

LSAT Vocabulary

Although the LSAT is not a direct test of your vocabulary, many LSAT questions hinge on your knowledge of certain words or phrases. In some cases, terms are defined in a way that differs from the way we normally define those terms in the real world. In other cases, a word may appear that we see infrequently, or perhaps have never seen at all. Because a single missed question can drop your scaled LSAT score by one point, LSAT students must know the exact definitions of the logical terms they encounter. Within the PowerScore LSAT courses, we discuss the terms on the following quiz, and many others. Note: we are not recommending that you prepare for the LSAT by studying long lists of vocabulary words; that would be an inefficient preparation approach. However, English is the currency of the test, and you must know certain definitions in order to perform optimally.

[More Information on LSAT Vocabulary](#)

PowerScore LSAT Terminology Quiz

Each question below consists of a word or phrase printed in capital letters, followed by five lettered answer choices containing words or phrases. Select the lettered word or phrase that is most nearly identical in meaning to the word or words in capital letters. Because some of the questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, be sure to consider all the choices before deciding which one is best.

1. **INFERENCE:**
 - (A) Probably true
 - (B) To come between
 - (C) Most likely
 - (D) Could be true
 - (E) Must be true

2. **CORRELATION:**
 - (A) Comparative
 - (B) To be related in some way
 - (C) Contingent
 - (D) A simultaneous event
 - (E) Proof of something

3. MOST:
- (A) An amount greater than none
 - (B) An amount greater than one
 - (C) A large quantity
 - (D) A majority
 - (E) A majority, but not all
4. ANTECEDENT:
- (A) A small animal
 - (B) A thing that goes before
 - (C) A preconceived notion
 - (D) In the process of dying
 - (E) The process of growing in
5. EITHER...OR:
- (A) One and only one
 - (B) Both
 - (C) One or the other, but not both
 - (D) At least one of the two
 - (E) One of each
6. UNWARRANTED:
- (A) Never arrested
 - (B) Reasonable
 - (C) Unjustified
 - (D) At peace
 - (E) A short argument
7. MUST BE FALSE:
- (A) Could be true
 - (B) Not necessarily possible
 - (C) Cannot be true
 - (D) Cannot be false
 - (E) Must be true

8. PARADOX:
- (A) A slowing down
 - (B) An examination
 - (C) Encompassing
 - (D) A contradictory situation
 - (E) Two identical situations
9. NOT ALL:
- (A) Some are not
 - (B) Some
 - (C) Less than the majority
 - (D) None
 - (E) A minority
10. ASSUMPTION:
- (A) Unstated premise
 - (B) Inference
 - (C) An opinion
 - (D) An unwarranted conclusion
 - (E) Could be true
11. REFUTE:
- (A) Differ
 - (B) Undermine
 - (C) Reply
 - (D) Incontestable
 - (E) Irrelevant
12. UNEQUIVOCAL:
- (A) Unequal
 - (B) Mute
 - (C) In disagreement
 - (D) Poorly supported
 - (E) Clear

13. EXTANT:
- (A) Lengthen
 - (B) A navigational device
 - (C) Existing
 - (D) Ecstatic
 - (E) Outward
14. NONE BUT:
- (A) Only
 - (B) Never
 - (C) All
 - (D) If
 - (E) Most
15. CONSISTENT:
- (A) Agreement
 - (B) Identical
 - (C) Cannot be
 - (D) To promote
 - (E) Could be

LSAT Terminology Quiz Answer Key

1. INFERENCE:

Correct Answer: E. The word “inference,” as it is used in logic and on the LSAT, means “must be true.” In daily life, most people use “inference” to mean “probably true,” “most likely,” or “could be true,” but those definitions will lead to missed LSAT questions.

2. CORRELATION:

Correct Answer: B. A correlation is a relationship between two entities, especially when the movements of the two entities match closely. For example, a correlation may exist between handgun sales and murder rates, or between speeding and car crashes. A positive correlation is where the two values move together, as in a positive correlation between education and income. A negative correlation is where the two values move in opposite directions, as in a negative correlation between age and eyesight.

