Research and Scientific Words Quiz

Practice these important research and scientific words (studied in issues 9 and 10 of English Detective) by choosing the right word in each of the following three exercises.

Odd One Out (Find the Antonym)

This is actually a group game, but you can play it by yourself. The rules are to decide which one of four words is odd or different from the others and explain why. (Sometimes there are several possible ways to decide which three belong together. For example, for strawberry, lemon, apple, and sweet potato, you could say lemon is the odd one because the others are sweet. Someone else might choose sweet potato, because the others are fruits. It’s valuable English practice to think about possible categories.)

For this quiz, the game is simple. Each group has three synonyms with similar meanings and one antonym (opposite or close to opposite of the others.) **Choose the antonym** as the odd one.

1. acknowledge, confess, deny, admit
2. notice, focus on, pay attention to, ignore
3. indicate, conceal, show, point out
4. instruct, teach, learn, educate
5. presume, verify, investigate, examine
6. criticize, promote, oppose, undermine
7. quote, paraphrase, reword, restate
8. restore, destroy, rebuild, update
9. undergo, avoid, miss, escape
10. knowledgeable, informed, aware, ignorant
11. participating, engaged, observing, involved
12. adult, childish, full-grown, mature
13. voluntary, optional, required, elective
14. odd, normal, unusual, strange
15. random, chance, planned, unpredictable
16. temporary, permanent, lasting, enduring
17. primary, secondary, principal, first
18. relevant, connected, topical, unrelated
19. subsequently, initially, previously, beforehand
20. outcome, result, input, product
Choose the best answer

1. A mathematical expression showing that two quantities are equal is an
   A. equality
   B. equivalent
   C. equation
   D. equilibrium

2. Two similar things that can replace each other if necessary are
   A. equal
   B. equivalent
   C. equine
   D. equilateral

3. Many organisms have sensors that recognize imbalance and trigger ____________ feedback mechanisms to restore equilibrium.
   A. voluntary
   B. subsequent
   C. random
   D. automatic

4. When a popular university professor was fired for no obvious reason, he consulted a lawyer. He claimed the firing was an ____________ action motivated by jealousy.
   A. intrinsic
   B. automatic
   C. arbitrary
   D. initial

5. Among some groups, an expensive car is a ________ symbol; among others popularity, intelligence, or unusual talent are more impressive.
   A. voluntary
   B. status
   C. primary
   D. relevant
Some of the most famous experiments studying willpower used marshmallows. A researcher would offer a child a marshmallow, and then tell the child that he or she would get a second marshmallow as well by waiting until the researcher returned before eating it. The marshmallow was just a means _________ scientists could measure the child’s self-control.

The marshmallow studies were especially interesting because the researchers followed a large number of participants’ lives for years after the marshmallow test. This enabled the scientists to collect enough data to draw some conclusions. The _________ of these experiments matched some peoples’ _________: children who displayed the most willpower during the experiment turned out to be successful more often as adults than the children who ate the marshmallows right away. The _________ of the study are that finding ways to increase willpower will provide long-term benefits both to individuals and to society.

Some critics of these experiments have _________ a problem with them, though. The test measures not only self-control, but also trust. Eating the marshmallow immediately is a _________ response for children from backgrounds in which the adults around them often do not keep their _________ or are unable to meet their needs. They may fear that if they wait, they will end up losing BOTH marshmallows. Such researchers often _________ the value of willpower but question the _________ of this way to test for it, especially among “disadvantaged” children who may have valid reasons to distrust the adults in their lives.

Some instructors have complicated _________ for deciding on the _________ they will give each student. They may give 10% credit for class _________, 15% for homework completion, 25% for a research paper, 25% for periodic quizzes and tests, and 25% for the final exam. In the U.S. students expect grading to be based on fixed _________, not on a teacher’s personal feelings about a student or some other _________ standard.

The right to vote is a cornerstone in the _________ of democracy. The _________ that the people who will be _________ by laws should have a voice in choosing the lawmakers is fundamental. When an American turns 18, he or she can _________ to vote. Voting is _________ in the U.S., but it is one of the _________ ways ordinary Americans can make their opinions heard in local and national affairs.
Answers

Odd One Out (the odd one will be listed first; then the original choices)

1. Deny-- acknowledge, confess, deny, admit
2. Ignore-- notice, focus on, pay attention to, ignore
3. Conceal-- indicate, conceal, show, point out
4. Learn-- instruct, teach, learn, educate
5. Presume-- presume, verify, investigate, examine
6. Promote-- criticize, promote, oppose, undermine
7. Quote-- quote, paraphrase, reword, restate
8. Destroy-- restore, destroy, rebuild, update
9. Undergo-- undergo, avoid, miss, escape
10. Ignorant-- knowledgeable, informed, aware, ignorant
11. Observing-- participating, engaged, observing, involved
12. Childish-- adult, childish, full-grown, mature
13. Required-- voluntary, optional, required, elective
14. Normal-- odd, normal, unusual, strange
15. Planned-- random, chance, planned, unpredictable
16. Temporary-- temporary, permanent, lasting, enduring
17. Secondary-- primary, secondary, principal, first
18. Unrelated-- relevant, connected, topical, unrelated
19. Subsequently-- subsequently, initially, previously, beforehand
20. 20 Input-- outcome, result, input, product
Answers: Choose the best answer

1. A mathematical expression showing that two quantities are equal is an
   C. equation

2. Two similar things that can replace each other if necessary are
   B. equivalent

3. Many organisms have sensors that recognize imbalance and trigger ______________ feedback mechanisms to restore equilibrium.
   D. automatic

4. When a popular university professor was fired for no obvious reason, he consulted a lawyer. He claimed the firing was an _____________ action motivated by jealousy.
   C. arbitrary

5. Among some groups, an expensive car is a ________ symbol; among others popularity, intelligence, or unusual talent are more impressive.
   B. status

Fill in the Blanks with the Scientific Words Above each Section

implications, outcomes, predictions, whereby

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