

# General English MP 1 Exam

**Ms. Derico**  
**Period 2**

### VOCABULARY

Directions: Review each of your vocabulary words and their definitions. Then on the lines below use 15 of your thirty vocabulary words to write a well-written sentence using each word correctly as well as reflecting that you have a concrete meaning to what the word means.

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12. \_\_\_\_\_  
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13. \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. \_\_\_\_\_  
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15. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**READING PASSAGE**

**Directions:** Read the stories below and answer the questions that follow.

**“The Dinner Party” by Mona Gardner**

The country is India. A colonial official and his wife are giving a large dinner party. They are seated with their guests—army officers and government attachés and their wives, and a visiting American naturalist—in their spacious dining room, which has a bare marble floor, open rafters and wide glass doors opening onto a veranda.

A spirited discussion springs up between a young girl who insists that women have outgrown the jumping-on-a-chair-at-the-sight-of-a-mouse era and a colonel who says that they haven’t.

A woman’s unfailing reaction in any crisis,” the colonel says, “is to scream. And while a man may feel like it, he has that ounce more of nerve control than a woman has. And that last ounce is what counts.”

The American does not join in the argument but watches the other guests. As he looks, he sees a strange expression come over the face of the hostess. She is staring straight ahead, her muscles contracting slightly. With a slight gesture she summons the native boy standing behind her chair and whispers to him. The boy’s eyes widen: he quickly leaves the room.

Of the guests, none except the American notices this or sees the boy place a bowl of milk on the veranda just outside the open doors.

The American comes to with a start. In India, milk in a bowl means only one thing—bait for a snake. He realizes there must be a cobra in the room. He looks up at the rafters—the likeliest place—but they are bare. Three corners of the room are empty, and in the fourth the servants are waiting to serve the next course. There is only one place left—under the table.

His first impulse is to jump back and warn the others, but he knows the commotion would frighten the cobra into striking. He speaks quickly, the tone of his voice so arresting that it sobers everyone.

“I want to know just what control everyone at this table has. I will count to three hundred—that’s five minutes—and not one of you is to move a muscle. Those who move will forfeit fifty rupees. Ready!”

The twenty people sit like stone images while he counts. He is saying “. . . two hundred and eighty. . .” when, out of the corner of his eye, he sees the cobra emerge and make for the bowl of milk. Screams ring out as he jumps to slam the veranda doors safely shut.

You were right, Colonel!” the host exclaims. “A man has just shown us an example of perfect control.”

“Just a minute,” the American says, turning to his hostess. “Mrs. Wynnes, how did you know that cobra was in the room?”

A faint smile lights up the woman’s face as she replies: “Because it was crawling across my foot.”

**Multiple Choice**

**Directions:** Circle the choice(s) that best completes the statement or question.

1. Which of the following statements would the colonel agree with? (Circle all that apply.)
  - a. “Women never show courage.”
  - b. “Men show greater self-control than women?”
  - c. “Men do not experience fear.”
  
2. The naturalist knows there’s a snake in the room because
  - a. He sees a strange expression on the hostess’s face
  - b. The native boy’s eyes widen in alarm
  - c. A bowl of milk is placed on the veranda
  
3. The naturalist gets everyone to sit still by

- a. Warning them about the snake
  - b. Challenging the guests to test their self-control
  - c. Offering to pay each guest money
4. We can assume that the cobra did not strike Mrs. Wynnes because
- a. She kept her body absolutely still
  - b. Cobras do not attack women
  - c. It wasn't hungry

**SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions from our class readings.

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

1. After reading this selection, do you believe that newspapers have the same importance today as they did in the story? Why or why not?

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**THE LITTLE CASK**

2. Prior to reading this story, we discussed how being envious and wanting to obtain more can create dangerous situations. What details or actions from the story reflect the dangers of greed?

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**AN AMERICAN DOCTOR'S ODYSSEY**

3. What would be another good title for this story and why? Please use details and events from the story to support your response.

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