



Reading for Multiple-Choice Questions

The College of Saint Rose
Lee Geiselmann
Amber O'Sullivan

Context

- Reading part-to-whole
 - *Words* in a sentence
 - *Sentences* in a paragraph
 - *Paragraphs* in a text

Words in a Sentence

- Dictionary definition versus implied definition
- How context affects the meaning of words
 - Ex: Shot(s)
 - Photography
 - Firearms
 - Alcohol
 - Medical injection
 - Bon Jovi

Example

- The **shot** developed nicely, even though it was sunny when the photo was taken.
- All of his **shots** were within an inch of the bull's-eye.
- They drank **shots** of whiskey long into the night.
- The baby cried when he had his first round of **shots**.
- “**Shot** through the heart, and you’re to blame.”

Example

“The sentence below appears in Paragraph 2:

It was that her way of thinking and seeing, her curiosity about the collision of old and new, was perfectly tuned for a moment when Europe was, cataclysmically, struggling with that collision.

Which phrase is closest in meaning to the word ‘cataclysmically’ as it is used in the sentence above?

- A. with furious upheaval
- B. with unrelenting violence
- C. with reckless abandon
- D. with shocking suddenness”

Sentences in a Paragraph

- Purpose of a sentence
- Reading inside and outside of a sentence

Example

"In Paragraph 2, the author develops the idea that 'Europe was where [Stein] was most likely to see what interested her most' primarily by

- A. contrasting 'the classical European way of life' with 'the dances of Nijinsky, the sentences of Joyce, the paintings of Braque'
- B. describing Paris in terms of 'the speed of its trains' and 'the hustle of immigrants'
- C. stating that Stein 'began to collect great talent: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Pablo Picasso'
- D. identifying Stein as 'a woman alive to the great theme of her day' "

Sentence from the text: "It wasn't only that the puritanical traditions of American life chafed against her modern sensibility and bohemian habits; it was also that Europe was where she was most likely to see what interested her most: a collision between old and new."

Paragraph in a Text

- Summarizing
- Structure

Example (excerpt)

“But there are important similarities between her historical moment and ours: a sense of new complexities, fresh interactions, and a speed that bedraggles old language and confuses old ideas. Statesmen of World War I lamented afterward that if only the negotiations in the days before the first mobilization had *not* been conducted by telegraph, the war might have been avoided. The problem, they said, was that none of the kings or foreign ministers of Europe had accustomed themselves to the speed of information, to the quantity of it that became available when telegraphs replaced letters. And in their confusion, they felt they had to act and decide at the (then-blistering) speed of a telegraph machine. It destroyed their judgment.”

Example (Cont'd)

“Which of the following is the **best** analysis of how the **discussion** in the excerpt of Paragraph 5 [*previous slide*] of the telegraph's impact on World War I **relates** to the rest of the passage?”

- A. The suggestion that ‘the war might have been avoided’ if ‘negotiations...had *not* been conducted by telegraph’ underscores the pointless destruction of the era.
- B. The reference to ‘the speed of information’ and ‘the quantity of it that became available’ with the telegraph connects the modernist era to the present.
- C. The reference to acting ‘at the (then-blistering) speed of a telegraph machine’ connects the conduct of the war to the writing and art of the modernists.
- D. The suggestion that the telegraph ‘destroyed their judgment’ develops a critique of the ignorance and belligerence of political elites.”