3. MOST:

Correct Answer: D. This is a tricky question, and most students select answer choice E. Although answer choice E reflects how the term “most” is used in the real world, on the LSAT the logical definition of “most” is used, and “most” can include “all.” The *LSAT Logical Reasoning Bible* contains an excellent section that discusses formal logic terms such as “most.”

4. ANTECEDENT:

Correct Answer: B. Antecedents typically play a role in causal reasoning, where understanding that one event must happen before another is important. Identifying the correct definition is made easier if you recognize the prefix ante-, which means “prior to” or “before.”

5. EITHER...OR:

Correct Answer: D. This is another difficult question, primarily because most people use the phrase “either...or” in the real world to mean “one or the other, but not both” or “one and only one.” Yet, on the LSAT, the proper logical definition is used, and that definition states that “either...or” means “at least one, possibly both.” Hence, if an LSAT speaker states that, “Either Kim or Kwame will attend law school,” it is still possible that both will attend law school.

6. UNWARRANTED:

Correct Answer: C. “Unwarranted” means unjustified or groundless. For example, an unwarranted assumption is an assumption made for no reason or without any supporting facts.

7. MUST BE FALSE:

Correct Answer: C. “Must be false” is identical in meaning to “cannot be true.” As detailed in the *LSAT Logic Games Bible*, when faced with a question posed in terms of falsity, you should always convert that statement into terms of truth. The Games Bible details the entire range of conversions, including those for “cannot be false,” “could be false” and “not necessarily false.”

8. PARADOX:

Correct Answer: D. A “paradox” is a seemingly contradictory situation that is still possibly true. For example, “Although car anti-theft devices have been proven effective, cars outfitted with such devices are still stolen at a higher rate than cars not outfitted with such devices.” In this case, a possible explanation would be that the cars with anti-theft devices happened to be nicer cars that were more prized by car thieves.

9. NOT ALL:

Correct Answer: A. “Not all” and “some are not” are identical in meaning. In formal logic terms, “not all” means “at least one is not, possibly all are not.” So, if an LSAT speaker says, “Not all of the shirts are green,” it is possible that none of the shirts are green.

10. ASSUMPTION:

Correct Answer: A. An “assumption” is a statement that is presupposed by the author to support the conclusion; a premise is also a statement that supports the conclusion, and thus an “assumption” is an “unstated premise.” In addition, in the logical parlance used by PowerScore, a valid assumption is also a necessary condition for a valid argument.

11. REFUTE:

Correct Answer: B. To “refute” an argument is to attack or undermine that argument. The test makers use a variety of synonyms—such as “refute,” “undermine,” and “weaken”—to confuse test takers and trick them into thinking that they are seeing many different questions types when in fact they are just seeing variations on standard question categories.

12. UNEQUIVOCAL:

Correct Answer: E. “Unequivocal” means “clear” or “certain,” as in having only one meaning or interpretation.

13. EXTANT:

Correct Answer: C. “Extant” means “to still exist.” For example, “Dinosaurs are no longer extant.” Many students missed a well-known LSAT question because they were not familiar with this word.

14. NONE BUT:

Correct Answer: A. The phrase “none but” is rarely seen on the LSAT, but very difficult to quickly analyze during the test. “None but” is equivalent to “only,” and for those of you familiar with conditional reasoning as discussed within the PowerScore Full-length LSAT Course, “none but” introduces a necessary condition.

15. CONSISTENT:

Correct Answer: E. As with questions #1, #3, #5, and #9, this question contains a term that is often used differently in the real world than on the LSAT. Most people use the word “consistent” to mean “in agreement” or “compatible.” Yet, the LSAT definition of “consistent” has often been “could be.” Let’s consider why this makes sense. “Consistent” and “inconsistent” are opposites. “Inconsistent,” in a logical sense, means “cannot be true.” “Consistent,” therefore, means the opposite or “could be true.” This leads to a situation where statements that appear inconsistent are in fact consistent. For example, consider the following two statements:

1. All cars are blue.
2. My best friend is tall.

Most people would say these two statements are inconsistent since they do not address the same topic and agree about that topic. However, on the LSAT, statements similar to these two have been viewed as consistent.