass jars and the steel cans are recyclable, but you knew that.
- For example, glass products are completely recyclable.

Cater:

To provide and serve food and drinks at a party, meeting, usually as a business.

- Certainly all tastes are catered for at Club Venus.
- The marketplace caters to the requirements of advertisers

Yacht:

A large boat with a sail, used for pleasure or sport, especially one that has a place where you can sleep.

- He could have drowned rowing back from the yacht club.
- The Backup New yachts suffer from teething problems, and older yachts need lots of tender loving care.

Skipper:

1 the person in charge of a ship SYN captain

2 the leader of a sports team SYN captain

- He's looked the full business as an inspirational skipper.
- He nodded, and was very polite and respectful, his usual attitude to his skipper.

Reap:

To get something, especially something good, as a result of what you have done.

- But it was Margaret Thatcher who reaped all the benefits.
- Several predicted that they will be reap higher yields and profits while saving their soil.

Recruit:

To find new people to work in a company, join an organization, do a job.

- Efforts to recruit more men to the priesthood have not been successful.
- For the controlled study on drinking habits, we recruited men between 35 and 45.

Hurdle:

A problem or difficulty that you must deal with before you can achieve something SYN obstacle.

- Requiring school uniforms can be a financial hurdle for the poor.
- The bill has cleared all the hurdles before it and will soon become law.

Tidy:

A room, house, desk that is tidy is neatly arranged with everything in the right place, SYN neat.

- Andrew's apartment is always so tidy.
- I want to leave the place nice and tidy before we go.

Leisure:

Time when you are not working or studying and can relax and do things you enjoy.

- The reduction in average working hours has led to an increase in leisure time.
- The average person who travels for business or leisure probably has an e-mail account.

Dummy:

A model that that is the shape and size of a person, especially used in order to show clothes in a shop or when you are making clothes.

- A dummy has all the restrictive properties of a real job but no time content.
- Babies she had seen before had fat fleshy faces that spread from a central dummy.

Exaggerate:

To make something seem better, larger, worse etc than it really is.

- Newspapers tend to exaggerate their influence on the way people vote.
- The grass in the garden was about three feet high - I'm not exaggerating.

Serendipity:

When interesting or valuable discoveries are made by accident → luck

- Call it the ultimate advertising coup or simple serendipity.
- Our lives had been turned over to serendipity.

Copper:

A soft reddish-brown metal that allows electricity and heat to pass through it easily, and is used to make electrical wires, water pipes etc.

- Adding the copper, which is another metal toxin, only hastened the death of the fish.
- Small quantities of copper are often fatal to invertebrates.

Mercury:

A heavy silver-white poisonous metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures, and is used in THERMOMETER.

- The mercury hovered around ninety, and so did the humidity.
- Lighting is by two Floraset mercury vapor lamps which were originally set on a timer to give 11 hours of light.

Volatile:

A volatile situation is likely to change suddenly and without warning OPP stable.

- People are afraid to change jobs in today's volatile economy.
- The political situation in the Balkans is still extremely volatile.

Blast:

To damage or destroy something, or to injure or kill someone, using a gun or a bomb.

- Environmental groups blasted the plan for more logging in the area.
- Music blasted from the speakers in the living room.

Charcoal:

A black substance made of burned wood that can be used as FUEL.

- Add charcoal to the grill as needed.
- No work on fuels other than charcoal appears to be in progress.

Sawdust:

Very small pieces of wood that are left when you have been cutting wood.

- And the arms had been crushed to splinters and sawdust.
- The severed blade was raised from the sawdust by an unseen hand and re-connected to its spindle.

Combustible:

Able to burn easily.

- Having more combustible straw around only means more fuel for the arsonist.
- Indeed, no single episode combines as many combustible elements as this one.

Brick:

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

- Ornate patterns are carved into the bricks framing the entrance.
- Inside, the church has cream-washed walls, a brick floor and green painted pews.

Tame:

To reduce the power or strength of something and prevent it from causing trouble.

- Statistics show that rent control laws haven't tamed inflation.
- Children and, later, teenagers have to learn to put a brake on their impulses, to tame their desires.

Grasp:

To take and hold something firmly SYN grip.

- Fame has come suddenly, and Peyton is finding it hard to grasp.
- Obviously, she had barely grasped the subject.

Pacifist:

Someone who believes that wars are wrong and who refuses to use violence.

- Bergson was imprisoned as a pacifist during the World War I.
- A pacifist, a socialist, and many other wonderful, otherworldly things.

Deterrent:

Something that makes someone less likely to do something, by making them realize it will be difficult or have bad results.

- The fines are large enough to be an effective deterrent against speeding.
- The small fines for copying software were not much of a deterrent.

Bestow:

To give someone something of great value or importance.

- How does a woman with a large inheritance commonly bestow it on a man?
- I intend to bestow upon you unsolicited advice, my darling.

Fraternity:

All the people who work in a particular profession or share a particular interest.

- The university's fraternities have a reputation for lively parties.
- President of the fraternity. · He was, as we have seen, already President of his fraternity.