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SEC EXAMINATIONS / ENGLISH

100

Vocabulary Words

Meanings. Examples. Words you can use.

READ THE TASK. SELECT THE MEANING. SUPPORT THE ANSWER.

Ten sets for reading, writing and spoken explanations.
With practice, answers and a review tracker.

READ

UNDERSTAND

REMEMBER

USE

Learn a few words. Explain them. Use them in your world.

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FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY OR A SHARED SESSION

A few words, used well.

Work alone or with a partner. Aim for precise meaning and use.

01

Choose five words

Read each word and its meaning. Explain the idea in everyday language before trying a new example.

02

Hear it in a sentence

Read the example aloud. Notice the context and nearby words. Explain what the sentence tells you.

03

Cover, recall and check

Cover the meaning. Try to remember it, then check. A missed word simply needs another example.

04

Use it somewhere new

Say or write a different sentence. Return to some earlier words on another day.

Word labels

Noun: names a person, place, thing or idea. Verb: expresses an action or state.

Adjective: describes a noun. Adverb: adds detail or links ideas.

Preposition: shows a relationship, such as place or contrast.

Conjunction: joins words, phrases or clauses.

About this selection. Original supplementary practice for SEC English. This is not a prescribed SEAB list, official paper or prediction. SEC begins in 2027 at G1, G2 and G3; follow your actual subject level and school guidance. Each entry teaches one sense. This PDF contains no audio.

Reading meaning in context

Notice what a text states, suggests and leaves uncertain.

- 001 explicit** adjective
stated directly and clearly
The notice gives explicit instructions: return the key by noon.
- 002 implicit** adjective
suggested or understood without being stated directly
An implicit warning lies in her remark, "That bridge has not been inspected."
- 003 inference** noun
a conclusion reached by reasoning from available clues
Her wet umbrella supports the inference that she has been out in rain.
- 004 implication** noun
a meaning suggested without being directly expressed
The implication of "You are early for once" is that the listener is not usually early.
- 005 perspective** noun
a particular way of considering a situation
The account describes the journey from the driver's perspective.
- 006 intention** noun
something that a person means or plans to do
His stated intention is to invite questions, not to end the discussion.
- 007 context** noun
the surrounding language or situation that helps explain meaning
The words "river" and "fishing" establish the context for "bank".
- 008 emphasis** noun
special importance or attention given to something
The repeated instruction places emphasis on checking the address.
- 009 contrast** noun
a noticeable difference between things considered together
The contrast between the noisy market and the quiet lane shapes the scene.
- 010 ambiguity** noun
the possibility of more than one interpretation
The instruction "Meet her by the bank" contains an ambiguity about the place.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Testing and responding to claims

Distinguish making a claim from supporting or limiting it.

- 011 assert** verb
state something firmly as a fact or belief
The speaker asserts that the service is reliable but offers no records.
- 012 allege** verb
claim that something, often wrongdoing, happened without proving it
Two passengers allege that the driver ignored their request to stop.
- 013 substantiate** verb
provide evidence that supports the truth of a claim
Dated receipts help substantiate her account of the purchases.
- 014 corroborate** verb
give additional support to an account or statement
The camera record corroborates the witness's account of the arrival time.
- 015 concede** verb
accept a point as true, often after initially resisting it
He concedes that the new route is shorter but questions its safety.
- 016 qualify** verb
make a statement less broad or absolute by adding a limit
She qualifies her praise by noting that only the morning service improved.
- 017 rebut** verb
respond to a claim with reasons or evidence against it
The organiser rebuts the claim of an empty hall by citing the attendance count.
- 018 warrant** verb
provide enough reason for a particular response or conclusion
One late bus does not warrant the claim that every service is unreliable.
- 019 deduce** verb
reach a conclusion through reasoning from known information
From the locked gate and closure notice, we deduce that this entrance is unavailable.
- 020 verify** verb
check whether something is true or accurate
We verify the departure time against the operator's current timetable.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Understanding task instructions

Turn an instruction into an observable action in your answer.

021 outline verb

give the main features without describing every detail

Outline the proposal by stating its purpose, main action and intended users.

022 summarise verb

express the main points in a shorter form

Summarise the two stated reasons for moving the meeting online.

023 paraphrase verb

express a meaning in different words while preserving it

Paraphrase "entry is restricted to staff" as "only staff may enter".

024 interpret verb

explain what something means in its context

Interpret the character's final remark using the preceding exchange.

025 analyse verb

examine parts and relationships to explain how something works

Analyse how the two short sentences interrupt the otherwise flowing description.

026 evaluate verb

judge quality or value using relevant reasons or criteria

Evaluate the proposal by considering its cost, access and likely benefit.

