

Reading Passage and Vocabulary Practice

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

Read the passage carefully. Pay attention to how each vocabulary word is used in context. After reading, you will write sentences using these words.

The Wildlife Conservation Challenge

Sarah Chen had been working at the wildlife conservation center **for ages**—nearly fifteen years, to be exact. Her **status** as the head researcher gave her important responsibilities, and she took her daily **tasks** very seriously. The center's main goal was to protect endangered animals and preserve their natural **habitat**, the environment where these creatures lived and thrived.

One morning, Sarah received a **crucial** phone call that would change everything. A group of illegal hunters had attempted to **hack** into the center's computer system to steal information about rare animal locations. This was a serious **concern** for everyone at the facility. Sarah knew she had to act quickly to **halt** any further security breaches and protect the animals under their care.

The conservation center was located at the edge of a forest, surrounded by a tall **hedge** that marked the property boundary. Just beyond the **fringe** of the forest, where the trees began to thin out, was where many animals made their homes. Sarah walked down the long **corridor** of the main building, past the staff **canteen** where workers ate their meals, heading to an emergency meeting.

During the meeting, the team had to **develop** a new security plan. The director began to **instruct** everyone on their new roles. Some staff members wanted to **oppose** the changes, arguing they were too expensive, but Sarah knew they had no choice. She decided to **propose** a solution: they would **halve** the budget for other projects to pay for better security systems. This way, they could **compensate** for the financial strain while still protecting the animals.

Sarah had to **assume** leadership during this difficult time. She couldn't afford to be **lazy** or careless—the animals' lives depended on their actions. The situation was **peculiar** because the hackers seemed to know exactly when the security guards took their **half-time** break, the midpoint of their shift when they rested for a few minutes.

Outside, dark clouds began to gather, and soon **hail** started to fall—small balls of ice dropping from the sky and bouncing off the roof. The staff had to **hail** a taxi to bring in the emergency IT specialist from town, waving their arms to get the driver's attention. The weather seemed to **hamper** their efforts, making everything more difficult and slowing down their progress.

The IT specialist arrived and immediately began to **train** the staff on new security procedures. He explained that cyber attacks were becoming more **fierce**—aggressive and intense—and they needed to be prepared. The

team worked together to **obtain** new software and install protective firewalls. They couldn't let any **handicap** or disadvantage stop them from completing this important work.

By evening, Sarah hung her coat in the **wardrobe** of her office, exhausted but satisfied. The new security system was in place, and the animals were safe once again. She had learned that protecting wildlife required not just understanding their natural habitats, but also defending them from modern threats. The **discipline** and hard work of her team had paid off, and they had successfully protected the creatures that couldn't protect themselves.

As Sarah looked out at the forest, she felt proud of what they had accomplished. The conservation center would continue its mission, and the animals in their care would have a safe place to live. Sometimes the greatest challenges bring out the best in people, and today had proven that her team was ready for anything.

Vocabulary Exercise

Write a complete sentence using each vocabulary word. Your sentence should show that you understand the meaning of the word.

1. habitat

2. hack

3. hail (ice)

4. hail (wave)

5. half-time

6. halt

7. halve

8. hamper

9. handicap

10. train

11. concern

12. obtain

13. develop

14. oppose

15. compensate

16. assume

17. instruct

18. propose

19. for ages

20. crucial

21. fierce

22. lazy

23. peculiar

24. canteen

25. corridor

26. discipline

27. fringe

28. hedge

29. wardrobe

30. status

31. tasks