

Context Clues

(Choose the correct meaning of the bold word)

1. The old house looked **abandoned**. No one had lived there for many years and the garden was full of weeds.
a) busy b) empty and left alone c) modern
2. She spoke in a **hesitant** voice. She kept stopping and seemed unsure of her words.
a) confident b) unclear and unsure c) loud
3. The instructions were **complex**. Even after reading them twice, many people still felt confused.
a) simple b) difficult to understand c) short
4. He felt **overwhelmed** by the amount of work. There were too many tasks and not enough time.
a) relaxed b) under too much pressure c) bored
5. The path became **treacherous** after the heavy rain. It was slippery and dangerous to walk on.
a) safe b) risky and unsafe c) wide
6. Please **prioritise** the urgent emails first. Deal with the most important ones before the others.
a) ignore b) put first in order of importance c) delete
7. The room was **cluttered** with boxes and papers. There was almost no space to walk. a) tidy b) full of too many things c) empty
8. She gave a **vague** answer. It was not clear what she really meant.
a) clear b) not clear or exact c) detailed
9. The company decided to **relocate** the office. They moved everything to a new building in the city centre.
a) close b) move to a different place c) expand
10. He was **reluctant** to join the meeting. He did not really want to go.
a) happy b) unwilling c) excited

11. The notice said the service would be **suspended** until further notice. It has stopped for now.
a) improved b) stopped for a time c) made free
12. The report contained several **inaccuracies**. Some of the facts were wrong.
a) correct details b) mistakes c) useful ideas
13. She tried to **conceal** her disappointment. She smiled so no one would notice how she felt.
a) show b) hide c) explain
14. The weather remained **unsettled** all week. It kept changing between sun and rain.
a) stable b) changeable c) hot
15. Please **verify** your email address. Check that it is correct before you continue.
a) change b) confirm that it is true c) delete
16. The manager gave a **blunt** reply. She spoke in a direct way without trying to be polite.
a) soft b) direct and not polite c) friendly
17. The bridge was **unstable**. It moved slightly when people walked across it.
a) strong b) not safe or steady c) new
18. He made a **deliberate** decision to leave early. He planned it carefully and did not do it by accident.
a) accidental b) done on purpose c) quick
19. The information was **outdated**. It was from three years ago and no longer correct.
a) new b) no longer current c) secret
20. She felt **apprehensive** about the interview. She was worried about what might happen.
a) confident b) nervous and worried c) relaxed

Answer Key

1. **b)** empty and left alone
2. **b)** unclear and unsure
3. **b)** difficult to understand
4. **b)** under too much pressure
5. **b)** risky and unsafe
6. **b)** put first in order of importance
7. **b)** full of too many things
8. **b)** not clear or exact
9. **b)** move to a different place
10. **b)** unwilling
11. **b)** stopped for a time
12. **b)** mistakes
13. **b)** hide
14. **b)** changeable
15. **b)** confirm that it is true
16. **b)** direct and not polite
17. **b)** not safe or steady
18. **b)** done on purpose
19. **b)** no longer current
20. **b)** nervous and worried