

Unit 14 - Play It Like a Game

bungle
compose

debate
evade

exert
exhibit

realistic
reassure

reign
retain

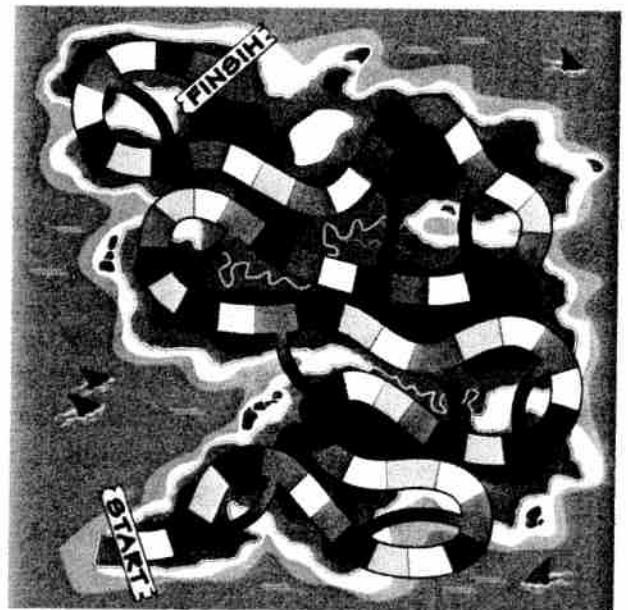
14A Introduction

Did you know that you can do better in school if you think of tests as games? It's true. Lots of students feel nervous or scared by the big tests they have to take. It's normal. But studies have found that when students think of their tests as games, they score much higher. So think of it like this: Tests are just challenges, and every time you learn something in class or at home, you're getting a tool or a key to help you complete those challenges. So play it like a game.

14B Song Lyrics

Yo, you see that girl over there? No, no don't look, don't look. That girl is so smart; all she gets is A's. What's her secret, though? I want to know her secret, man. What is it?

Let me tell you about a girl who cracked the code,
Figured out a secret that you have to know.
Everything she comes across in her day,
Is all good because she plays it like a game.
A quiz? She doesn't run from it or **evade** it,
Nah, she's not afraid of getting it graded.
Because even a pop quiz on Henry the Eighth
Is just a challenge like an arcade game.
And even if she **bungles** it and makes it a mess,
She learns from her mistakes; the girl doesn't rest.
No, she shows and **exhibits** a calm all the time,
She's cooler than James Bond in a pond eating limes.
She's cooler than a sunglasses-wearing polar bear,
She's cooler than a winter with the coldest air.
But she **exerts** herself, works hard to prepare,
She's getting ready all the time; you better beware.
She hits those books, and you have to know,
That a big test for her is like tic-tac-toe.
And she **retains**,
And keeps all the information in her brain.
In fact, some of the time she's writing a rhyme



To make sure that the facts always stick in her mind.
She's going to hold the power, **reign** like a king,
'Cause whatever the thing, she plays it like a game.

*I play it like a game, I play it like a game,
Everything I come across, I play it like a game.
I play it like a game, I play it like a game,
Everything I come across, I play it like a game.*

She knows how to **debate**, argue and discuss,
She reads clues in everything she does.
She's feeling calm and so **composed**
Whenever she has to **compose** something, write it down.
She's like, "If I can play checkers and Monopoly,
I could probably get some A's on these tests."
It's got to be possible and **realistic**,
So real; so to all y'all, can we kick it?
"Yes you can!" So let me use my words to
Give you confidence and **reassure** you.
Here's her recipe for winning; I'll start from the beginning:
Take two cups of preparation; now mix them
With a tablespoon of swagger and a pinch of boldness,
Half a cup of confidence will make you the coldest.
It's so simple it's scary,
You'll get more A's than the front of the dictionary.

