

## How to Give the Word Meaning Test (WMT)

The Word Meaning Test (WMT) is an assessment of expressive vocabulary. It is an oral test that you will give to your learners individually. Scores are given as Grade Equivalents (GE).

### How Do I Know Where to Begin?

- The WMT is divided into 10 levels:
  - Level 1
  - Level 2
  - Level 3
  - Level 4
  - Level 5
  - Level 6
  - Level 7
  - Level 8
  - Level 9/10
  - Level 11/12
- Begin 1-2 levels below the learner's word recognition level.
  - Example: If your learner's word recognition grade level is 6.0, you should start the WMT at Level 4, beginning with the word, "connect."

### How Do I Give the Test?

- Say to the learner: "I'm going to say a word and ask you to tell me what it means."
- Then, beginning with the first word on the list, say: "Tell me what \_\_\_\_\_ means." Write down as much of the learner's response as you can in the space provided after each word.
- Sometimes, a learner will misunderstand a word you have pronounced. (For example, a learner might misunderstand "connect" as "correct.") If this happens, stop the learner and say, "I will say the word again. \_\_\_\_\_. Tell me what \_\_\_\_\_ means." If the learner still does not understand the target word, write down the response and note on the test that the learner misunderstood the word.
- If you are not sure whether the learner knows the meaning of the word, you may use the prompt, "Tell me more" to get additional information. Please do not use any other prompts.

### How Do I Know When to Go Forward, Go Back, or Stop?

- In order to master a level—and go on to the next level—a learner must give the correct meanings for 4 out of the 5 words. Continue with higher levels

until you finish a list on which a learner does not give at least 4 correct meanings.

Learner A: Going forward

Started at Level 6: 4 out of 5 correct responses  
Proceeded to Level 7: 5 out of 5 correct responses  
Proceeded to Level 8: 4 out of 5 correct responses  
Stopped after Level 9/10: 3 out of 5 correct responses

Learner A's score is 8.0 GE.

- Sometimes, you will start the test on a level that is too difficult for a learner. If this happens, try the previous level instead of moving forward. For example, if you begin with Level 7, but the learner gives only 2 of 5 correct meanings on that level, the next list you should give is Level 6.

Learner B: going back

Started at Level 7: 2 out of 5 correct  
Went back to Level 6: 3 out of 5 correct  
Stopped after Level 5: 4 out of 5 correct

Learner B's score is 5.0 GE.

How Do I score the WMT?

For the WMT, you score the test in "real time"; that is, you will have to decide whether a learner has given a correct response while you are giving the test (this is so because the number correct on each level determines which level you will give next, as explained in the section above).

- For this reason, **it is very important that you familiarize yourself with the acceptable responses before you give the test.** Feel free to keep the list of acceptable responses near you when you give your first few tests; you can then refer to it if you are not sure about a response.
- Occasionally, a learner will give a meaning that is extremely difficult to judge while you are giving the test. You'll need more time to decide if the meaning is acceptable. If this happens to you, make sure that you don't let that response be the one to stop the test. Keep going to the next level! It is better to push the learner a little bit than to stop testing too soon.
- Because the test is scored in real time, you will have the learner's score as soon as you have finished. The score is the **highest** level on which a learner correctly gives 4 or more correct responses. You will notice that Levels 9/10 and 11/12 are combined, respectively. If a learner's highest level is 9/10, the score is recorded as 10.0 GE. Similarly, if a learner's highest level is 11/12, the score is recorded as 12.0 GE.

# Word Meaning Test

## Level 1:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ train \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ confuse \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ start \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ climb \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

## Word Meaning Test

### Level 2:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ touch \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ visit \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ finish \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ fence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pretend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

# Word Meaning Test

## Level 3:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ beast \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ guard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ordinary \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ distant \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

# Word Meaning Test

## Level 4:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ connect \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ interruption \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ ruin \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ inventor \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ candidate \_\_\_\_\_

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Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

# Word Meaning Test

## Level 5:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ energetic \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ victorious \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ territory \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ urge \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ oppose \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

# Word Meaning Test

## Level 6:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ surrender \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ occupation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ decline \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ consume \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ dismal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.



## Word Meaning Test

### Level 7:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ confide \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ acquaintance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ resume \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ample \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ obligation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

# Word Meaning Test

## Level 8:

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ cease \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ aggression \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ reputation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ perseverance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ proposition \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

## Word Meaning Test

**Level 9/10:**

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ dispute \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ agitate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ initiate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ audible \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ prominent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

## Word Meaning Test

**Level 11/12:**

[✓ or X]

\_\_\_\_\_ tedious \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ repulsive \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ indifferent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ inconsistent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ punctual \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number Correct \_\_\_\_\_

4 or 5 correct? Go to next level.  
3 or fewer correct? Stop or go back to previous level.

