

# Reading Academic Vocabulary Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

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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. An 'anomalous' result is best described as?**
  - A. typical and expected**
  - B. unusual or deviating from the norm**
  - C. insignificant**
  - D. consistent with hypothesis**
  
- 2. Which pronoun ends in -self or -selves?**
  - A. Reflexive pronoun**
  - B. Relative pronoun**
  - C. Demonstrative pronoun**
  - D. Interrogative pronoun**
  
- 3. Which of the following is NOT a verb?**
  - A. Run**
  - B. Think**
  - C. Courage**
  - D. Sing**
  
- 4. To tell someone what something or someone is like, or to give an account of something in words.**
  - A. Portray**
  - B. Relate**
  - C. Explain**
  - D. Describe**
  
- 5. Which term denotes the lesson or message of a story?**
  - A. Plot**
  - B. Conflict**
  - C. Play or Drama**
  - D. Theme**
  
- 6. A short retelling of the main ideas in a longer piece of writing such as a book, essay, or movie.**
  - A. Abstract**
  - B. Summary**
  - C. Synopsis**
  - D. Overview**

- 7. Which term describes something arranged in order of time?**
- A. Chronological or Sequence**
  - B. Text Structure**
  - C. Description**
  - D. Problem**
- 8. Which term is used for the central message or meaning of a story?**
- A. Theme**
  - B. Plot**
  - C. Conflict**
  - D. Summarize**
- 9. Which term describes something we take for granted without proof?**
- A. Assumption**
  - B. Hypothesis**
  - C. Inference**
  - D. Annotation**
- 10. Which term describes 'the backdrop of a narrative, including place and era'?**
- A. Narrative structure**
  - B. Protagonist**
  - C. Conflict**
  - D. Setting**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. An 'anomalous' result is best described as?

- A. typical and expected
- B. unusual or deviating from the norm**
- C. insignificant
- D. consistent with hypothesis

Anomalous describes something that stands out because it doesn't fit the usual pattern. It's unusual or deviating from the norm. In data or experiments, an anomalous result draws attention exactly because it breaks the expectation you'd have from the rest of the evidence or the hypothesis. It isn't simply typical and expected, nor is it necessarily insignificant or something that supports the hypothesis. So the best description is that it's unusual or deviating from the norm.

### 2. Which pronoun ends in -self or -selves?

- A. Reflexive pronoun**
- B. Relative pronoun
- C. Demonstrative pronoun
- D. Interrogative pronoun

Pronouns that end in -self or -selves are reflexive pronouns. They refer back to the subject of the sentence and show that the action is directed toward the subject itself or is used for emphasis. For example, in I hurt myself, the pronoun refers to the same person who is performing the action. In They did it themselves, the -selves form adds emphasis on who carried out the action. Reflexive pronouns are used when the object of the verb is the same as the subject or to add emphasis, and they never stand as the subject on their own. Other types of pronouns have different roles: relative pronouns (who, which) introduce clauses that describe a noun; demonstratives (this, that, these, those) point to specific things; interrogatives (who, what, which) ask questions. The -self/-selves ending clearly signals a reflexive use.

### 3. Which of the following is NOT a verb?

- A. Run
- B. Think
- C. Courage**
- D. Sing

Verbs are the action words that show what someone does, or a state of being. Run, think, and sing all describe actions you can perform or states you can be in. Courage names a quality or thing—bravery—and is used as a noun, as in "Show courage" or "Courage helps people face danger." It isn't used as a verb in standard English (you wouldn't say "to courage" or "couragees"). Because of that, courage is the word that does not function as a verb.

**4. To tell someone what something or someone is like, or to give an account of something in words.**

- A. Portray**
- B. Relate**
- C. Explain**
- D. Describe**

The main idea is choosing a verb that means telling what something or someone is like, in words. Describe fits best because it specifically refers to detailing the features, qualities, or appearance of a person or thing, so you convey what it is like to the listener or reader. If you describe, you might note that the dog is small, friendly, and has a wiry coat, painting a clear picture in the other person's mind. Portray suggests presenting an image or impression, often with a particular viewpoint or bias. Relate is about recounting events or telling a story, focusing on narrative rather than simply detailing characteristics. Explain is about making something clear by giving reasons or causes, answering how or why, not just what something is like.