027 illustrate verb

make an idea clearer by giving an example

Illustrate the access problem with the case of a visitor who cannot climb stairs.

028 justify verb

give reasons that support a choice, action or conclusion

Justify your choice of venue using the stated needs of the group.

029 compare verb

examine things together to identify relevant similarities or differences

Compare the two notices in terms of their audience and purpose.

030 distinguish verb

recognise or explain a difference between things

Distinguish the writer's own view from the opinion she quotes.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Describing feelings and character

Match a feeling to the particular cause and clues in the scene.

- 031 apprehensive** adjective
worried about something that may happen
He is apprehensive before the unfamiliar interview and keeps checking his notes.
- 032 bewildered** adjective
very confused and unsure what is happening
The conflicting arrows leave the visitor bewildered about which way to turn.
- 033 disillusioned** adjective
disappointed after losing an earlier belief or admiration
She becomes disillusioned when the club repeatedly breaks its promise to consult members.
- 034 indignant** adjective
angry because something seems unfair or offensive
He is indignant when blamed for damage that occurred before he arrived.
- 035 resentful** adjective
bitter or upset about unfair treatment or an unwanted burden
She feels resentful after being assigned every unpleasant task while others choose freely.
- 036 ambivalent** adjective
having conflicting feelings about the same thing
He is ambivalent about moving: excited by the course but sad to leave friends.
- 037 incredulous** adjective
unwilling or unable to believe something
She gives an incredulous stare when told the tiny box holds a full-sized bicycle.
- 038 wistful** adjective
showing a gentle sadness or longing for something
He looks wistful as he remembers the evenings spent in the now-closed theatre.
- 039 composed** adjective
calm and in control of one's feelings
She remains composed, sets down the broken frame and asks what happened.
- 040 resolute** adjective
firmly determined to follow a decision or purpose
Despite two failed attempts, he remains resolute about completing the repair.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Recognising attitude and tone

Explain an attitude through the actual wording that conveys it.

- 041 appreciative** adjective
showing recognition or gratitude for something valued
Her appreciative note thanks the volunteers for staying after closing time.
- 042 dismissive** adjective
showing that something is not worth serious attention
His dismissive reply, "That is hardly worth discussing," ends the exchange.
- 043 conciliatory** adjective
intended to reduce anger or disagreement
Her conciliatory message acknowledges the inconvenience and invites a fresh discussion.
- 044 sceptical** adjective
doubtful about whether a claim is true or convincing
He is sceptical of the claim that one change will solve every problem.
- 045 earnest** adjective
serious and sincere in manner or purpose
Her earnest appeal explains why the shared room matters to the group.
- 046 scathing** adjective
expressing very severe criticism
The review is scathing, calling the repeated excuses "an insult to waiting passengers".
- 047 sarcastic** adjective
using mocking words, often saying the opposite of what is meant
Her sarcastic remark, "Wonderful timing," comes as the bus leaves without them.
- 048 reverent** adjective
showing deep respect or admiration
The account adopts a reverent tone towards the craft and those who preserved it.
- 049 detached** adjective
emotionally uninvolved in the situation being described
His detached report lists the damage without expressing personal distress or blame.
- 050 sympathetic** adjective
showing understanding and concern for another's difficulty
Her sympathetic response recognises why the sudden change upset the family.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Choosing precise narrative actions

Use a verb that makes the movement or response clear.

051 **falter** verb

become less steady or confident in speaking or acting
Her voice begins to falter when she reaches the apology.

052 **recoil** verb

move suddenly backwards because of fear, shock or disgust
He recoils as a rat darts from beneath the crate.

053 **flinch** verb

make a small sudden movement in response to fear, pain or surprise
She flinches when the metal tray crashes beside her.

054 **stagger** verb

walk or move unsteadily as though about to fall
He staggers under the weight of the overfilled sack.

055 **hesitate** verb

pause before acting because of uncertainty or reluctance
She hesitates at the doorway, unsure whether the meeting has begun.

056 **linger** verb

stay somewhere longer than expected or necessary
The visitors linger by the final photograph after the talk ends.

057 **scrutinise** verb

examine something closely and carefully
He scrutinises the faded signature through a magnifying glass.

058 **avert** verb

turn one's eyes or gaze away
She averts her gaze when she notices the private letter on the desk.

059 **suppress** verb

prevent a feeling or reaction from being openly expressed
He suppresses a laugh while the speaker searches for the missing slide.

060 **reconcile** verb

restore a friendly relationship after a disagreement
The two neighbours reconcile after each acknowledges the misunderstanding.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Discussing shared concerns

Name the issue accurately without assuming that one example proves a trend.

