

# NLN NEX Reading Comprehension & Vocabulary Strategies Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>15</b>

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. What does the prefix 'co-' mean?**
  - A. Together**
  - B. Between**
  - C. Three**
  - D. Not**
  
- 2. What does the suffix '-less' mean?**
  - A. Full of**
  - B. Without**
  - C. Relating to direction**
  - D. Reminiscent of**
  
- 3. In vocabulary study, why are affixes important?**
  - A. They have no impact on meaning.**
  - B. They can modify the meaning of base words.**
  - C. They indicate tense only.**
  - D. They always indicate negation.**
  
- 4. What is the benefit of recognizing repetitive phrasing in a passage?**
  - A. It can help identify the main idea and supporting details.**
  - B. It helps memorize exact words.**
  - C. It reveals the author's name.**
  - D. It shows punctuation usage**
  
- 5. What does the prefix 'post-' mean?**
  - A. After**
  - B. Before**
  - C. During**
  - D. Around**

- 6. What is the significance of context clues in word knowledge questions?**
- A. They confuse reading.**
  - B. They help infer the meaning of a word based on how it is used in a sentence.**
  - C. They only relate to tone.**
  - D. They are optional.**
- 7. What does the prefix 'mis-' mean?**
- A. Good**
  - B. Proper**
  - C. Incorrect or badly**
  - D. Over**
- 8. Which word uses the prefix 'pre' to indicate 'before'?**
- A. Posthistoric**
  - B. Inanimate**
  - C. Prehistoric**
  - D. Postscript**
- 9. What does the suffix '-ship' indicate?**
- A. A state or condition**
  - B. A plural marker**
  - C. Position held**
  - D. Past tense**
- 10. What is a synonym?**
- A. A word that means the same thing as another word.**
  - B. A word that means the opposite of another word.**
  - C. Words that have similar spellings or pronunciations but different meanings.**
  - D. A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different meaning.**

## Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. C
9. C
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What does the prefix 'co-' mean?

- A. Together**
- B. Between**
- C. Three**
- D. Not**

The prefix co- means together, working as a unit or side by side. You can see it in words like cooperate (work together), coordinate (bring parts together to function as one), or coauthor (someone who writes something with another person). That sense of joint action or sharing is exactly what co- conveys, so “Together” is the best fit. The other options map to different ideas. A prefix meaning between would be inter- (or a related form), a prefix meaning three is tri-, and a prefix meaning not is un- or non-.

## 2. What does the suffix '-less' mean?

- A. Full of**
- B. Without**
- C. Relating to direction**
- D. Reminiscent of**

The suffix -less signals absence or lacking something. When you add it to a word, you describe someone or something that does not have the quality or thing named by the base word. For example, fearless means without fear, homeless means without a home, endless means without an end, and tireless means without tiring. That’s why this option is the best choice: it captures the idea of lacking, not having that quality. The other ideas point to different meanings. A suffix that means “full of” is -ful, as in joyful or hopeful. A suffix meaning direction would be clues like -ward or -toward. And a suffix meaning “resembling” would be -like or -esque.

## 3. In vocabulary study, why are affixes important?

- A. They have no impact on meaning.**
- B. They can modify the meaning of base words.**
- C. They indicate tense only.**
- D. They always indicate negation.**

Affixes attach to base words to modify meaning or grammatical function. When you spot prefixes and suffixes, you can decode unfamiliar terms by breaking them into familiar parts. A prefix like un- often flips meaning, while suffixes such as -ful or -ness change a word’s part of speech or form related words—happy becomes unhappy, care becomes careful, joy becomes joyful, hope becomes hopelessness. This ability to see how words are built helps you infer meaning, recognize word families, and expand your vocabulary with less memorization. They do more than indicate tense or negation; affixes shape meaning in many ways, making them a key tool in vocabulary study.

