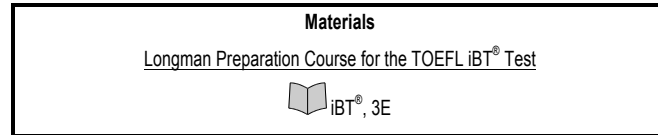


SECTION ONE

READING

Activity R1A: Understanding Vocabulary from Context

WARM-UP ACTIVITY



The purpose of this activity is to introduce Reading Skill 1: UNDERSTAND VOCABULARY FROM CONTEXT.

Before class:

No preparation is necessary.

In class:

1. Write these words on the board.

gamut	square
taciturn	steam
engender	pride
baobob	fold
gossamer	freeze

2. Explain that vocabulary questions test both difficult words that students have never seen before and easier words with more than one meaning and that the context can help students understand both kinds of vocabulary words.
3. Explain that the words in the first column are more difficult words and that the words in the second column are easier words with more than one meaning.
4. Ask students to think about what each word means.
5. Give students a brief bit of context for each word and ask them what each word means after they hear the context.

Context for more difficult words

the entire **gamut** of questions, from easy to hard (*range*)

a **taciturn** rather than outspoken person (*quiet*)

mean comments that **engender** negative feelings (*cause*)

under the **baobob**'s long branches (*kind of tree*)

the **gossamer** layers of the bridal gown (*delicate/light*)

Context for easier words

a **square** meal with all the food groups (*balanced*)

yell and scream to let off **steam** (*emotion/anger*)

a **pride** of lions, including young and old (*group*)

a struggling business that may **fold** (*fail*)

freeze rents instead of raising them (*fix*)

6. Discuss the use of context in determining the meanings as a class.