

Chapter 1

Word Knowledge: Testing Your Vocabulary

The Word Knowledge subtest is one of the most important subtests on the ASVAB. This subtest comprises a significant portion of your Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score — the score that determines your eligibility for military service. To do well on this subtest, you need to be pretty handy with your lingo — that is, your vocabulary. The purpose of the Word Knowledge subtest is to measure your ability to figure out what most words in the English language mean. When taking this subtest, you may come across words you've never seen before, or you may know the words right away (a hopeful scenario). In any event, continually testing (and developing) your word-knowledge skills gives you the best chance for success. Lucky for you, this chapter gives you plenty of practice to help you do just that.

The Questions You'll Work On

The Word Knowledge questions come in one of three forms:

- ✓ **Definition:** This type of question asks you for a straight definition of the word given.
- ✓ **Sentence context:** When you see an underlined word in a sentence, your job is to choose the answer closest in meaning to the underlined word.
- ✓ **Antonyms:** Choose the answer most opposite in meaning to the word given.

What to Watch Out For

Keep in mind the following points as you work on the Word Knowledge questions in this chapter:

- ✓ If you see an unfamiliar word, try to figure out the root of the word (the base) to see whether you recognize it.
- ✓ A prefix or suffix can help you figure out the meaning of an unknown word if you know how the given prefix or suffix changes the meaning.
- ✓ Some questions ask you to choose the word *closest in meaning* to the underlined word.
- ✓ Some sentence questions offer clues to the correct answer choice in their context.
- ✓ An *antonym* is a word most opposite in meaning to the given word. Although antonym questions are rare on the Word Knowledge subtest, they show up occasionally, so be on the lookout!

Definition

1. Cognizant most nearly means
 - (A) conscious
 - (B) ignorant
 - (C) fearful
 - (D) snooty
2. Abbreviate most nearly means
 - (A) supply
 - (B) enlighten
 - (C) condense
 - (D) satisfy
3. Clarity most nearly means
 - (A) clearness
 - (B) foggy
 - (C) appearance
 - (D) regretful
4. Culminate most nearly means
 - (A) destroy
 - (B) complete
 - (C) fix
 - (D) accumulate
5. Ardent most nearly means
 - (A) trustworthy
 - (B) passionate
 - (C) diligent
 - (D) lonely
6. Falter most nearly means
 - (A) hesitate
 - (B) encourage
 - (C) fail
 - (D) deny
7. Hamper most nearly means
 - (A) regulate
 - (B) prevent
 - (C) prevail
 - (D) discourage
8. Malicious most nearly means
 - (A) grave
 - (B) large
 - (C) harmful
 - (D) exhausting
9. Obtrude most nearly means
 - (A) large
 - (B) distinct
 - (C) offensive
 - (D) intrude
10. Palpable most nearly means
 - (A) practiced
 - (B) touchable
 - (C) collective
 - (D) harmed
11. Quaff most nearly means
 - (A) ducks
 - (B) embarrassment
 - (C) drink
 - (D) loud
12. Savory most nearly means
 - (A) enjoyment
 - (B) spicy
 - (C) appreciative
 - (D) candid

13. Vagary most nearly means
(A) hardship
(B) valiant
(C) fury
(D) change
14. Wean most nearly means
(A) whisper
(B) halt
(C) care
(D) admit
15. Yen most nearly means
(A) hatred
(B) Chinese
(C) desire
(D) calming
16. Diverse most nearly means
(A) diving
(B) various
(C) prejudice
(D) similar
17. Entrust most nearly means
(A) regain
(B) assign
(C) regard
(D) hope
18. Disregard most nearly means
(A) complicate
(B) esteem
(C) respect
(D) ignore
19. Amenable most nearly means
(A) amended
(B) prepared
(C) guided
(D) cooperative
20. Autonomous most nearly means
(A) barred
(B) enslaved
(C) automatic
(D) independent
21. Orate most nearly means
(A) decorate
(B) speak
(C) hygiene
(D) assign
22. Superlative most nearly means
(A) unfortunate
(B) dilapidated
(C) average
(D) exceptional
23. Except most nearly means
(A) decide
(B) besides
(C) allow
(D) deny
24. Criticize most nearly means
(A) soothe
(B) gratify
(C) disapprove
(D) compliment

