

A MODERN FABLE

Vocabulary Fun #1

Using Context Clues to Figure Out a Word's Meaning

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Directions: Choose the answer that provides the best definition for the bold-faced word.

Rico Bazuti became so **proficient** that he could do a complete somersault on Oscar and then **dismount** with a back flip to the cheers of his brother Dinko.

1. **proficient** = A. expert B. poor C. stupid D. fearful
2. **dismount** = A. get off B. fall down C. sing D. organize

3. ...Oscar would **lumber** across the schoolyard toward the woods before being caught and pounced upon.

- A. run swiftly B. move with grace & style C. crawl D. move clumsily

4. ...everyone would scatter leaving Oscar lying in the dirt on his back, squinting into the sun and looking a bit dazed and **forlorn**.

- A. sick B. pitiful C. a little uncomfortable D. angry

5. But even at junior high graduation when everyone sat in a chair and Oscar had to be given a **loveseat**, he still didn't get it.

- A. a sofa for lovers B. a comfortable chair C. a sofa for two people D. a large bench

6. [Oscar] owned an elaborate **video and audio system** so he didn't go out much.

- A. video means TV and other images and audio means for music and sound
B. video means for playing video games and audio means for doing schoolwork
C. video means taking pictures and audio means playing instruments

7. When the building superintendent came in, he **surveyed the scene**, put his hands on his hips, and stared at Oscar. A. listened hard B. looked around C. started yelling D. making dinner

8. "What do you think I'm doing?" Oscar replied angrily. "What do people usually do in a tub – their taxes?"

The superintendent continued to look at him and shook his head slowly.

Oscar's **sarcasm** hadn't worked.

- A. a way of talking that makes the other person feel good.
B. a way of talking that makes the other person feel lonely
C. a way of talking that makes the other person feel like they're being made fun of
D. a way of talking that makes the other person feel like they're being praised