

Getting Your Money's Worth

A Check the Meaning

Read the paragraphs below. Think about the meaning of the words in bold type.

As the saying goes, "The customer is king." You, the customer, have a right to the **maximum** value for the dollars you spend. Sometimes getting your money's worth means taking certain **precautions**. The first is always to check closely the condition of an item you plan to buy. A **deficiency** may not be **obvious** to the eye, however. A toaster or can opener may look fine, but at home you may find that it does not work. Most stores will replace any item that is not **satisfactory**. In addition, the maker of the item will usually **guarantee** that it works properly. Both the store and maker will expect you to have the **receipt**. This will show when and where you bought the item. It also gives the price you paid. So the second precaution is to keep the receipt.

A guarantee may mean many things. Do not **accept vague** promises to correct any problems. A guarantee should always be in writing. A smart shopper reads it closely and makes an **inquiry** about any part that is not clear. This is the **third** important precaution. Some guarantees require that you mail in information about yourself and where you bought the item.

Finally, if the store or the maker of the item doesn't take care of a problem for you, know where to go for help. Most cities and states have offices that protect buyers. Anyone who tries to **exploit** buyers or fails to **honor** a guarantee should be reported. Most honest businesses will do anything needed to make a customer happy. The smart shopper, however, must be prepared for the few that do not.

Check the Meaning

Choose the correct meaning for the word in bold type. Fill in the circle next to the correct meaning.

1. A **vague** promise is
 (A) mysterious.
 (B) unclear.
 (C) simple.
 (D) unusual.
2. If something is **obvious**, it is
 (A) hidden.
 (B) dangerous.
 (C) difficult to understand.
 (D) easily seen.
3. A **receipt** is
 (A) a recent event.
 (B) written proof that you have received something.
 (C) a promise to pay an amount of money.
 (D) the maker of an item sold in stores.
4. The **maximum** amount is
 (A) the most possible.
 (B) the least possible.
 (C) any amount agreed to by two people.
 (D) less than desired.
5. A **deficiency** is
 (A) something done quickly.
 (B) an outstanding feature.
 (C) a defect or fault.
 (D) a defeated army.
6. If people **exploit** you, they
 (A) take selfish advantage of you.
 (B) lie about you.
 (C) entertain you.
 (D) explain something to you.
7. When people **honor** a promise, they
 (A) deny it.
 (B) tell everyone about it.
 (C) respect or stand by it.
 (D) change it.
8. To **accept** something is to
 (A) replace it.
 (B) take or receive it.
 (C) remove it.
 (D) require it.
9. A **precaution** is
 (A) a step taken to avoid a problem.
 (B) a dangerous situation.
 (C) the high point in an area.
 (D) anything that breaks a law.
10. A **guarantee** is
 (A) a musical instrument.
 (B) someone who guards a safe.
 (C) a machine used in woodworking shops.
 (D) a promise that something will work.
11. If an item is **satisfactory**, it
 (A) often breaks.
 (B) pleases its owner.
 (C) has been made in a factory.
 (D) cannot be replaced.
12. An **inquiry** is a
 (A) question.
 (B) funny story.
 (C) loud noise.
 (D) confusing message.

B Study the Spelling

Word List

deficiency	accept	exploit	vague	guarantee	satisfactory
maximum	receipt	obvious	honor	inquiry	precaution

Write the list word for each clue.

1. It is made from the word *satisfy*. satisfactory
2. It is made from the word *deficient*. deficiency
3. It is made from the word *inquire*. inquiry
4. It begins with a prefix that means "before." precaution
5. It has one syllable and ends with two silent vowels. vague
6. It ends with a double vowel. guarantee
7. It has two syllables and a double consonant. accept
8. There is an *ei* and a silent *p* in its spelling. receipt
9. It begins with a silent consonant. honor
10. It has two syllables and rhymes with *Detroit*. exploit

Write *obvious*, *maximum*, and *inquiry*. Use dots between the syllables.

11. ob · vi · ous
12. max · i · mum
13. in · qui · ry

One word in each group is misspelled. Circle the misspelled word. Write it correctly.

14. honor receipt vauge vague
15. deficiency obvious accept deficiency
16. satisfactory precaution inquiry inquiry
17. exploit guarantee maxamum maximum

Circle the list word within each of these words. Write the list word.

18. unsatisfactory satisfactory
19. acceptable accept
20. dishonor honor

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Language Tutor

Words with similar sounds and spellings are often confused. The underlined words in each pair of sentences have similar sounds and spellings. Their meanings, however, are quite different.

Juanita will accept the prize. Everyone came except Ray.

I ordered pie for dessert. There is little water in the desert.

I was already dressed when he called. We are all ready to go.

They must choose a new manger soon. Last year they chose Ms. Lum.

Grab the loose end of the rope. We must not lose this game.

Write the sentences. Add the correct word from the parentheses.

1. I cannot accept any more work. (accept; except)
2. We will choose a winner by Sunday. (choose; chose)
3. It took six hours to drive through the desert. (dessert; desert)
4. When I arrived, she was already there. (already; all ready)
5. Try not to lose the money I gave you. (loose; lose)
6. A loose wire might cause a fire. (loose; lose)
7. Who chose this awful movie? (choose; chose)
8. I am too full to eat any dessert. (dessert; desert)