25. Empower most nearly means

- (A) forbid
- (B) reject
- (C) fuel
- (D) allow

26. Invert most nearly means

- (A) hold
- (B) keep
- (C) flip
- (D) avoid

27. Divulge most nearly means

- (A) eat
- (B) talk
- (C) confess
- (D) steal

28. Prolific most nearly means

- (A) barren
- (B) abundant
- (C) profound
- (D) life

29. Munificent most nearly means

- (A) magnificent
- (B) generous
- (C) glowing
- (D) helpful

30. Mirth most nearly means

- (A) spice
- (B) joy
- (C) satisfaction
- (D) solemn

31. Ken most nearly means

- (A) doll
- (B) measurement
- (C) ambulatory
- (D) perception

32. Momentum most nearly means

- (A) running
- (B) stabilized
- (C) force
- (D) pushing

33. Facilitate most nearly means

- (A) renew
- (B) illuminate
- (C) prepare
- (D) expedite

34. Attainment most nearly means

- (A) party
- (B) finish
- (C) smart
- (D) review

35. Forfeit most nearly means

- (A) gain
- (B) sacrifice
- (C) harm
- (D) gift

36. Belie most nearly means

- (A) false
- (B) believe
- (C) between
- (D) regain

37. Applomb most nearly means
(A) devotion
(B) confidence
(C) subordination
(D) reliance
38. Indolence most nearly means
(A) involvement
(B) enthusiasm
(C) laziness
(D) boredom
39. Phrase most nearly means
(A) speech
(B) expression
(C) letters
(D) language
40. Calamity most nearly means
(A) desert
(B) disaster
(C) remorse
(D) overeating
41. Comprehensive most nearly means
(A) understanding
(B) knowledge
(C) inclusive
(D) assuring
42. Remunerate most nearly means
(A) generate
(B) compensate
(C) collect
(D) dissolve
43. Pathos most nearly means
(A) emotion
(B) pathetic
(C) ruins
(D) hardship
44. Oscillate most nearly means
(A) destroy
(B) swing
(C) regulate
(D) spiral
45. Repose most nearly means
(A) approve
(B) peace
(C) qualified
(D) retroactive
46. Cease most nearly means
(A) report
(B) halt
(C) remember
(D) fold
47. Dupe most nearly means
(A) eat
(B) change
(C) react
(D) fool
48. Truncate most nearly means
(A) shorten
(B) fixate
(C) pretend
(D) turn

