

## Check your ECCE Vocabulary Skills – Activity 3

### Key and Item Analysis

---

#### Item (1)

**Item Difficulty:** Less challenging

I don't think I can \_\_\_\_\_ such an expensive car.

- A. afford
- B. achieve
- C. control
- D. operate

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** The correct choice is A. “To afford” a car means to have enough money to buy and/or run a car. Choice B is wrong as you cannot ‘achieve’ a car. Choice C (control) and Choice D (operate) are wrong as the focus is on the cost of the car (expensive) and not on controlling it or operating (running) it.

---

#### Item (2)

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

I washed my woolen sweater in hot water and it \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. condensed
- B. contracted
- C. reduced
- D. shrank

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:** The correct choice is D. Woolen clothes that are put in hot water ‘shrink’ (become smaller). The other choices are wrong as ‘condense’ (make smaller), ‘contract’ (make shorter), and ‘reduce’ (make smaller) are not used to describe woolen clothing.

---

#### Item (3)

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

Do you happen to have a \_\_\_\_\_? I have a runny nose.

- A. bandage
- B. cloth
- C. scarf
- D. tissue

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:** The correct answer is D. The second sentence states that the speaker has ‘a runny nose’. When one has a ‘runny nose’, they usually wipe their nose using either a handkerchief or a tissue (paper handkerchief). Choice A (bandage) is a narrow piece of cloth usually used to tie around certain parts of the body that are in pain. Choice C (scarf) is used to cover one’s neck during the winter to keep it warm.

**Item (4)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

Mary announced her retirement with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

- A. heavy
- B. depressed
- C. moved
- D. shaking

**Answer:** A

Explanation: The correct answer is A as the adjective “heavy” heart correctly modifies the noun heart in the sentence. When one does something with a “heavy heart”, one does it ‘unhappily’- without really wanting to do so. Choice B (depressed) and Choice D (shaking) are wrong as the noun ‘heart’ cannot be modified by the adjectives ‘depressed’ and ‘shaking’. Choice C (moved) is wrong as it cannot be used as an adjective before the noun ‘heart’. However, we do say that “someone was moved by something” which means that someone felt sad about or sympathy for something.

---

**Item (5)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

There was a really long \_\_\_\_\_ of people in front of the movie theater.

- A. bunch
- B. group
- C. lane
- D. line

**Answer:** D

Explanation: The correct answer is D. The only choice that can follow ‘long’ and come before ‘of people’ is “line”. While Choice A (bunch) and Choice B (group) can be followed by “of people”, the expressions ‘bunch of people’ and ‘group of people’ cannot come after the word ‘long’. Choice C (lane) cannot come before the phrase ‘of people’.

---

**Item (6)****Item Difficulty:** More challenging

I can't \_\_\_\_\_ the difference between these two objects.

- A. view
- B. regard
- C. say
- D. tell

**Answer:** D

Explanation: The correct choice is D. To “tell the difference” means to state certain differences between certain things. The other choices are wrong as you cannot ‘view’, ‘regard’, or ‘say’ the difference between any objects.

---

**Item (7)**

**Item Difficulty:** More challenging

We took a lot of pictures during our holiday, but we haven't \_\_\_\_\_ any of our films yet.

- A. appeared
- B. developed
- C. formed
- D. provided

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** The correct answer is B as 'films' are "developed". Photographers develop films by putting them in chemicals so that a picture appears. The other choices are wrong as they make the sentence ungrammatical.

---

**Item (8)**

**Item Difficulty:** More challenging

We sat down with a \_\_\_\_\_ of relief when the police told us they had located our stolen car.

- A. breath
- B. reaction
- C. sigh
- D. sign

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The correct answer is C. The expression "sigh of relief" is used to show that the speaker is happy that something good finally happened (the police located their stolen car). The other three choices are wrong as 'breath', 'reaction', and 'sign' are not used before the phrase "of relief".

---

**Item (9)**

**Item Difficulty:** More challenging

If you \_\_\_\_\_ to pay me back the money you owe me I'll be forced to take legal action.

- A. avoid
- B. cancel
- C. fail
- D. withdraw

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The correct answer is C. The word fail is followed by a full infinitive (to pay me back). The expression 'to fail to do something' means not to do something when you are expected to do it. The other choices are wrong as they make the sentence ungrammatical. Choice A (avoid) is followed by a gerund (I avoid eating too much junk food). Choice B (cancel) is followed by a noun phrase. To cancel something means not to have something anymore (I cancelled my visa card). Choice D (withdraw) is followed by a noun phrase as in 'to withdraw something from somewhere': I withdrew my money from the bank (I took out all my money from the bank).

---

Item (10)

**Item Difficulty:** More challenging

I was born and \_\_\_\_\_ in a small town in New England.

- A. aged
- B. grown
- C. matured
- D. raised

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:** The correct choice is D. The verb 'raised' is used in the passive and refers to where one has grown up. Choice A (aged) and is not used in the passive to refer to people, though it can be used in the passive to refer to things like cheese and wine. Choices B (grown) and C (matured) are not used in the passive when referring to people.