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|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ | 1. (a) guest | (b) boarder |
| _____ | 2. (a) surplus | (b) waste |
| _____ | 3. (a) conceited | (b) proud |
| _____ | 4. (a) buzzard | (b) robin |
| _____ | 5. (a) heavyset | (b) obese |
| _____ | 6. (a) Richard | (b) Elmer |
| _____ | 7. (a) house | (b) mansion |
| _____ | 8. (a) song | (b) serenade |
| _____ | 9. (a) calculating | (b) clever |
| _____ | 10. (a) neglected | (b) deteriorated |
| _____ | 11. (a) colleague | (b) accomplice |
| _____ | 12. (a) ambition | (b) greed |
| _____ | 13. (a) kitten | (b) cat |
| _____ | 14. (a) courageous | (b) audacious |
| _____ | 15. (a) contrived | (b) designed |
| _____ | 16. (a) flower | (b) orchid |
| _____ | 17. (a) distinctive | (b) peculiar |
| _____ | 18. (a) baby | (b) kid |
| _____ | 19. (a) persuasion | (b) propaganda |
| _____ | 20. (a) gold | (b) tin |
| _____ | 21. (a) slump | (b) decline |
| _____ | 22. (a) lie | (b) misrepresentation |
| _____ | 23. (a) janitor | (b) custodian |
| _____ | 24. (a) offering | (b) collection |
| _____ | 25. (a) soldiers | (b) mercenaries |

■ Exercise 3: Connotation in Textbooks

For each of the underlined words in the following sentences, indicate whether the connotation is positive or negative and explain why.

1. While the unions fought mainly for better wages and hours, they also championed various social reforms.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

2. The ad was part of the oil companies' program to sell their image rather than their product to the public. In the ad they boasted that they were reseeded all the disrupted areas with a newly developed grass that grows five times faster than the grass that normally occurs there.

Robert Wallace, *Biology: The World of Life*

3. Old Henry Reifsneider and his wife Phoebe were a loving couple. You perhaps know how it is with simple natures that fasten themselves like lichens on the stones of circumstance and weather their days to a crumbling conclusion.

Theodore Dreiser, *The Lost Phoebe*

4. Tinbergen, like Lorenz and von Frisch, entered retirement by continuing to work. Tinbergen was a hyperactive child who, at school, was allowed to periodically dance on his desk to let off steam. So in "retirement" he entered a new arena, stimulating the use of ethological methods in autism.

Robert Wallace, *Biology: The World of Life*

5. The President's heavy-handed attempts to reform the federal courts stirred deep animosities. Republicans had begun sniping at other Republicans, and one leading member of the party, Aaron Burr, became involved in a bizarre plot to separate the West from the rest of the nation.

Divine et al, *America Past and Present*, vol. 1

6. She was bare-headed; but she balanced in her hand a large parasol, with a deep border of embroidery; and she was strikingly, admirably pretty.

Henry James, *Daisy Miller*

7. Latin America is undergoing a population surge that simply cannot be maintained, as increasing numbers of young people enter the breeding population.

Robert Wallace, *Biology: The World of Life*

8. The cities were garbage-filled and overrun with rats. The stench was devastating. Life in the country was not much better, with the scattered

FIGURAT

hamlets being little more than isolated slums inhabited by people of numbing ignorance.

Robert Wallace, *Biology: The World of Life*

9. The ar had saddled Britain with a national debt so huge that over one half of the annual budget went to interest payments. A peacetime army, so far from the mother country, fueled the budgetary crisis; it cost a great deal of money to maintain scattered, often inaccessible, military posts on the American frontier.

Divine et al, *America Past and Present*, vol. I

10. Not since Wilson had tried to ram the League of Nations through the Senate had any president put more on the line.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language, in a sense, is another language because it is a different way of using "regular language" words so that they take on new meaning. For example, "It was raining buckets" or "raining cats and dogs" is a lively, figurative way of describing a heavy rain. A young child, however, who comprehends only on a literal level, might look up in the sky for the descending pails or animals. The two expressions give an exaggerated, humorous effect, but, on the literal level, they do not make any sense. Figurative expressions add zest, surprise, and beauty to our language.

Although the types of figurative expressions overlap, some of the variations are:

1. **Idiom:** an expression that does not make sense grammatically, but has taken on a new generally accepted meaning over many years of use.

She tried to *keep a stiff upper lip* during the ordeal.
His eyes were *bigger than his stomach*.

2. **Simile:** a comparison of two unlike things using the words *like* or *as*.

The spring flower pushed up its bloom *like a lighthouse* beckoning on a gloomy night.

And every soul, it passed me by,
Like the whizz of my crossbow!
 from *The Ancient Mariner*

3. **Metaphor:** a direct comparison of two unlike things (without using *like* or *as*).

The corporate accountant is a computer from nine to five.

Miss Rosie was a "wet brown bag of a woman who used to be the best looking gal in Georgia."

from *Good Times* by Lucille Clifton. Copyright 1969 by Lucille Clifton.
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4. **Personification:** attributing human characteristics to nonhuman things.

The *birds speak* from the forest.
Time marches on.

■ Exercise 4: Figurative Language in Textbooks

The figurative expressions in the following sentences are underlined. Define each expression so that it makes sense in the sentence.

1. He cast his lot with the British, who at one point gave him command over a redcoat army.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

2. Obviously, a bird must be able to manage it pretty well on the first attempt, or the bird will crash to the ground as surely as would a launched mouse.

Robert Wallace, *Biology: The World of Life*

3. Often they were the jacks-of-all trades who worked with simple tools and equipment and displayed a knack for solving practical problems.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

4. In his final weeks as vice-president, Burr hatched a scheme so audacious that the people with whom he dealt could not decide whether he was a genius or a madman. Burr covered his tracks well. Randolph described him as "the only man that I ever saw who was from bark to the very core a villain."