49. Predator most nearly means

- (A) alien
- (B) hunter
- (C) species
- (D) hungry

50. Original most nearly means

- (A) earliest
- (B) latest
- (C) designer
- (D) new

51. Abolish most nearly means

- (A) preserve
- (B) harm
- (C) end
- (D) enslave

52. Abominable most nearly means

- (A) avalanche
- (B) crazy
- (C) incredible
- (D) awful

53. Quell most nearly means

- (A) launch
- (B) support
- (C) enrich
- (D) suppress

54. Ironic most nearly means

- (A) catastrophic
- (B) belittling
- (C) unfortunate
- (D) sarcastic

55. Sober most nearly means

- (A) suppressive
- (B) sedated
- (C) aware
- (D) inebriated

56. Forebode most nearly means

- (A) try
- (B) warn
- (C) realize
- (D) connect

Sentence Context

57. After the long, freezing winter, all they wanted to do was bask in the Florida sunshine.

- (A) play
- (B) run
- (C) sleep
- (D) relax

58. Brevity is the soul of wit.

- (A) beauty
- (B) intelligence
- (C) terseness
- (D) humor

59. Mary decided to defer college for a year to travel with her boyfriend.

- (A) attend
- (B) postpone
- (C) allow
- (D) ponder

60. The senator hoped his views on tax breaks would convince the civilians to endorse him.
(A) like
(B) support
(C) destroy
(D) discuss
61. The glimmer of hope he had for their love told him there might be a chance.
(A) satisfaction
(B) reality
(C) loss
(D) glimpse
62. The doctor was aware the man had been consuming illicit drugs.
(A) forbidden
(B) helpful
(C) regular
(D) harmful
63. The party became jovial after the news of a new baby was shared.
(A) disheartening
(B) disappointing
(C) hopeful
(D) joyful
64. The kinetic energy was converted to electricity.
(A) regulated
(B) disbursed
(C) frantic
(D) moving
65. The lascivious acts he committed were punishable to the full extent of the law.
(A) offensive
(B) horrendous
(C) loving
(D) shameful
66. The attendant charged Karen a nominal fee to park in the crowded lot.
(A) expensive
(B) insignificant
(C) large
(D) crazy
67. Janice tried her best to talk to her enemy, but it only seemed to perplex the situation.
(A) complicate
(B) help
(C) deter
(D) pressure
68. My grandfather has always been considered a sage in our family.
(A) herb
(B) problem
(C) wise person
(D) old-timer
69. The young apprentice was convinced her chauvinistic boss had ulterior motives.
(A) malicious
(B) hidden
(C) exciting
(D) confusing

70. The politicians were well-known for their venal actions.
- (A) corrupt
 - (B) encouraging
 - (C) stellar
 - (D) apprehensive
71. The yearling started to grow mature colored feathers.
- (A) one-year-old
 - (B) goose
 - (C) animal
 - (D) pheasant
72. Katie was ignorant to the fact that she was wrong.
- (A) blind
 - (B) aware
 - (C) wise
 - (D) used
73. Please remit the following payment to the bursar's office at your earliest convenience.
- (A) deny
 - (B) keep
 - (C) send
 - (D) allow
74. Her obdurate attitude was quite apparent when she slammed the door on the hungry, stray kitten.
- (A) gentle
 - (B) insensitive
 - (C) submissive
 - (D) compassionate
75. If you choose to accede to these demands, I'll tell my lawyer to back off.
- (A) accept
 - (B) refuse
 - (C) recommend
 - (D) challenge
76. The loving couple celebrated their fidelity over the years on their anniversary.
- (A) complications
 - (B) faithfulness
 - (C) regrets
 - (D) treachery
77. There seemed to be a likely story among all the gossipers.
- (A) behind
 - (B) about
 - (C) between
 - (D) around
78. My mom's annoying demand to do these dishes has become redundant!
- (A) repetitive
 - (B) ridiculous
 - (C) belittling
 - (D) overwhelming
79. The threads of the chair intertwine, making a better quality product.
- (A) divide
 - (B) weave
 - (C) separate
 - (D) exclude

- 80.** Peruse the instructions and report any issues to the front desk.
(A) analyze
(B) consider
(C) reject
(D) disregard
- 81.** The preacher had to abstain from offending the transgressor.
(A) encourage
(B) denounce
(C) refrain
(D) think
- 82.** The disappearance of the lawnmower from the shed really stumped the landscaper.
(A) helped
(B) confused
(C) annoyed
(D) hindered
- 83.** The stylist hired a new staff she thought would vivify the salon.
(A) invigorate
(B) destroy
(C) enervate
(D) upgrade
- 84.** The gala included a sumptuous selection of cheese and wine.
(A) overwhelming
(B) splendid
(C) regular
(D) simple
- 85.** The operator struggled to answer the customer's query.
(A) question
(B) complaint
(C) input
(D) critique
- 86.** The teenager was quite provocative in her prom dress.
(A) alluring
(B) distasteful
(C) beautiful
(D) offensive
- 87.** She really didn't want to sit next to Bob and deal with his officious remarks.
(A) offensive
(B) biased
(C) opinionated
(D) silly
- 88.** Fran was listless after her dog was lost in the storm.
(A) inattentive
(B) enthusiastic
(C) scared
(D) hysterical
- 89.** Many times they had hoped the result would be instant.
(A) immediate
(B) delayed
(C) harmful
(D) negative

