

Synonyms and Word Choice Exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

Read each passage carefully. Choose the BEST word from the options in brackets to complete each sentence. Think about the subtle differences in meaning and which word fits most appropriately.

Passage 1: The School Play

The audience _____ (clapped / applauded / cheered) enthusiastically at the end of the performance. Emma felt _____ (proud / arrogant / confident) of her role as the lead character. The director was _____ (happy / delighted / pleased) with how well the students had _____ (remembered / memorised / recalled) their lines. Despite being _____ (nervous / anxious / worried) before the curtain opened, the cast delivered a _____ (great / magnificent / excellent) show.

Passage 2: The Storm

Dark clouds began to _____ (gather / collect / assemble) overhead as the wind _____ (blew / howled / whispered) through the trees. The temperature _____ (dropped / fell / plummeted) suddenly, and people _____ (rushed / hurried / dashed) to find shelter. Rain _____ (poured / dripped / sprinkled) down in heavy sheets, _____ (soaking / wetting / dampening) everything in its path.

Passage 3: The Discovery

The archaeologist _____ (found / discovered / uncovered) an ancient pottery fragment while _____ (digging / excavating / searching) at the site. She _____ (looked / examined / glanced) at the piece carefully, _____ (noticing / observing / seeing) intricate patterns carved into the surface. This _____ (old / ancient / antique) artefact would _____ (help / assist / aid) researchers _____ (understand / comprehend / know) more about the civilisation that once _____ (lived / existed / dwelled) there.

Passage 4: The Competition

Jake _____ (tried / attempted / endeavoured) to stay calm as he _____ (waited / anticipated / expected) his turn. His competitor had just _____ (finished / completed / concluded) an impressive routine. Jake knew he needed to _____ (concentrate / focus / think) and give his best _____ (effort / attempt / performance). When his name was _____ (called / announced / summoned), he _____ (walked / strode / marched) confidently to the starting position.