Vocabulary Exercises: Types of Organizations

These vocabulary exercises provide several ways to practice the Academic Word List (AWL) vocabulary in *English Detective 13*, as well as review some other AWL and general words.

There are several paragraphs discussing types of organizations (and some related word meanings). Choose the best word from the vocabulary above each paragraph group to fill in the gaps (spaces). The second type of exercise is called Odd One Out. (See that section for an explanation.)

**Fill-in the Blank Vocabulary Exercises**

*adapt, circumstances, contribute, crucial, flexible, founded, priority, promote*

People form organizations for many purposes: to do business, to spend time with like-minded people, to share interests or __________ a cause or even try to change the world. In the U.S. and many other countries, non-profit organizations, also called NGOs (non-governmental organizations) fill an important place.

They are usually __________ and run by ordinary citizens who see a problem or opportunity in their society that they want to help with. They meet many needs that governments cannot meet (or don’t meet so well.) They provide opportunities for civic-minded people to __________ to their society and to take action on the problems that seem __________ to them, even if the society or government is not ready to make those issues a __________.

NGOs can also be more __________ than governments. They can __________ to changing __________ or respond quickly to passing opportunities since they do not have to wait for political or bureaucratic approval before taking any action.

*contrast, institute, institutionalize, institutions, solely, sphere, welfare*

There are many types of non-profit organizations, some concerned __________ or principally with one issue and others with a broader focus. There are educational, artistic, philanthropic, environmental, and social __________ associations. There are organizations devoted to almost any imaginable __________ of interest.

In __________ to many of the smaller non-profit organizations, __________ are major organizations like banks, universities, and hospitals. (The word has several other meanings, including a society’s most important traditions.) To __________ someone is to put them into a mental hospital where they can be closely supervised. To __________ a new procedure is to set it up and establish it.
Many institutions (as well as some smaller NGOs) may receive government ________ to help pay for their services to the community or nation. Donors who believe in an organization’s cause may give large sums of money, and volunteers ________ their time. Organizations may also hold fund-raisers or charge membership ________ to generate additional income to ________ buildings or supplies, pay expenses and ________ salaries (unless the entire staff is volunteers), or to support their cause.

Most organizations have a governing document like a charter or constitution that gives guidelines for their operation and states the ________ purpose for which they exist. The charter also sets ________ that define and limit the activities they will pursue, avoiding apparent or actual ________ purposes.

Governments may also ________ non-profits. In the U.S. this is ________ done using the tax code. If organizations violate government ________ they may lose their tax-free non-profit ________.

One set of these guidelines forbids discrimination on the basis of ________, race, or several other factors. For ________, American organizations may not arbitrarily ________ all men or all women simply because of their sex, nor may they deny membership to people based on sexual orientation, race, or national origin.
Odd one out:

Three of the four words in each group are closely related in meaning. The fourth is not. (It may be an antonym to them or just unrelated.) Think about what meaning connects any three of the words, and then choose the odd word that does not belong with the others.

1. guidelines, parameters, rules, opportunities
2. instance, occurrence, rule, illustration
3. appropriate, related, incompatible, congruent
4. only, sole, exclusive, multiple
5. apparently, seemingly, definitely, supposedly
6. civil, polite, rude, well-mannered
7. civil, public, military, political
8. the (principal, subordinate, predominant, outstanding) feature
9. contrast, difference, similarity, variation
10. flexibility, adaptability, rigidity, pliability
11. infrastructure, framework, base, superstructure
12. files, documents, illustrations, records
13. somewhat, completely, partially, moderately
People form organizations for many purposes: to do business, to spend time with like-minded people, to share interests or promote a cause or even try to change the world. In the U.S. and many other countries, non-profit organizations, also called NGOs (non-governmental organizations) fill an important place.

They are usually founded and run by ordinary citizens who see a problem or opportunity in their society that they want to help with. They meet many needs that governments cannot meet (or don’t meet so well.) They provide opportunities for civic-minded people to contribute to their society and to take action on the problems that seem crucial to them, even if the society or government is not ready to make those issues a priority.

NGOs can also be more flexible than governments. They can adapt to changing circumstances or respond quickly to passing opportunities since they do not have to wait for political or bureaucratic approval before taking any action.

There are many types of non-profit organizations, some concerned solely or principally with one issue and others with a broader focus. There are educational, artistic, philanthropic, environmental, and social welfare associations. There are organizations devoted to almost any imaginable sphere of interest.

In contrast to many of the smaller non-profit organizations, institutions are major organizations like banks, universities, and hospitals. (The word has several other meanings, including a society’s most important traditions.) To institutionalize someone is to put them into a mental hospital where they can be closely supervised. To institute a new procedure is to set it up and establish it.

Many institutions (as well as some smaller NGOs) may receive government subsidies to help pay for their services to the community or nation. Donors who believe in an organization’s cause may give large sums of money, and volunteers invest their time. Organizations may also hold fund-raisers or charge membership fees to generate additional income to purchase buildings or supplies, pay expenses and administrative salaries (unless the entire staff is volunteers), or to support their cause.

Most organizations have a governing document like a charter or constitution that gives guidelines for their operation and states the principal purpose for which they exist. The charter also sets parameters that define and limit the activities they will pursue, avoiding apparent or actual incompatible purposes.
Governments may also regulate non-profits. In the U.S. this is principally done using the tax code. If organizations violate government guidelines they may lose their tax-free non-profit status. One set of these guidelines forbids discrimination on the basis of sex, race, or several other factors. For instance, American organizations may not arbitrarily exclude all men or all women simply because of their sex, nor may they deny membership to people based on sexual orientation, race, or national origin.

Odd one out:

Three of the four words in each group are closely related in meaning. The fourth is not. (It may be an antonymn to them or just unrelated.) Think about what meaning connects any three of the words, and then choose the odd word that does not belong with the others.

1. opportunities
2. rule
3. incompatible
4. multiple
5. definitely
6. rude
7. military
8. subordinate
9. similarity
10. rigidity
11. superstructure
12. illustrations
13. completely