90. The lawyer was certain the jury would not censure the politician after reviewing the incident.
- (A) condemn
 - (B) arouse
 - (C) review
 - (D) pardon
91. Everyone who lived by the live volcano became aware of its peril.
- (A) beauty
 - (B) security
 - (C) danger
 - (D) smell
92. Barry thought he could forge the paper-work without getting caught.
- (A) trash
 - (B) destroy
 - (C) fabricate
 - (D) forget
93. The wedding designer told the couple the flowers were edible.
- (A) digestible
 - (B) colorful
 - (C) imported
 - (D) expensive
94. The realty companies were attempting to contend for the top spot in the county.
- (A) debate
 - (B) compete
 - (C) wrestle
 - (D) meddle
95. The witness was happy to corroborate the man's explanation.
- (A) exaggerate
 - (B) destroy
 - (C) confirm
 - (D) question
96. The Army commander decided to avert trouble by heading back to headquarters.
- (A) help
 - (B) complicate
 - (C) prevent
 - (D) attack
97. The nanny disciplined the toddler with great asperity.
- (A) pride
 - (B) division
 - (C) irritation
 - (D) confusion
98. The audience continued the adulation after the show.
- (A) applause
 - (B) silence
 - (C) resentment
 - (D) whistling
99. Angie looked on with sorrow as her grandfather's farm was repossessed.
- (A) frustration
 - (B) irritation
 - (C) carelessness
 - (D) grief

- 100.** Most of the consumers were satisfied with their insurance coverage.
(A) rejections
(B) losses
(C) protection
(D) treatment
- 101.** Harold used only premium gasoline for his Corvette.
(A) good
(B) better
(C) superior
(D) clean
- 102.** The homes in the area were sold at a premium.
(A) auction
(B) price
(C) superior
(D) downfall
- 103.** Sandra carried on with her pretentious attitude in front of the cheerleading squad.
(A) snobby
(B) ignorant
(C) modest
(D) humble
- 104.** He gave a malign report about the incident.
(A) ridiculous
(B) cancerous
(C) delayed
(D) harmful
- 105.** It was a thrill to meet the celebrity at the gala.
(A) disappointment
(B) boredom
(C) excitement
(D) fun
- 106.** She entered a zone of inertia when she finally returned home after a long day at work.
(A) excitement
(B) enchantment
(C) immobility
(D) relief
- 107.** The aftermath of the storm brought much turmoil.
(A) death
(B) chaos
(C) destruction
(D) sadness
- 108.** The general became aware that the lieutenant general desired to supplant him.
(A) promote
(B) supply
(C) replace
(D) sacrifice
- 109.** She vocalized emphasis on the syllables.
(A) screaming
(B) happiness
(C) insignificance
(D) importance

110. The girl at the dance wore scanty clothing.
(A) pretty
(B) expensive
(C) little
(D) ugly
111. The troops were prosecuted for sedition after the incident.
(A) secrecy
(B) insurrection
(C) lying
(D) regression
112. The explanation by the operative was more than specious.
(A) erroneous
(B) practical
(C) unclear
(D) derogatory
113. The shard of the sword was stuck in the rock.
(A) front
(B) beginning
(C) piece
(D) handle
114. His unmitigated success was attributed to his mentor from the company.
(A) candid
(B) complete
(C) half-hearted
(D) horrible
115. The gangsters involved themselves in noisome activity.
(A) loud
(B) immoral
(C) humble
(D) criminal
116. Anna possessed a great allure about her.
(A) cheapness
(B) intelligence
(C) attraction
(D) youthfulness
117. Elmer wished his muscles would intimidate the bully.
(A) encourage
(B) threaten
(C) harm
(D) destroy
118. It was essential that the members follow the canon.
(A) law
(B) presentation
(C) exercise
(D) direction

Antonyms

119. The word most opposite in meaning to delay is
(A) rush
(B) curb
(C) defer
(D) restrain

- 120.** The word most opposite in meaning to reflect is
- (A) ponder
 - (B) consider
 - (C) ignore
 - (D) speculate
- 121.** The word most opposite in meaning to blame is
- (A) attribute
 - (B) reprove
 - (C) muster
 - (D) exalt
- 122.** The word most opposite in meaning to insult is
- (A) compliment
 - (B) sulk
 - (C) aggravate
 - (D) abuse
- 123.** The word most opposite in meaning to forthright is
- (A) honest
 - (B) polite
 - (C) blunt
 - (D) outspoken
- 124.** The word most opposite in meaning to profound is
- (A) thorough
 - (B) mild
 - (C) absolute
 - (D) intense
- 125.** The word most opposite in meaning to keen is
- (A) fervent
 - (B) reluctant
 - (C) zealous
 - (D) appetent

