

Lesson Six: Psychology

Passage

*Listen to the following words, focusing on meaning and the use of the words in **bold**.*

In **psychology**, we study **mental processes**, the many **abstract** abilities of the mind. In **theory**, the **issues** each of us face are all **similar**, but the **context** of our **individual interactions** causes a **differentiation** in our **attitudes**. The **notion** we have of what is **normal** makes it **obvious** when one is not using **rational** thought, but even the very idea of “normal” **implies** a **bias** toward **conformity**. One might **infer** from the **positive emphasis** on conformity that it is desired, but **contrary** to one’s **perceived criteria**, the desire is **ambiguous**.

Stop the audio now and complete Exercises 1 and 2.

Exercise 1 — Synonyms in Context

*Write one or two synonyms for each of the following words (selected from the words in **bold** in the above paragraph). Use the definition illustrated in the passage.*

1. mental _____

2. issues _____

3. similar _____

4. individual _____

5. notion _____

6. conformity _____

7. emphasis _____

8. contrary _____

Note the following difference:

If you **imply** something, you mean it, but you don't say it directly.

*By suggesting that memorizing the developmental stages of children would be very helpful, the instructor **implied** that the topic would be covered on the final exam.*

If you **infer** something, you begin to believe it based on indirect information.

*Because the instructor suggested that memorizing the developmental stages of children would be very helpful, the students **inferred** that the topic would be covered on the final exam.*

Exercise 2 — Writing Sentences

*After each sentence, write an additional sentence that adds to the original and shows you understand the meaning of the word in **bold**. If a word has multiple meanings, use the same meaning as in the above passage.*

1. My subject implied that she was unfit for the study.

Even though she said she wanted to participate, she just broke up with her boyfriend and is not in any state to answer questions about relationships.

1. My class deals with **abstract** things.

2. The directions for this assignment are **ambiguous**.

3. Our results indicate an experimenter's **bias**.

Exercise 3 — Identifying and Articulating Consonant Clusters

Listen to the audio and focus on the underlined consonant clusters. Next to each word, write the sounds that are produced.

Ex. presumption

msh

1. aspects

2. compromise

3. context

4. exploitation

5. relaxed

Definitions

Listen to the following definitions on the audio.

analysis

(n) If you do an analysis, you study something carefully to understand it.

(v) **analyze**; (n) **analyst**, (adj) **analytic**; (adj) **analytical**; (adv) **analytically**

aspect

(n) An aspect is a view of something, often something non-physical, such as an idea or a problem.

criteria

(n) Criteria are a set of principles that you use to judge something or decide about something.

emphasis

(n) Emphasis is the giving of particular attention or importance to something.

(v) **emphasize**; (adj) **emphatic**

perceive

(v) If you perceive something, you understand, are aware of, or notice it.

(n) **perception**; (adj) **perceivable**; (adv) **perceivably**

phase

(n) A phase is stage in a process.

presumption

(n) A presumption is a belief that something is true without knowing for sure.

(v) **presume**; (adv) **presumably**; (adj) **presumptuous**

strategy

(n) A strategy is a planned way to do something.

(v) **strategize**; (n) **strategist**; (adj) **strategic**; (adv) **strategically**

Stop the audio now and complete Exercises 4 and 5.

Exercise 4 — Using Words Correctly

Fill in the following blanks with one of the words defined above. Use the appropriate form or part of speech of the word. Please provide all possible answers.

1. Based on my patient's attitude and body language, my _____ of the situation is that she is battling depression.
2. There are certain _____ we use to assess the mental health of a patient, such as interviews or observations.
3. It was a _____ move to offer free stress therapy sessions for college students during finals week.
4. It is a commonly held belief that the first _____ of recovering from addiction is admitting that you have a problem.
5. After the interview, we want to do a(n) _____ of the subject's responses to evaluate his condition.
6. Though I see patients with all types of problems in the counseling center, my particular _____ and research is in aphasia.
7. In order to understand the cause of the mother's suicide, we had to consider other _____ that may have influenced her depression.
8. Even though we are not always certain of a diagnosis, we try not to _____ a patient has a mental illness without concrete evidence.

Exercise 5 — Countable vs. Uncountable Nouns

English nouns can be classified as countable or uncountable. Countable nouns are nouns that can be pluralized and counted as multiple distinct entities. Uncountable nouns are complete substances or ideas that cannot be pluralized or separated into multiple entities.

Mark each of the following nouns as countable (C) or uncountable (U)

Ex. aspect	C		
1. coherence	_____	6. label	_____
2. comment	_____	7. logic	_____
3. conformity	_____	8. process	_____
4. differentiation	_____	9. survey	_____
5. exploitation	_____	10.theory	_____

Pronunciation – Reviewing Intonation Patterns in Questions

When asking questions in English, the final intonation of the question often indicates an expected response.

Questions that require an answer of yes or no usually end with a rising intonation.

Did you complete the survey?

Questions that are asking information and include a Wh- word (who, what, when, where, or how) usually end with a falling intonation.

What was your motivation for conducting this study?

Listen to the following sentences and identify whether the final intonation is rising (R) or falling (F).

Ex. F

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____