**5. Which term denotes the lesson or message of a story?**

- A. Plot**
- B. Conflict**
- C. Play or Drama**
- D. Theme**

The idea being tested is how we name the lesson or message a story conveys. That is the theme: the underlying idea about life or human nature that the author wants readers to take away. The theme isn't just what happens in the story (that's the plot) or the problem characters face (the conflict). It's the larger message those events illustrate—often about values like courage, kindness, or perseverance. For example, a story where characters keep helping each other despite obstacles might have a theme about the power of friendship and teamwork. The plot shows what happens, the conflict shows the challenge, and the theme expresses what the story says about those experiences. Sometimes a theme is directly stated, but more often it's something you infer from repeated ideas, outcomes, and what characters learn or how things change by the end.

**6. A short retelling of the main ideas in a longer piece of writing such as a book, essay, or movie.**

- A. Abstract**
- B. Summary**
- C. Synopsis**
- D. Overview**

Distilling the main ideas from a longer work into a brief form is the idea being tested. A summary is exactly that: it restates the central points, themes, and messages in a concise way, leaving out minor details. An abstract is typically used for academic articles and includes stipulations like purpose, methods, and results, which makes it more specialized and not the usual term for books or films. A synopsis focuses more on the plot and sequence of events, emphasizing what happens rather than the broader ideas or themes. An overview tends to be a broad, general description that doesn't necessarily condense the work to its essential ideas. So the short retelling of the main ideas from a longer work best fits a summary.

**7. Which term describes something arranged in order of time?**

**A. Chronological or Sequence**

**B. Text Structure**

**C. Description**

**D. Problem**

Think of organizing events by when they happen. When items are listed from earliest to latest, that is chronological order. This term is used specifically to describe time-based sequencing, like a history timeline or a diary of events as they occurred. The word sequence is similar and can describe order, but it's broader and not always tied to time—sometimes it refers to steps in a process or a non-time progression. Text structure is about the overall pattern a passage uses to organize information (it could be chronological, but it could also be cause-and-effect, compare-and-contrast, etc.). Description focuses on detailing features of something, not on arranging events by time. Problem relates to a question or issue, not ordering. So, the best fit for “arranged in order of time” is chronological.

**8. Which term is used for the central message or meaning of a story?**

**A. Theme**

**B. Plot**

**C. Conflict**

**D. Summarize**

Theme is the central message or insight about life, people, or society that a story communicates. It goes beyond the events and the problems characters face, pointing to a larger idea the author wants you to consider. The plot is the sequence of what happens, while conflict is the struggle characters endure; neither themselves names the underlying meaning. To identify the theme, notice recurring ideas, what characters learn, and the outcomes that point to a general point about life or human nature. Some themes are stated outright, others are implied, so you may need to infer the message from how the story develops.

**9. Which term describes something we take for granted without proof?**

**A. Assumption**

**B. Hypothesis**

**C. Inference**

**D. Annotation**

An assumption is something we take for granted without proof and use as a starting point for reasoning or planning. We rely on it until we have evidence to verify or disprove it. This differs from a hypothesis, which is a testable statement we propose to investigate; an inference, which is a conclusion drawn from evidence we already have; and an annotation, which is simply a note added to text. So the term that describes taking something for granted without proof is an assumption.

**10. Which term describes 'the backdrop of a narrative, including place and era'?**

- A. Narrative structure**
- B. Protagonist**
- C. Conflict**
- D. Setting**

Setting is the backdrop of a narrative, describing where and when the story takes place. It establishes the place and era, shaping the mood, culture, social norms, and possible events that characters encounter. That's why it's the best fit for the idea of the backdrop including place and era—it anchors everything that happens in a specific time and place. The other terms refer to different aspects: narrative structure is about how the story is organized and paced; the protagonist is the main character driving the action; and conflict is the central problem or struggle the characters face. While these influence a story, they don't define the environmental frame in which the action occurs the way setting does.

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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://readingacademicvocab.examzify.com>**

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

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