Vocabulary Skill Checks

Grade 9 · Teacher keys

Score meaning only. Record the count out of six and the error pattern. These passages are held back from the printed game trips. Students may know a target word from another passage, or have seen the passage online. Ask about prior exposure and record familiar passages as practice. Where a second try exists it uses different passages. Target words can repeat across tries. Compare the error patterns for the skill. The tries have not been equated.

Grade 9 · Meaning from context · Try 1

Standards from the source items · L.9-10.4a, RI.9-10.4, RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.4

1. A · provisional · The detail “It gave the best-supported date for now and stated that further documents might change it.” supports the meaning “serving for now while awaiting fuller confirmation” in this passage.

B · The arrangement is usable for now rather than already discarded.

C · Temporary status does not itself impose secrecy.

D · A provisional arrangement remains subject to additional checking.

2. C · corroborate · The detail “The agreement strengthened the report because it did not depend on the collectors repeating their own estimate.” supports the meaning “support a claim with additional independent evidence” in this passage.

A · Additional support can strengthen the existing account without replacing it.

B · A copied repetition is not independent supporting evidence.

D · An attractive presentation does not independently support the account.

3. B · coherent · The detail “The ideas now followed a relationship a reader could understand.” supports the meaning “organized so that the relationships among ideas are clear” in this passage.

A · Including every detail can still leave an account disconnected or confusing.

C · A coherent account can explain competing interpretations without concealing them.

D · Confidence cannot supply the missing connections between ideas.

4. D · transient · The detail “They would remain only briefly before moving elsewhere.” supports the meaning “lasting for only a short period rather than remaining” in this passage.

A · The condition passes instead of remaining permanently in place.

B · Duration is the issue here, not whether a condition can be seen.

C · Something temporary need not recur regularly or follow a fixed cycle.

5. A · pivotal · The detail “The separate entrance changed the direction of the project.” supports the meaning “crucial to the direction or outcome of later events” in this passage.

B · An event’s importance does not depend on being the first in a sequence.

C · A crucial turning point can lead to more decisions rather than end them.

D · The event matters because later choices depend on it.

6. D · reconcile · The detail “The bench had been moved between our two summer visits.” supports the meaning “make differing information fit a reasoned account” in this passage.

A · A preference alone would not resolve the conflict between the sources.

B · The conflicting details are examined rather than simply discarded.

C · Repeating a disagreement leaves it unresolved.

Grade 9 · Meaning from context · Try 2

Standards from the source items · L.9-10.4a, RI.9-10.1, RI.9-10.4, RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.4

1. B · coherent · The detail “The connections allowed readers to understand the account as a whole.” supports the meaning “connected so the whole account can be understood clearly” in this passage.

A · A coherent account can explain competing interpretations without concealing them.

C · Including every detail can still leave an account disconnected or confusing.

D · Confidence cannot supply the missing connections between ideas.

2. D · transient · The detail “The extra attendance passed when the festival ended.” supports the meaning “temporary rather than a settled or enduring condition” in this passage.

A · Something temporary need not recur regularly or follow a fixed cycle.

B · Duration is the issue here, not whether a condition can be seen.

C · The condition passes instead of remaining permanently in place.

3. C · pivotal · The detail “After the interview, the team began arranging everything by route.” supports the meaning “important because it changes what happens afterward” in this passage.

A · The event matters because later choices depend on it.

B · A crucial turning point can lead to more decisions rather than end them.

D · An event’s importance does not depend on being the first in a sequence.

4. A · concede · The detail “I admitted that his objection was valid after resisting it.” supports the meaning “admit that an opposing point has merit” in this passage.

B · The response directly addresses the objection rather than escaping it.

C · The speaker accepts part of the opposing case instead of disproving it.

D · Accepting one valid point does not mean abandoning every part of a position.

5. C · provisional · The detail “I left spaces for names that had not yet been confirmed.” supports the meaning “temporary and open to replacement after further checking” in this passage.

A · Temporary status does not itself impose secrecy.

B · A provisional arrangement remains subject to additional checking.

D · The arrangement is usable for now rather than already discarded.

6. D · corroborate · The detail “A separate witness described the same lettering before hearing our account.” supports the meaning “strengthen an account with evidence from another source” in this passage.

A · A copied repetition is not independent supporting evidence.

B · An attractive presentation does not independently support the account.

