

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 28 | CONTEXT: Ecology and Environment

Catching the Sun for Energy

Where do we get unlimited, free energy? One source is the sun, which we often take for granted. As the earth gets more crowded and there are fewer energy resources, people are starting to look toward the sun. As a result, someday you may live in a solar house! Its enormous windows would face south. Your water would be heated by flat plates that collect heat from the sun. In summer, your home could be air-conditioned with solar power.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about solar energy. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

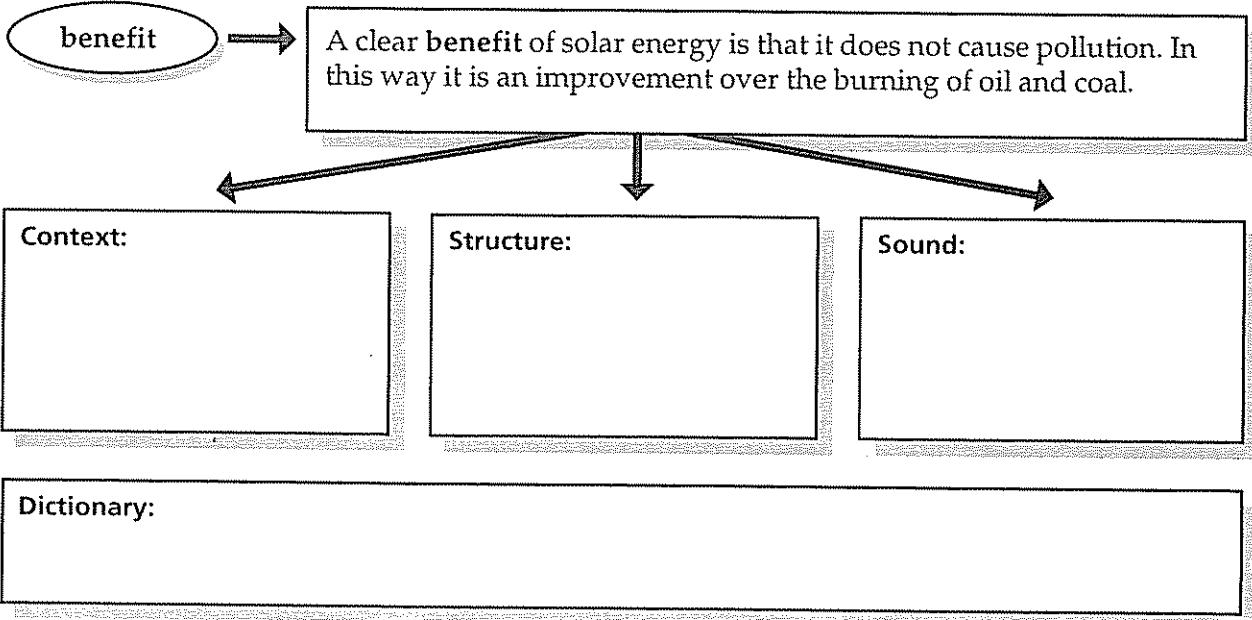
benefit	reckless	responsibility	suburbs	unite
obvious	resemble	severe	unfortunate	vocal

EXERCISE 1 *Wordbusting*

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.



2.

obvious

It is **obvious** that we will have to develop new kinds of energy. Clearly, the earth is running out of fuels like oil that cannot be renewed.

3.

reckless

We can no longer be **reckless** with the earth's resources. We must be careful and think about the future.

4.

responsibility

The **responsibility** for developing clean energy sources lies with us. We have a duty to protect the environment now so that future generations can enjoy it.

5.

severe

There were **severe** shortages of oil and natural gas during the 1970s and 1980s. These serious shortages sped up the development of solar technology.

6.

suburbs

New solar homes are being built in many American **suburbs**. It is often less expensive to build such homes outside city limits.

7.

resemble

Solar homes **resemble** homes that are powered by electricity. From the outside, they look very much the same, but flat panels on the roof usually show that a home uses solar power.

8.

unite

Solar furnaces are made up of several mirrors that **unite** to focus the sun's rays on one spot. Bringing together energy collected by these mirrors can generate electricity.

9.

vocal

Many builders are **vocal** about the advantages of solar energy. They speak out about its low cost and its lack of pollution.

10.

unfortunate

It is **unfortunate** that so few people make use of solar energy. It is unlucky for our environment that we remain tied to oil and gas.

EXERCISE 2 *Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

11. word: _____
n. the areas just outside a city; the towns surrounding a city

12. word: _____
adj. easy to see or understand; evident

13. word: _____
adj. capable of making sounds; connected to the voice; inclined to express oneself with speech

14. word: _____
adj. having or bringing bad luck; not favorable; unlucky

15. word: _____
n. something that adds to the improvement of a condition; an event to raise money for a cause; *v.* to do good to

16. word: _____
adj. careless; not caring about future results

17. word: _____
n. the state of being dependable; an obligation; a duty

18. word: _____
v. to bring or join together for a common cause; to make into one

19. word: _____
v. to be similar to; to look like

20. word: _____
adj. serious; strict or very critical

COLUMN B

(A) Everyone should accept the responsibility of saving energy. This is an important duty.

(B) To use only fossil fuels for energy is reckless; people need to develop alternative sources of energy.

(C) Scientists and engineers have **united** to study solar energy. Together they have made progress.

(D) Solar energy is caused by nuclear reactions that take place in the sun. The reactions **resemble**, or are like, the reactions that take place in nuclear bombs.

(E) Sadly, we use only a small fraction of the solar energy that reaches the earth. It is **unfortunate** that we have not found more ways to harness it.

(F) Solar cells power many small electronic devices, such as calculators. One **obvious** advantage is that you never need to replace the batteries. A clear drawback is that they need light in order to work.

(G) In 1940, the first solar home was built in a **suburb** near Chicago.

(H) A **benefit** was held recently to raise money for solar energy research. The governor was the guest of honor.

(I) The tone of the governor's speech was **severe**. Looking stern, she told us that we should support solar energy research.

(J) Before the event, **vocal** supporters of solar energy formed a rally. You could hear their voices from several blocks away.

EXERCISE 3*Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings* 

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. to benefit the environment
 (A) do good for
 (B) speak out for
 (C) clean up
 (D) write about

22. to resemble nuclear energy
 (A) create
 (B) control
 (C) contrast with
 (D) be similar to

23. a responsibility to future generations
 (A) letter
 (B) duty
 (C) friend
 (D) release

24. a severe shortage of funding
 (A) improved
 (B) unknown
 (C) serious
 (D) mild

25. to unite different groups
 (A) form
 (B) split apart
 (C) speak to
 (D) bring together

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. an obvious advantage
 (A) cheap
 (B) related
 (C) unclear
 (D) free

27. the reckless use of resources
 (A) careful
 (B) gradual
 (C) careless
 (D) generous

28. homes in the suburbs
 (A) national parks
 (B) inner cities
 (C) mountains
 (D) seashores

29. an unfortunate event
 (A) expected
 (B) lucky
 (C) exciting
 (D) popular

30. a vocal supporter
 (A) young
 (B) shouting
 (C) tired
 (D) silent