Divine et al, *America Past and Present*, vol. 1

5. Contrary to myth, it was the towns rather than the farms that spearheaded the westward movement.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

6. Because of the availability of newspapers, the details of Bostonians' confrontations with British authorities were known throughout the colonies, and these shared political experiences drew Americans more closely together, making it possible—in the words of John Adams—for "Thirteen clocks . . . to strike together—a perfection of mechanism which no artist had ever before effected."

Divine et al, *America Past and Present*, vol. 1

7. The government urged women to fill the gaps in the assembly line as well as the empty desk chairs in the offices. Millions responded. Rosie-the-Riveter was welcomed into every plant.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

8. As a trained nurse working in the immigrant slums of New York, she knew that table-top abortions were common among poor women, and she had seen some of the tragic results.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

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9. The old image of "Nature, red in tooth and claw" has recently been superseded by the popular notion that other animals get along with their own kind and humans are the only animals that regularly kill members of their own species.

Robert Wallace, *Biology: The World of Life*

10. The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
 Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit
 Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
 Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám

IMPLIED MEANING

Reading would be rather dull if the author stated every idea, never giving you a chance to figure things out for yourself. For example, in a mystery novel you carefully weigh each word, each action, each conversation, each description, and each fact in an effort to identify the villain and solve the crime before it is revealed at the end. Although textbook material may not have the Sherlock Holmes' spirit of high adventure, authors use the same techniques to imply meaning.

Note the inferences in the following example:

Johnson in Action

Lyndon Johnson suffered from the inevitable comparison with his young and stylish predecessor. LBJ was acutely aware of his own lack of polish; he sought to surround himself with Kennedy advisers and insiders, hoping that their learning and sophistication would rub off on him. Johnson's assets were very real—an intimate knowledge of Congress, an incredible energy and determination to succeed, and a fierce ego. When a young marine officer tried to direct him to the proper helicopter, saying, "This one is yours," Johnson replied, "Son, they are all my helicopters."

LBJ's height and intensity gave him a powerful presence; he dominated any room he entered, and he delighted in using his physical power of persuasion. One Texas politician explained why he had given in to Johnson: "Lyndon got me by the lapels and put his face on top of mine and he talked and talked and talked. I figured it was either getting drowned or joining."

from *America Past and Present*, 2nd ed., by Divine, et al.

Answer the following with *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- _____ 1. Johnson was haunted by the style and sophistication of John F. Kennedy (True. He "suffered from the inevitable comparison," and he went so far as to maintain the Kennedy advisors.)
- _____ 2. Johnson could be both egotistical and arrogant about his presidential power. (True. The anecdote about the helicopters proves that.)
- _____ 3. Even if he did not mentally persuade, Johnson could physically overwhelm people into agreement. (True. His delight in "using his physical power of persuasion" and the anecdote about the Texas politician support that.

The following examples, factual and fictitious, show how authors use suggestion, and from the clues given, you can deduce the facts.

■ Exercise 5: Inference from Description

Looking back on the Revolutionary War, one cannot say enough about Washington's leadership. While his military skills proved less than brilliant and he and his generals lost many battles, George Washington was the single most important figure of the colonial war effort. His original appointment was partly political, for the rebellion that had started in Massachusetts needed a commander from the South to give geographic balance to the cause. The choice fell to Washington, a wealthy and respectable Virginia planter with military experience dating back to the French and Indian War. He had been denied a commission in the English army and had never forgiven the English for the insult. During the war he shared the physical suffering of his men, rarely wavered on important questions, and always used his officers to good advantage. His correspondence with Congress to ask for sorely needed supplies was tireless and forceful. He recruited several new armies in a row, as short-term enlistments gave out.

Leonard Pitt, *We Americans*

Answer the following with *T* (true), *F* (false).

- _____ 1. The author regards George Washington as the most brilliant military genius in American history.
- _____ 2. A prime factor in Washington's becoming president was a need for geographic balance.
- _____ 3. Washington resented the British for a past injustice.
- _____ 4. The Revolutionary War started as a rebellion in the Northeast.
- _____ 5. The author feels that Washington's leadership was courageous and persistent even though not infallible.

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, 2nd ed., by Divine, et al.

■ Exercise 6: Inference from Action

When he came to the surface he was conscious of little but the noisy water. Afterward he saw his companions in the sea. The oiler was ahead in the race. He was swimming strongly and rapidly. Off to the correspondent's left, the cook's great white and corked back bulged out of the water, and in the rear the captain was hanging with his one good hand to the keel of the overturned dinghy.

There is a certain immovable quality to a shore, and the correspondent wondered at it amid the confusion of the sea.

Stephen Crane, *The Open Boat*

Answer the following with *a*, *b*, *c*, or *d*.

- _____ 1. The reason that the people are in the water is because of
 - a. a swimming race.
 - b. an airplane crash.
 - c. a capsized boat.
 - d. a group decision.

- _____ 2. In relation to his companions, the correspondent is
 - a. closest to the shore.
 - b. the second or third closest to the shore.
 - c. farthest from the shore.
 - d. in a position that is impossible to determine.

- _____ 3. The member of the group that had probably suffered a previous injury is the
 - a. oiler.
 - b. correspondent.
 - c. cook.
 - d. captain.

- _____ 4. The uninjured member of the group that the author seems to regard as the least physically fit is the
 - a. oiler.
 - b. correspondent.
 - c. cook.
 - d. captain.

- _____ 5. The story is being told through the eyes of the
 - a. oiler.
 - b. correspondent.
 - c. cook.
 - d. captain.