“On Time Early” Infer & Vocab Practice

Man, do we hope we’re timely in passing this content onto to you. [Greg Savage](http://blog.firebrandtalent.com/author/gsavage/), founder of [Firebrand](http://www.firebrandtalent.com/) (an Aquent brand down under) posted this no-holds-barred post about the importance of showing up on time. We thought it was too good not to share. Greg, we should mention, has founded four incredibly successful staffing businesses and is a highly-sought after international keynote speaker. **What can you infer about Greg’s job?**

Summary: He is successful and is in charge of a lot of people. Infer: many of his co-workers and employees have been late and that bothers him.

This post may offend some readers. But only because it’s going to cut close to the bone for many. And I don’t care if I sound old-fashioned, because actually it’s nothing to do with ‘fashion’ or ‘generation’. It’s got everything to do with basic good manners and respect for other people. So here goes… How did it get to be “OK” for people to be late for everything? Because as far as I am concerned, it’s not OK.

In recent years it seems that a meeting set to start at 9 am, for some people means in the general vicinity of any time which starts with the numeral ‘9’. Like 9:30 for example. People drift in at 9:10 or 9:20, or even later. And they smile warmly at the waiting group, as they unwrap their bacon sandwich, apparently totally unconcerned that others have been there since five to nine, prepared and ready to start.

1. By using the word “vicinity,” the author most likely meant…
   1. Veracity b. Numeral c. Specific detail d. Area

**Make an inference about what time Greg arrived for the 9:00 meeting in question and justify your response.**

Ten people kept waiting in a meeting for 20 minutes, while some selfish pratt who idles his way via the coffee shop, is actually 20 minutes times 10, which is 200 minutes wasted – while you keep us waiting because you did not catch the earlier bus. That is over three hours wasted. By you! How much has that cost the business? Shall I send you an invoice? And an arrangement to meet someone for a business meeting at a coffee shop at 3 pm, more often than not means at 3.10 you get a text saying ‘I am five minutes away’ which inevitably means 10 minutes, and so you wait for 15 or 20 minutes, kicking your heels in frustration. And often these ‘latecomers’ are people who have requested the meeting in the first place, are asking for your help, or are selling something. Fat chance, mate!

1. By using the word “pratt,” the author most likely meant…
   1. Prediction b. Person c. Idiot d. Coffee shop
2. By using the word “idles,” the author most likely meant…
   1. Walks b. Strolls c. Runs d. Skips

**What can you infer about the author’s nationality? Which word from the text was the most helpful piece of evidence to facilitate this inference?**

And it’s not only business. Why do people, invited for a dinner party at 7:30, think it’s cool to arrive at 8:30? It’s rude. It’s inconsiderate. And it’s selfish, as I witnessed in a coffee shop near my home one weekend. Three “ladies who lunch” (a species not confined to, but heavily represented on, the lower North Shore of Sydney) were chatting loudly at the table next to me. One inquired what time the ‘drinks do’ was that night. The reply for all the world to hear was ‘Oh 7:30, but we won’t get there till 9:00 because by then it will have warmed up and all the interesting people will have arrived’. Nice. Imagine if everyone took that view. Cocktail parties would start at 3 am eventually.

Or a dinner at a restaurant where I was meeting two other couples. My wife was away, so I was flying solo. I arrived at two minutes to eight for an eight o’clock booking. At 8:20, I was into my second glass of Pinot and at half-past I got a text saying ‘on the way’. We finally were all seated at 8:45. There were not even attempted excuses from either of the two couples, who seemed oblivious to the fact I might actually have got there at the agreed time. Meanwhile I had put a huge dent in the bottle of Pinot, and was ready to go home.

1. By using the word “oblivious,” the author most likely meant…
   1. Unaware b. Aware c. Dedicated d. Agreed

**Make an inference about the topic of this meeting and determine an adjective that describes Greg’s demeanor during the meeting. Justify your response.**

And it is not that we lead ‘busy lives’. That’s a given, we all do, and it’s a cop out to use that as an excuse. It’s simply that some people no longer even pretend that they think your time is as important as theirs. And technology makes it worse. It seems texting or emailing that you are late somehow means you are no longer late. Rubbish. You are rude. And inconsiderate. And I act on it, too. My dentist kept me waiting 50 minutes not long ago. She has done it for years and years. But enough! I walked out, past a literally open-mouthed receptionist who had never seen a patient act on their frustration, only to get a frantic call from the dentist herself as I got into my car. Sure she was “busy”, another patient took longer than she expected, blah blah. But hold on, I am busy too! I would not keep her waiting 45 minutes if she came to see me as a candidate. And yet I am HER customer. I told her I have been coming to you for 15 years but don’t take me for granted. See fewer patients in a day if you have to, but see me on time or close to it. She has never kept me waiting again. **Make an inference about what Greg’s calendar looks like in his phone based on this anecdote about his dentist.**

