

# Working out the meaning of unknown words

Master the reading strategy!



## How to work out the meaning of the unknown words?

- read the sentences or lines that come before and after an unknown word
- replace the unknown word with each option to see which one can keep the meaning logical and intact

## Let's have a closer look!

Games are fun, but they can also be friendship-ruining. Competitions are supposed to be exciting, but when players are too involved in the games, they may get into arguments, like many UNO players who get mad when out of cards to counter-attack those who draw out the '+4' cards. Indeed, **no one likes frustrations**, be they in games or in real life, **as they may hurt our pride and evoke a feeling of shame**. Therefore, we should enjoy our time gaming with friends, and see games as a means to strengthen our bonds with them. After all, to win friends brings more joy than to win games!

Read the lines nearby. 'No one likes', 'hurt our pride' and 'evoke a feeling of shame' suggest that 'frustrations' is a negative word.

Then, replace the unknown word with each option.

In line 4, what does the word 'frustrations' mean?

- A. protection (positive > ✗ illogical)
- B. disappointments (negative > ✓ logical and sensible)
- C. success (positive > ✗ contradictory and illogical)
- D. fairness (positive > ✗ irrelevant and illogical)

## Let's practise!

Once, a young man was seated on a train. 'Hey, young man, give me the seat!' said a middle-aged woman, **glaring** at him angrily. 'You don't look disabled to me, so why don't you be a gentleman and show your respect to your seniors?' she **bawled**. The young man, amused by what the **irritated** woman had said, replied calmly and kindly, 'Madam, I'm afraid you are mistaken about who you are. To be frank, to me, you are only a total stranger, though a stranger elder than me. I do not owe you a seat, nor am I responsible for responding to your **irrational** request, which is absolutely abrupt. I'm pretty sure, in the eyes of ordinary passengers, you talk like a mendicant begging spitefully for a seat!'

In line 7, what does the word 'abrupt' mean?

- A. calm
- B. shy
- C. adorable
- D. impolite