

Syntax and Sentence Structure

Directions: Read each sentence or short passage carefully. Pay close attention to the **structure** of the sentence-such as punctuation, comparisons, or clarifying phrases-that can help you understand the bolded word. Then answer the questions that follow.



1. Lena was known for her **candor**-she spoke the truth plainly, even when it wasn't what people wanted to hear.

Which part of the sentence helps define "candor"?

- A. "she spoke the truth plainly"
- B. "even when it wasn't what people wanted"
- C. "Lena was known for"
- D. "people wanted to hear"

What does "candor" most likely mean?

- A. Dishonesty
- B. Shyness
- C. Truthfulness
- D. Gossip

2. The debate became more heated when Andrew's response was not only **irrelevant**, but also insulting, having nothing to do with the topic at hand and everything to do with personal attacks.

What part of the sentence structure provides context for "irrelevant"?

- A. "not only... but also" contrast
- B. "nothing to do with the topic at hand"
- C. "everything to do with personal attacks"
- D. All of the above

What does "irrelevant" most likely mean?

- A. Off-topic or unrelated
- B. Supportive or helpful
- C. Factual and informative
- D. Polite or respectful

3. After hours of hiking, the view from the mountain was **exhilarating**; the sky stretched endlessly, the wind was crisp, and every worry seemed to vanish in that moment.

Which part of the sentence reveals the feeling behind "exhilarating"?

Explain in one sentence how the description helps you figure out the meaning.