C · Additional support can strengthen the existing account without replacing it.

Grade 9 · Figurative language · Try 1

Standards from the source items · L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5a, RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.4

1. A · undermine · The contradiction makes the printed date less reliable. The words “we could no longer present the whole label as established fact” show that confidence in the account has weakened.

B · Adding a new version is not the same as weakening trust in the existing one.

C · The passage describes a challenge that reduces confidence rather than leaving it intact.

D · The effect is to weaken the argument’s standing, not improve its clarity.

2. B · catalyst · The plan and the owner’s invitation to submit ideas already existed. The brother’s question prompted a letter, measurements and requests for help, turning those possibilities into action.

A · A triggering event can prompt action while disagreements remain.

C · The incident draws attention to a concern instead of hiding it.

D · The event begins or accelerates change rather than ending the process.

3. D · thread · The detail “Each letter returned to the difficulty of leaving people behind.” supports the meaning “a continuing concern linking different experiences” in this passage.

A · The connecting idea runs through several parts without replacing them.

B · The recurrence organizes meaning rather than being an accidental duplication.

C · The passage refers to a relationship among ideas, not a physical fastening.

4. C · friction · The detail “Conflicting expectations made ordinary cooperation increasingly strained.” supports the meaning “tension that makes cooperation more difficult” in this passage.

A · The expectations remain in conflict rather than being fully resolved.

B · The disagreement causes strain rather than only constructive exchange.

D · That is a literal meaning, but the passage concerns the relationship between groups.

5. A · a double-edged sword · The detail “The new opportunity brought a drawback connected to its success.” supports the meaning “an advantage that also brings a significant drawback” in this passage.

B · The benefit creates another concern, so caution remains necessary.

C · The comparison concerns opposing effects, not two useful physical parts.

D · Both benefit and drawback matter to the comparison.

6. C · in the shadow of · The sister’s achievements draw other people’s attention away from the narrator’s music. That imbalance explains the phrase; it does not mean the narrator’s work lacks value.

A · The comparison concerns public notice, not the direction of sunlight.

B · The work exists and may succeed even though it receives less attention.

D · The passage concerns reduced recognition rather than protection from criticism.

Grade 9 · Shades of meaning · Try 1

Standards from the source items · L.9-10.4a, L.9-10.5b, RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.4

1. A · resilient · The word “resilient” praises the capacity to recover and adapt after disruption. The detail “We recovered by adapting instead of pretending nothing had happened.” supports that reading.

B · Resilience concerns responding to setbacks rather than being immune to them.

C · The response adapts to changed conditions instead of preserving every original detail.

D · Recovery can follow genuine difficulty; it does not mean nothing was felt.

2. D · tentative · The word “tentative” shows a choice that remains subject to revision. The detail “My answer could change once the work schedule was confirmed.” supports that reading.

A · A decision kept open for revision has not been discarded.

B · Important conditions remain unresolved, so the decision is not final.

C · The narrator understands the role but is still checking a work-schedule conflict; uncertainty does not mean a lack of preparation.

3. C · impartial · The word “impartial” suggests judging each side by the same standard. The detail “Each design was assessed against the same published criteria.” supports that reading.

A · Fair judgment requires examining the competing positions rather than ignoring them.

B · Favoring a reputation would abandon the equal standard described.

D · Treating sides fairly does not mean being indifferent to consequences.

4. B · conventional · The word “conventional” describes an approach that follows accepted practice. The detail “It followed the arrangement used in our previous productions.” supports that reading.

A · Following an established practice does not mean that exceptions are impossible.

C · An established method can remain useful; the word does not itself dismiss it.

D · The method is familiar rather than an unprecedented experiment.

5. D · scrutiny · The word “scrutiny” suggests careful attention to details before acceptance. The detail “She examined the details instead of trusting the polished wording.” supports that reading.

A · The word stresses sustained examination instead of a passing look.

B · Close examination can reveal strengths as well as problems; judgment is not predetermined.

C · The review examines methods and details rather than surface appeal alone.

6. B · measured · The word “measured” suggests deliberate restraint rather than lack of concern. The detail “She stayed calm while dealing with the problem directly.” supports that reading.

A · The response is considered before it is expressed rather than impulsively released.

C · Restraint follows a judgment; it does not necessarily show confusion.

D · A restrained response can address a serious issue without treating it lightly.