- 061 accessibility** noun
the extent to which something can be reached or used by people
The ramp improves the building's accessibility for wheelchair users.
- 062 accountability** noun
responsibility for explaining decisions and answering for their results
Publishing the spending record strengthens the committee's accountability to members.
- 063 privacy** noun
freedom from unwanted attention or access to personal information
Ask permission before sharing a photograph that may affect someone's privacy.
- 064 misinformation** noun
false or inaccurate information, whether or not intended to deceive
The outdated post spreads misinformation about the centre's opening hours.
- 065 sustainability** noun
the ability to continue a practice without exhausting resources or causing lasting harm
The project examines the sustainability of using disposable cups at every event.
- 066 resilience** noun
the capacity to recover or adapt after difficulty
The team shows resilience by regrouping and revising its plan after the setback.
- 067 inclusivity** noun
the practice of enabling different people to belong and take part
Offering both spoken and written responses supports inclusivity in the discussion.
- 068 exploitation** noun
the unfair use of people or their work for another's benefit
Making workers accept unpaid extra hours through threats is exploitation.
- 069 inequality** noun
an unequal distribution of opportunities, resources or treatment
The report examines inequality in access to quiet study spaces.
- 070 innovation** noun
the introduction of a new idea, method or product
A refill system is the shop's latest innovation to reduce packaging.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Judging support and significance

State how much the evidence supports and why a detail matters.

071 tentative adjective

not yet definite or firmly decided

The timetable is tentative while the organiser checks room availability.

072 conclusive adjective

settling a question through evidence that leaves no reasonable doubt

The blurred image is not conclusive evidence of who entered the room.

073 credible adjective

able to be believed or accepted as reasonably trustworthy

The dated notes make the account credible, though further checking is still possible.

074 pertinent adjective

directly relevant to the matter being considered

The width of the doorway is pertinent to the access discussion.

075 sufficient adjective

enough for a particular purpose or requirement

The hall has sufficient chairs for all forty registered guests.

076 proportionate adjective

appropriate in size or degree to the circumstances

A brief reminder is a proportionate response to a minor first mistake.

077 representative adjective

reflecting the relevant features of a wider group

A survey of only morning visitors may not be representative of all visitors.

078 feasible adjective

possible to carry out under the actual conditions

An amplified concert is not feasible at a site where amplified sound is prohibited.

079 consequential adjective

important because of the effects that follow

Closing the only entrance is a consequential decision for everyone who uses the building.

080 incidental adjective

secondary to the main purpose or issue

The colour of the envelope is incidental to the dispute about its missing contents.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Connecting and qualifying ideas

Make the relationship between sentences match the reasoning.

081 **consequently** adverb

as a result of what has just been stated

The pump failed; consequently, the fountain stopped working.

082 **nevertheless** adverb

despite what has just been stated

The walk was tiring; nevertheless, she was glad she had come.

083 **moreover** adverb

used to add a further supporting point

The room is too small; moreover, its only entrance is blocked.

084 **conversely** adverb

used to introduce an opposite or reversed relationship

A lower fee may widen access; conversely, a higher fee may restrict it.

085 **similarly** adverb

in a comparable way or respect

The first notice omits the date; similarly, the second leaves out the time.

086 **alternatively** adverb

used to introduce another possible choice

We could meet in the library; alternatively, we could speak online.

087 **predominantly** adverb

mainly or for the most part

The audience is predominantly local, although some visitors have travelled farther.

088 **notably** adverb

used to draw attention to something especially significant

Several details changed, notably the closing date and the collection point.

089 **arguably** adverb

in a way that can reasonably be supported by reasons

The earlier session is arguably more convenient for those who work evenings.

090 **ultimately** adverb

in the end, after other events or considerations

After comparing the options, the committee ultimately chooses the smaller venue.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

Making practical decisions

Connect a proposed action to its purpose, limits and likely result.

091 recommendation noun

advice about which action or choice should be taken

Her recommendation is to add a second collection time for late arrivals.

092 proposal noun

a suggested plan offered for consideration

The proposal would turn the unused storeroom into a reading corner.

093 objection noun

a reason or statement expressing opposition to something

His objection concerns the noise the evening event may create.

094 requirement noun

something that is necessary or officially demanded

Booking the room in advance is a requirement of using the centre.

095 priority noun

something treated as more important or urgent than other things

Keeping the exit clear is the first priority during the rearrangement.

096 constraint noun

a condition or limit that restricts what can be done

The small budget is a constraint on how much equipment we can replace.

097 alternative noun

another available option

If the room is occupied, the covered courtyard is an alternative.

098 compromise noun

an agreement reached when each side accepts less than it first wanted

They reach a compromise by sharing the room on different afternoons.

099 outcome noun

the result of an action, process or event

The outcome of the vote is a decision to keep the present opening time.

100 rationale noun

the reasons that explain or support a decision or approach

The rationale for the earlier deadline is to leave time for checking entries.