**4. What is the benefit of recognizing repetitive phrasing in a passage?**

- A. It can help identify the main idea and supporting details.**
- B. It helps memorize exact words.**
- C. It reveals the author's name.**
- D. It shows punctuation usage**

Recognizing repetitive phrasing helps you see the central message and how the details support it. When the same idea or a closely related phrase keeps coming up, it acts like a roadmap to the main claim the author is making and the evidence that backs it up. Those repeated expressions highlight what the passage is emphasizing and show how the surrounding sentences connect to that core point, making the structure easier to follow. It isn't about memorizing exact wording, and repetition of phrases won't reveal the author's name or reveal how punctuation is used.

**5. What does the prefix 'post-' mean?**

- A. After**
- B. Before**
- C. During**
- D. Around**

Post- marks something that comes after in time or order. When you see this prefix, think after, later than, or following. That's why it fits the meaning of after in words like postscript (a note added after the main text), postoperative (occurring after surgery), and postwar (the period following a war). The other ideas don't align as well because before would use pre-, around would use peri- or circum-, and during isn't a standard time-based prefix. So the intended meaning of post- is clearly "after."

**6. What is the significance of context clues in word knowledge questions?**

- A. They confuse reading.**
- B. They help infer the meaning of a word based on how it is used in a sentence.**
- C. They only relate to tone.**
- D. They are optional.**

Understanding how context clues guide word meaning is what this item is testing. Context clues are signals in the sentences around an unfamiliar word that point to what the word means. You look for hints like a definition phrase (such as "which means"), a nearby synonym or antonym, or an example that clarifies the sense of the word. By noticing these signals, you can infer the word's meaning even if you haven't seen it before. In practice, you might see something like a sentence that uses the word in a way that mirrors another idea or pairs the word with a clearer term, or you might see a phrase that explicitly explains the meaning right after the word. Those cues help you unlock the intended sense the author is conveying. Options that claim context clues only relate to tone, or that they confuse reading, or that they're optional, miss the essential function: context clues are a primary tool for deducing meaning and understanding the text more fully. They're not merely about attitude or mood, and they aren't something you can ignore if you want to comprehend what you read.

## 7. What does the prefix 'mis-' mean?

- A. Good
- B. Proper
- C. Incorrect or badly**
- D. Over

Mis- signals that something is wrong or done badly. When attached to a root word, it shifts the meaning to indicate an error, incorrectness, or improper action. For example, misread means to read in the wrong way, misplace means to place somewhere incorrectly, and misbehave means to behave badly. That's why the meaning "incorrect or badly" fits best. The other options describe positive qualities or a sense of excess, which don't capture this idea of error or impropriety.

## 8. Which word uses the prefix 'pre' to indicate 'before'?

- A. Posthistoric
- B. Inanimate
- C. Prehistoric**
- D. Postscript

Understanding prefixes helps you unlock meaning quickly. The prefix 'pre-' signals 'before.' The word that uses this prefix to indicate before is prehistoric, referring to a time before history began. The other options use different prefixes: 'post-' means after, as in posthistoric (after history) or postscript (a note added after); 'in-' here means not or lacking, as in inanimate (not alive). So prehistoric is the correct choice because it literally means before history.

## 9. What does the suffix '-ship' indicate?

- A. A state or condition
- B. A plural marker
- C. Position held**
- D. Past tense

The suffix -ship signals a noun form that expresses a state, condition, or status, often tied to a role or position. When it attaches to a root that names a person or a kind of relationship, it describes the role or office that person has. For example, leadership refers to the position of leading; membership refers to the status of being a member; authorship refers to the role of being an author. So the core idea is that -ship highlights a position or status someone or something holds, rather than indicating plurality or past tense.

**10. What is a synonym?**

- A. A word that means the same thing as another word.**
- B. A word that means the opposite of another word.**
- C. Words that have similar spellings or pronunciations but different meanings.**
- D. A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different meaning.**

A synonym is a word that means the same thing as another word. This is exactly what the best option describes, with examples like **big** and **large** that convey the same idea. Synonyms are useful for variety, but they aren't always interchangeable in every situation because each word can carry different connotations or levels of formality. The other ideas describe related but different concepts: an opposite meaning defines antonyms, words with similar spellings or pronunciations but different meanings describe terms that are not true synonyms, and a word that sounds the same as another but has a different meaning refers to homophones.

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## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nllexreadingcompvocab.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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