**POLYSEMOUS WORD TEST**

Circle the word or phrase that best explains the meaning of the bold word as it is being used in that sentence.

Example A.

I scratched my **head** in confusion.

a. cabbage

b. sneaker

c. part of the body

d. leader of a group

e. to go somewhere

Example B.

The general is the **head** of the army.

a. cabbage

b. sneaker

c. part of the body

d. leader of a group

e. to go somewhere

1. The brutal storm destroyed the old wooden **structure**.

 a. part

 b. length

 c. introduction

 d. building

 e. organization

2. The **weight** of his evidence changed my decision.

 a. heaviness

 b. metal

 c. power

 d. fragrance

 e. absence

3. That **chapter** of the crime novel was frightening.

 a. time

 b. section

 c. branch

 d. cover

 e. description

4. Her **flexible** nature made her easy to like.

 a. easily movable

 b. thin

 c. easygoing

 d. funny

 e. smart

5. He **strikes** the baseball high into the treetops.

 a. physically hits

 b. walks out

 c. taps

 d. comes across to

 e. goes away from

6. This poem's final image **carries** lots of anger.

 a. drops off

 b. avoids

 c. holds and moves

 d. expresses

 e. orders and accepts

7. The puppy **followed** the children through the forest.

 a. watched

 b. led

 c. walked behind

 d. understood

 e. disagreed with

8. Her comment **points** to mistakes in his reasoning.

 a. uses a finger to direct attention

 b. scores

 c. indicates

 d. uses a hand to say stop

 e. brings corrections

9. The **light** sweater kept me warm and comfortable.

 a. gentle

 b. heavy

 c. surprising

 d. bright

 e. thin

10. The book's exciting plot took another sharp **turn**.

 a. long break

 b. curve

 c. steep drop

 d. surprising event

 e. chance

11. My younger sister **runs** faster than our brother.

 a. drives

 b. ends

 c. owns

 d. sprints

 e. continues

12. My report **expands** on what we discussed earlier.

 a. develops

 b. looks

 c. raises questions

 d. spreads

 e. rises

13. I used a yellow marker to **highlight** sentences.

 a. verbally call attention to

 b. verbally question

 c. show the game’s best plays

 d. physically mark in color

 e. physically erase

14. She **found** her favorite coffee at the market.

 a. come upon by chance

 b. claimed

 c. put down

 d. searched for

 e. discovered through study

15. He **opened** his report with a funny story.

 a. installed

 b. unfolded

 c. unlocked

 d. began

 e. compared

16. The woman changed her **position** on the sofa.

 a. job

 b. way of speaking

 c. memory

 d. way of sitting

 e. point of view

17. The character's **cold** words show she is unhappy.

 a. useless

 b. mumbled

 c. unpracticed

 d. freezing

 e. unfriendly

18. The oranges increased the **weight** of his backpack.

 a. heaviness

 b. fragrance

 c. metal

 d. absence

 e. power

19. He revised the **structure** of the whole argument.

 a. organization

 b. introduction

 c. building

 d. length

 e. part

20. The dancers stretched to keep their bodies **flexible**.

 a. easygoing

 b. thin

 c. easily movable

 d. smart

 e. funny

21. That **chapter** of our mother's life was frightening.

 a. description

 b. cover

 c. time

 d. branch

 e. section

22. The little boy **carries** lots of groceries home.

 a. drops off

 b. expresses

 c. orders and accepts

 d. holds and moves

 e. avoids

23. Your idea **strikes** me as an intelligent one.

 a. taps

 b. goes away from

 c. walks out

 d. comes across to

 e. physically hits

24. The woman **points** at her old apartment building.

 a. uses a hand to say stop

 b. scores

 c. uses a finger to direct attention

 d. brings corrections

 e. indicates

25. I **followed** the author's argument through the book.

 a. led

 b. disagreed with

 c. understood

 d. watched

 e. walked behind

26. The dangerous mountain road took a sudden **turn**.

 a. surprising event

 b. long break

 c. chance

 d. curve

 e. steep drop

27. The president’s speech had some **light** humor in it.

 a. gentle

 b. heavy

 c. surprising

 d. thin

 e. bright

28. The city **expands** beyond its ancient rock walls.

 a. rises

 b. looks

 c. raises questions

 d. develops

 e. spreads

29. One day of the summer **runs** into the next.

 a. drives

 b. owns

 c. ends

 d. continues

 e. sprints

30. He shouted the words to **highlight** their importance.

 a. physically mark in color

 b. verbally question

 c. verbally call attention to

 d. show the game’s best plays

 e. physically erase

31. He **opened** the wooden door for his grandmother.

 a. compared

 b. unfolded

 c. began

 d. installed

 e. unlocked

32. She **found** a connection between walking and health.

 a. discovered through study

 b. searched for

 c. put down

 d. claimed

 e. come upon by chance

33. My fingers become **cold** without my blue mittens.

 a. useless

 b. freezing

 c. mumbled

 d. unpracticed

 e. unfriendly

34. The woman changed her **position** in the debate.

 a. way of sitting

 b. point of view

 c. job

 d. memory

 e. way of speaking