Your turn: Pick one word. Explain it, then make a new sentence.

PUT THE WORDS TO WORK

Choose the word.

Use each bank word once. Check the meaning and grammar.

accessibility | **ambivalent** | **conciliatory** | **consequently** | **implication** |
paraphrase | **rationale** | **scrutinise** | **substantiate** | **sufficient**

- 01 The phrase "for once" carries the _____ that this success is unusual.
- 02 Dated records can help _____ a claim that the repairs were completed.
- 03 _____ the notice in different words while preserving its meaning.
- 04 She feels _____ about leaving: she welcomes the new opportunity but dreads the separation.
- 05 His _____ reply acknowledges the inconvenience and invites both sides to talk calmly.
- 06 Use the magnifying glass to _____ the tiny marks on the stamp.
- 07 Clear labels and a step-free entrance can improve the museum's _____.
- 08 With forty places and thirty bookings, there is _____ space for everyone booked.
- 09 The ceiling was leaking; _____, the organiser moved the meeting to another room.
- 10 The _____ for the earlier deadline is to allow two days for checking.

Check your answers on page 15. If an answer surprised you, go back to the word and make up another example.

MAKE MEANING

Say it. Then write it.

Use your own ideas. Explain your choice before writing a response.

- 1** The message says, "Bring your own cup; we will not provide cups." Use explicit and inference to distinguish the instruction from a possible reason for it.

- 2** A character says, "Excellent service," after waiting an hour without being helped. Use sarcastic and context to explain a supported reading, without claiming certain knowledge of the speaker's thoughts.

- 3** A club promises reading places for twenty members to use at the same time. Only two places are available. Use sufficient and constraint to describe the stated problem.

- 4** One witness gives an arrival time. An independently made, correctly timed camera record shows the same arrival time. Use corroborate and conclusive to explain what the record supports and what it does not establish about the entire account.

- 5** The organiser can offer a morning collection or an evening collection but has staff for only one. Of twelve evening-class learners who responded to a survey, most prefer evening. Use recommendation and representative to make a qualified proposal.

Need more space? Continue on another sheet. Check that your words fit the meaning and your sentences make sense.

CHECK WITHOUT A RUSH

Answers & a return visit.

Check your reasoning, then try a fresh example.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 01 implication | 06 scrutinise |
| 02 substantiate | 07 accessibility |
| 03 paraphrase | 08 sufficient |
| 04 ambivalent | 09 consequently |
| 05 conciliatory | 10 rationale |

Page 14: Answers will vary. Check that the target word keeps its meaning, fits the sentence and makes sense in your situation.

Review tracker

Write a date when you return to a set. These are practice notes, not test scores.

SET	READ	RECALL	USE
01 Reading meaning in context			
02 Testing and responding to claims			
03 Understanding task instructions			
04 Describing feelings and character			
05 Recognising attitude and tone			
06 Choosing precise narrative actions			
07 Discussing shared concerns			
08 Judging support and significance			
09 Connecting and qualifying ideas			
10 Making practical decisions			

A useful check: can you explain a word and use it in a new, accurate sentence?

KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

Find a word.

Alphabetical index. The number after each word is its page.

accessibility	9	inference	3
accountability	9	innovation	9
allege	4	intention	3
alternative	12	interpret	5
alternatively	11	justify	5
ambiguity	3	linger	8
ambivalent	6	misinformation	9
analyse	5	moreover	11
appreciative	7	nevertheless	11
apprehensive	6	notably	11
arguably	11	objection	12
assert	4	outcome	12
avert	8	outline	5
bewildered	6	paraphrase	5
compare	5	perspective	3
composed	6	pertinent	10
compromise	12	predominantly	11
concede	4	priority	12
conciliatory	7	privacy	9
conclusive	10	proportionate	10
consequential	10	proposal	12
consequently	11	qualify	4
constraint	12	rationale	12
context	3	rebut	4
contrast	3	recoil	8
conversely	11	recommendation	12
corroborate	4	reconcile	8
credible	10	representative	10
deduce	4	requirement	12
detached	7	resentful	6
disillusioned	6	resilience	9
dismissive	7	resolute	6
distinguish	5	reverent	7
earnest	7	sarcastic	7
emphasis	3	scathing	7
evaluate	5	sceptical	7
explicit	3	scrutinise	8
exploitation	9	similarly	11
falter	8	stagger	8
feasible	10	substantiate	4
flinch	8	sufficient	10
hesitate	8	summarise	5
illustrate	5	suppress	8
implication	3	sustainability	9
implicit	3	sympathetic	7
incidental	10	tentative	10
inclusivity	9	ultimately	11
incredulous	6	verify	4
indignant	6	warrant	4
inequality	9	wistful	6

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