1. By using the word “anecdote,” the author most likely meant…
   1. Author b. Inference c. Dentist d. Narrative

Me? Am I ever late? Sure, sometimes. That’s inevitable even with the best intentions. But I never plan to be late. I never ‘let time slide’ because my stuff is more important than yours. I am not talking about the odd occasion of lateness. I am talking about people who are routinely late. In fact, never on time. You know who I am talking about! **Recall what Greg does as a vocation. Make an inference about how essential Greg rates being “on time early” in his line of work.**

1. By using the word “vocation,” the author most likely meant…
   1. Task b. Employee c. Occupation d. Employer

And certainly I consider serial lateness a character flaw which I take into account when working out who to promote, who to hire and who to count amongst my real friends. It’s that important. **Make an inference about why Mr. Foster chose this article. Also, make an inference about why Mr. Foster chose these two learning targets.**

**Infer answers: Circle the numbers (2-7) that you got “right” then shade the appropriate rubric box below**

1. Summary: He is successful and is in charge of a lot of people. Infer: many of his co-workers and employees have been late and that bothers him.
2. 8:45 = being late bothers him so much that he is “on time early”
3. British or Australian because of “mate”
4. Some kind of business (specifically staffing and employment because that is Greg’s specialty). Strong adjectives might include curse, stern, biting, tipsy, annoyed or combative
5. In his calendar, the dentist appointments are listed to start at the correct time. His calendar is filled with many appointments.
6. He sees it as a character flaw that he takes into account when hiring, promoting and firing.
7. Chose article because it is an important life lesson, being on time is important to him, article is at an appropriate reading level for juniors. Vocab chosen because it is authentic practice and this article had a few strong examples. Infer was chosen because we need the most practice in this learning target.

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| **Learning Targets** | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Analyze **inferences** while reading fiction & nonfiction | **I can insightfully**  **explain** **all examples**  of inferences **accurately**  **beyond expectations.** | **I can plainly explain**  **several examples** of  inferences **relatively** **accurately & consistently.** | **I can mention some**  **examples** of inferences **somewhat** **accurately and somewhat consistently.** | **I can partially identify**  **a few examples** of  inferences with **some inaccuracies & teacher help.** |
| # Questions correct | **6 plus feedback** | **6-5** | **4** | **3 or less** |

**Vocabulary Answers: Circle the numbers that you got right then shade the appropriate rubric box below**

1. D 2) C 3) B 4) A 5) D 6) C

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning Targets** | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Analyze meaning of  **unknown words** using  context clues, word  parts & parts of speech. | **I can insightfully** describe  **explain all examples** of  unfamiliar words **accurately**  **beyond teacher’s**  **expectations. All** | **I can plainly explain**  **several examples** of  unfamiliar words  **relatively** **accurately** | **I can mention some**  **examples** of  unfamiliar words  **somewhat** **accurately &**  **somewhat consistently.** | **I can partially identify**  **a few examples** of  unfamiliar words  with **some inaccuracies &**  **teacher assistance.** |
| # Questions correct | **6 plus feedback** | **6-5** | **4** | **3 or less** |

What would Mr. Foster write as feedback about your performance on Infer and Vocabulary for this practice? After reviewing your performance on these two learning targets, add valuable feedback on your learning targets log. Poor examples: I did ok, I got 3 wrong, I still struggle with infer. Strong examples: The only infer question I got wrong was because I didn’t read all of the words in the question and all the answers, I wrote summaries and/or predictions instead of inferences, I need to remember to assume what else COULD be happening in the test when I infer, I need to remember to use context clues, parts of speech and prefix/suffix when figuring our vocab words. Record what you wrote on your learning targets log below:

Infer feedback:

Vocab feedback:

Name:

Appropriate question about Mr. Foster’s life and the answer in your life:

Here is an additional resource if you are especially concerned about being on time: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-hendriksen-phd/6-tips-to-never-be-late-a_b_6550132.html?ir=Education&ncid=tweetlnkushpmg00000023>