

OSSLT - Common Vocabulary from Past Tests

The following words have multiple meanings.

The meaning given in the definition column (below) is the one most commonly used on the Literacy Test (OSSLT) and in an academic context.

Word	Part of Speech	Definition	In a sentence	In your own sentence
1. focus		the center of interest or activity	This generation has made the environment a focus of attention.	
2. quote		direct speech from a person recorded in a text, report, or video	The quote used in line 5 indicates that the character was surprised.	
3. indicate		point out; show.	He always indicates when he is turning his car by using the turning signal.	
4. recognize		acknowledge the existence, validity, or truth about something; to realize:	Literacy has long been recognized as the key to student success.	
5. according to		as stated, reported, or recorded by (someone or something)	According to the author, freedom is the most important aspect of life.	
6. chronological order		the arrangement of things following one after another in time:	This story is in chronological order because what happened first in time comes first in the story.	
7. revision		a change or a set of changes that makes something better	The teacher said, "Make the revisions to the essay and then show me the improvements."	
8. insert		put something into, fit (something) into another thing	Make sure to insert quotation marks into the sentence because the character is speaking.	
9. prepare		make (something or someone) ready for use, for a task, or for consideration.	The best way to prepare for the Literacy test is to go to the practice sessions.	

10. interview		a reporter asks questions in order to gather information for an article, report, or broadcast	The reporter did an interview with the witness after the event.	
11. benefit		receive an advantage; profit; gain.	You will benefit by coming to class on time.	
12. improvement		a thing or action that makes something better	A recent improvement to the school building is the new solar panel on the roof.	
13. volunteer		freely offer to do something for the benefit of a person, group or society	Jenny volunteers at the homeless shelter every Saturday afternoon.	
14. community		a group of people living in the same place or having common interests or religion	The police try to keep the community safe.	
15. environmental		relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition.	The environmental effects of pollution include global warming and toxic water.	
16. issue		an important topic or problem for debate or discussion.	Issues such as poverty, war, and global warming affect all people.	
17. participate		take part, become a part of an activity or task.	All students in the group must participate in order to make an effective presentation.	
18. purpose		the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.	The purpose of this e-mail is to tell you about my son's learning needs.	
19. audience		the group of people for which the communication (book, video etc.) is intended	Which audience are you writing for; teenagers or teachers?	
20. survive		continue to live or exist, especially in spite of danger or hardship.	Some animals survive the winter by sleeping a lot so that they only have to eat small amounts.	
21. option		a thing that is or may be chosen	There are so many course options so I don't know which ones to choose.	

22. present		to formally talk about / teach about something you wrote or studied to a group of people	You may present the information through PPT, a dialogue, a skit, or a video.	
23. refer		mention or allude to	What was the narrator referring to when he said, "Those were dark times."?	
24. provide		to make available, to give	Please provide more details so that I know more about the event.	
25. express		convey (a thought or feeling) in words or by gestures and conduct	I always express my opinion in a respectful way.	
26. demonstrate		clearly show the existence or truth of (something) by giving proof or evidence.	Please demonstrate how to change the tire so that I can copy what you are doing.	
27. impact		have a strong effect on someone or something.	War has a negative impact on communities as it destroys health care, education, and government.	
28. appropriate		Suitable, fitting or proper for a particular person, purpose, or occasion	When someone says "thank you" the appropriate response is "you're welcome."	
29. suggest		state or express indirectly.	Is the author suggesting that the character made the wrong choice?	
30. relationship		The way in which two or more concepts, objects, or people are connected	What is the relationship between these two diseases: sickle cell anemia and malaria?	
31. related to		being connected either logically or causally or by shared characteristics	How is that example you provided related to the previous statement?	
32. contribute		help to cause or bring about	Students can contribute to the school community through being a part of a club.	
33. accurate		correct in all details; exact.	It's sunny and warm but the thermometer says negative 15 degrees Celsius. That's not accurate .	

34. conclusion		a judgment or decision reached by reasoning or the final comment on a topic	Always end the essay by summing up your arguments and drawing a conclusion about the topic.	
35. effective		successful in producing a desired or intended result	Your plan to reduce paper waste was effective . It resulted in a 20 percent reduction in paper use.	
36. promote		further the progress of a cause, venture; support or actively encourage.	Let's promote the missions collection through announcements, videos, and a guest speaker during an assembly.	
37. message		a piece of information sent or given to someone; an important idea expressed in a book, ad, etc.	The story's moral message was to always tell the truth.	
38. represent		To serve to express, stand for, or symbolize something through the use of a word, symbol or image.	The open window in the painting represents change or a new opportunity.	
39. mention		to refer to something briefly without going into detail	I forgot to mention that I had an appointment on Tuesday so that's why I couldn't write the test.	
40. organize		arrange into a structured whole; order.	Should I organize the points in this paragraph by time or by order of importance?	
41. persuasive		able to cause people to do or believe something or change their mind; able to persuade	A persuasive opinion essay includes specific reasons with examples and relevant facts.	
42. solution		a means of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.	A solution for too much garbage is to reduce, reuse and recycle.	
43. advice		guidance or recommendations concerning future action.	My advice is go to bed earlier, set an alarm, and ask your mom to force you out of bed.	
44. factor		a circumstance, fact, or influence that contributes to a result or outcome.	Two of the factors that caused the war were conflicts over land and different political ideas.	
45. combine		unite; merge; put together	If you combine the words star and fish you get the word "starfish".	

46. feature		a distinctive attribute or aspect of something	I like the features on this new phone such as the larger keypad, improved speaker, and quality camera.	
47. characteristic		a feature or quality belonging typically to a person, place, or thing and serving to identify it.	The characteristics of monkeys include flat noses, human like fingers and tails, and fur.	
48. relevant		connected to, important to a topic, issue, task	Why did you ask a math question in history class? Next time ask a question that is relevant to our discussion of human rights.	
49. connect		to join, link, bring together	You might not connect a movie with a historical event until your teacher points it out.	
50. similar		resembling without being identical	Many dance songs sound very similar to each other with similar lyrics and almost the same beat.	