## Word Meaning Test: Examples of Acceptable Responses

Note: A response is acceptable if it encapsulates the target word's main concept, as given below. Where appropriate, we also provide examples of sentences some test takers have used successfully to give a word's meaning.

Also note that you may accept a response that gives the meaning for another part of speech—for example, if a learner tells what “aggressive” (adjective) means instead of the target word “aggression” (noun)—as long as the main concept is included.

### Level 1:

*home*

Main concept: place where a person lives

*train*

Main concepts: railway car; subway  
to teach

*confuse*

Main concept: mix up

*start*

Main concept: begin

*climb*

Main concept: go up or down

### Level 2:

*touch*

Main concepts: come in contact with  
feel something  
put your hand on something

*visit*

Main concept: go to a person or place

*finish*

Main concepts: bring to an end  
done; over; completed

*fence*

Main concepts: gate; barrier  
something that you put around the yard to protect it

*pretend*

Main concepts: make believe  
to act out something that's not real  
to fake that you're doing something

Sample Sentences: "When people act, they're pretending to be other persons."

"That child is pretending to be an elephant."

### **Level 3:**

*beast*

Main concepts: monster; animal  
cruel, nasty person

*explain*

Main concepts: make someone understand  
give directions or tell about something carefully  
make clear

Sample Sentence: "I wrote this letter, but you don't know what I'm talking about.  
I'll explain it so that you understand."

*guard*

Main concepts: protect  
someone who watches prisoners

*ordinary*

Main concepts: normal; everyday; average

*distant*

Main concept: far off

### **Level 4:**

*connect*

Main concepts: join together  
attach one thing to another

*interruption*

Main concepts: break in an activity  
butting in; disturbing  
when someone is talking, and you cut in

Sample sentence: "It's an interruption when you're in a meeting and someone comes and knocks on the door."

*ruin*

Main concepts: destroy  
really spoil something

*inventor*

Main concepts: makes things  
the one who thought it up  
a person that designed something out of his own imagination

*candidate*

Main concepts: someone who runs for office

**Level 5:**

*energetic*

Main concepts: very active  
full of pep

*victorious*

Main concept: having won

*territory*

Main concepts: land area  
someone's property

*urge*

Main concepts: basic desire  
push forward

*oppose*

Main concepts: be against  
challenge  
object

## Level 6:

### *surrender*

Main concept: to give up

Sample sentence: "The man surrendered after holding everyone hostage."

### *occupation*

Main concepts: job; something you do for a living

### *decline*

Main concepts: become less; go lower  
refuse; reject  
to turn something down; say no to something

### *consume*

Main concepts: eat or drink up; digest  
use it up

### *dismal*

Main concepts: gloomy; dark; grayish

## Level 7:

### *confide*

Main concepts: entrust to another; give somebody your trust  
tell a secret to somebody

### *acquaintance*

Main concepts: person you know; person you just met  
be familiar with someone or something

### *resume*

Main concepts: go on with  
re-start; begin where you left off

### *ample*

Main concepts: plenty; more than enough; abundance of something

### *obligation*

Main concepts: duty; something you have to do

Sample sentence: "You are obligated to take the trash out every weekend."



## **Level 8:**

### *cease*

Main concepts: stop  
come to an end

### *aggression*

Main concepts: hostile behavior; an attack  
showing a lot of attitude and using physical force to get what you want  
being militant

### *reputation*

Main concepts: the opinion of others  
how you're known; how people look at you  
good or bad description of a person's character

### *perseverance*

Main concepts: sticking to an aim  
persistent; going to keep going

### *proposition*

Main concepts: formal statement  
plan or undertaking; an offer; a deal; a business request

## **Level 9/10:**

### *dispute*

Main concepts: disagreement; argument; quarrel  
to fight over

### *agitate*

Main concepts: to disturb; to aggravate  
swish around, like a washing machine

### *initiate*

Main concepts: to do first  
to start something, you are the first to start something  
to take into a group

### *audible*

Main concept: can be heard

*prominent*

Main concepts: standing out  
well-known

Sample sentence: "He is the most prominent lawyer in the city."

**Level 11/12:**

*tedious*

Main concepts: tiresome; boring; dull; laborious  
time-consuming, aggravating work  
a long, repetitive, boring thing

*repulsive*

Main concepts: disgusting  
something that makes you really sick to your stomach

*indifferent*

Main concepts: not caring about what is happening  
neither good nor bad

Sample sentence: "She is indifferent to what's going on in the world."

*inconsistent*

Main concepts: not compatible with; not in harmony with  
not done on a regular basis; not all the time  
different every time

*punctual*

Main concept: on time