

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 6 | CONTEXT: Amazing Nature

Going Batty: A Look at the Only True Flying Mammal

Have you ever been afraid of being bitten by a vampire bat when you were outside at night? Well, you will be glad to know that the bats have a bad reputation, not a bad bite. Most bats eat insects, though some eat fish and fruit. The vampire bat does eat blood, but it does not cause serious harm unless it has rabies. In fact, most bats are helpful to human beings. They eat tons of insects every night. In addition, bat guano, or manure, is a valuable fertilizer.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about bats. Below are ten Vocabulary Words that will be used in these exercises.

abdomen	competition	flexible	hoist	mobile
commotion	escort	foe	maximum	paralysis

EXERCISE 1

Wordbusting

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

abdomen



Moths are a favorite food of bats, but they can be hard to catch. Some moths have a pair of primitive ears located near the **abdomen**, the central part of the body. These ears help them hear pursuing bats.



Context:

Structure:



Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

commotion

Bat colonies are extremely noisy places. Yet, in spite of the **commotion**, mothers are able to locate their young by sound.

3.

competition

Roosting areas are often very crowded. There is a lot of **competition** for space as each bat struggles to claim its own territory.

4.

escort

When young bats begin to fly, they are often **escorted** by their mothers, who fly along next to them.

5.

paralysis

Vampire bats are generally harmless. People used to believe that a bite would cause **paralysis**, making it impossible for the victim to move.

6.

flexible

Unlike the vampire bat, which eats only blood, most insect-eating bats have a **flexible** diet. They can eat a wide variety of insects, from moths to mosquitoes.

7.

foe

Bats do not have many enemies because they hang from high, hard-to-get-at places. Snakes, owls, and hawks are **foes** of bats, however.

8.

hoist

Some bats eat fish. They swoop down on the water, snatch the fish, and **hoist** the fish into the air with their powerful hind claws.

9.

maximum

How many different kinds of bats are there? The **maximum**, or greatest, number is about nine hundred.

10.

mobile

Most bats have extremely **mobile** ears and noses. By moving them back and forth, bats are able to hear and smell sources of food.

EXERCISE 2**Context Clues** 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____:
n. the middle part of the body, containing the stomach and other organs; the belly

_____ 12. word: _____:
v. to lift or pull up; *n.* a tool or piece of equipment used to pull things up

_____ 13. word: _____:
n. one or more persons who accompany another; *v.* to go with someone

_____ 14. word: _____:
adj. able to move or change easily; movable

_____ 15. word: _____:
n. confusion; noisy rushing around; disturbance; violent motion

_____ 16. word: _____:
n. an enemy

_____ 17. word: _____:
adj. able to bend without breaking; easily influenced; easily changed

_____ 18. word: _____:
n. partial or complete loss of a function; a condition in which one cannot act

_____ 19. word: _____:
n. the greatest amount or number possible or reached; *adj.* greatest possible or reached

_____ 20. word: _____:
n. rivalry; contest

COLUMN B

(A) Our class visited a bat cave last year. A park ranger was our **escort**, leading us through the cave.

(B) The ranger used a **hoist** to lift us into the cave. Then he moved the equipment aside so that we would not trip over it.

(C) The first time I saw a bat, I couldn't move. The **paralysis** caused by my irrational fear affected my entire body.

(D) Bats are extremely **mobile**. They move easily around obstacles, even when flying very fast.

(E) A bat's fingers support the **flexible** skin of its wings. When the fingers move, the wings can bend also.

(F) As with most mammals, a bat's legs and tail are located below its **abdomen**, or stomach area.

(G) Bats eat insects that are the **foes** of farmers. Farmers hate these insects because the insects damage the crops.

(H) When tracking down fish, fish-eating bats look for **commotion** in the water. Where violent splashing can be seen, a bat's dinner may be nearby.

(I) Bat experts estimate that about 750,000 bats live under the Congress Avenue bridge in Austin, Texas. This is the **maximum** number of bats ever found living in an urban area.

(J) My science class had a **competition** to see how many kinds of bats we could name. I won!

EXERCISE 3***Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings***

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. a **furry** abdomen

- (A) head
- (B) foot
- (C) tail
- (D) belly

24. to **hoist** into the air

- (A) push
- (B) look up
- (C) pull up
- (D) fly

22. a **competition** for the best flyer

- (A) fight
- (B) contest
- (C) hunt
- (D) reward

25. **paralysis** caused by fear

- (A) total panic
- (B) loss of movement
- (C) extreme worry
- (D) confusion

23. an experienced **escort**

- (A) guide
- (B) expert
- (C) scientist
- (D) worker

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. a sudden **commotion**

- (A) confusion
- (B) peacefulness
- (C) movement
- (D) mess

29. the **maximum** wingspan

- (A) least possible
- (B) measurable
- (C) greatest possible
- (D) wide

27. **flexible** in its diet

- (A) movable
- (B) unchangeable
- (C) inventive
- (D) interested

30. its **mobile** ears and head

- (A) brown
- (B) still
- (C) furry
- (D) movable

28. an **imaginary** foe

- (A) enemy
- (B) insect
- (C) farmer
- (D) friend