Hook

14C Words Defined

bungle

(verb) To do something badly or without skill; to mess something up. *I figured Cal would do a good job fixing my bike, but he totally **bungled** it; now it looks worse than when I gave it to him.*



compose

compose

(verb) 1. To create or write. *Buntha loves **composing** poems for her friends.* 2. To be or make up the parts of; to form. *The seasoning was **composed** of many different spices.* 3. To calm or quiet one's mind. *Lilly **composed** herself, and then strode down the aisle toward her new husband.*

Other forms: *Composed can be an adjective meaning "calm," as in: Rarely nervous, Jay-Z remained **composed** even right before the concert.*

The Word Up Project: Level Indigo

debate

(verb) To argue, discuss, or participate in a formal debate. *Will and I **debated** the need for extra vacation time.*

(noun) A discussion, often public, involving opposite viewpoints. *Our town held a **debate** on increasing pay for police officers.*

evade

(verb) To escape, especially by trickery or cleverness. *Jimmy **evaded** the bully by running down an alley and hiding behind a Dumpster.*

exert

(verb) To put forth effort. *Ray **exerted** all his strength to move the box of books.*

exhibit

(verb) To show clearly; to put on display. *Sierra **exhibits** a lot of curiosity for a girl her age.*

(noun) An act of exhibiting; a show. *Tanya learned a lot at the miniature horse **exhibit**.*

Other forms: *I love the art at this photography **exhibition** (noun).*

realistic

(adj) Concerned with the practical, or things that will really happen; resembling real life. *Be **realistic**, Jorge: You're never going to be a rock star if you don't learn to play an instrument!*

reassure

(verb) To make less worried or fearful; to comfort. *The teacher **reassured** Tanya that she could make up the test that she had failed.*

Other forms: *I need some **reassurance** (noun) that if I buy you a dog you'll take care of it.*

reign

(verb) To rule as a queen or king. *The old king had **reigned** over the land for fifty years.*

(noun) The rule of a queen or king. *During the **reign** of Isabella, Columbus sailed for the New World.*

retain

(verb) To hold onto; to keep possession of. *Even when Rory had to use a wheelchair, he still **retained** his independence and love of exploring the city.*



14D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

- | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. to escape | exert | evade | bungle |
| 2. a discussion involving opposite viewpoints | reign | exhibit | debate |
| 3. to put on display | exhibit | compose | reign |
| 4. to rule as a queen or king | evade | reign | reassure |
| 5. to mess something up | bungle | exert | compose |

14E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

1. I'd like to go to outer space for vacation this year, but my mom says that isn't _____.

composed realistic bungled

2. The baby fell asleep peacefully because he had _____ all of his energy crying.

evaded exhibited exerted

3. Our teacher asked us to _____ an essay titled "What I Did on my Summer Vacation."

compose evade bungle

4. My dad was lucky to _____ his job at the newspaper; a lot of his coworkers were fired.

retain reassure exhibit

5. It's hard to _____ Sarah that things are going to be okay, because she sees the bad side of everything.

evade reassure exert

14F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

1. I felt better after my teacher told me that if I worked hard, she would give me a better grade

The Word Up Project: Level Indigo

I still hold on to the blanket I carried when I was a little kid, even though I can't really use it anymore.

3. Queen Elizabeth II has ruled England for 57 years.

4. With a quick dash to the left, the quarterback managed to avoid getting tackled.

5. William felt like he used all his brain power when taking the test; he was exhausted afterward.

14G Applying Meanings

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

1. A person who **composes** a song is called a

- (A) listener
- (B) singer
- (C) drummer
- (D) songwriter

2. Which of these movies would be the most **realistic**?

- (A) a cartoon
- (B) a historical drama
- (C) a futuristic action movie
- (D) a movie about superheroes

3. Who would be involved in a **debate**?

- (A) people who disagreed
- (B) a gardener
- (C) a group of singers and dancers
- (D) a chef

4. An actress who **bungled** all her lines would probably

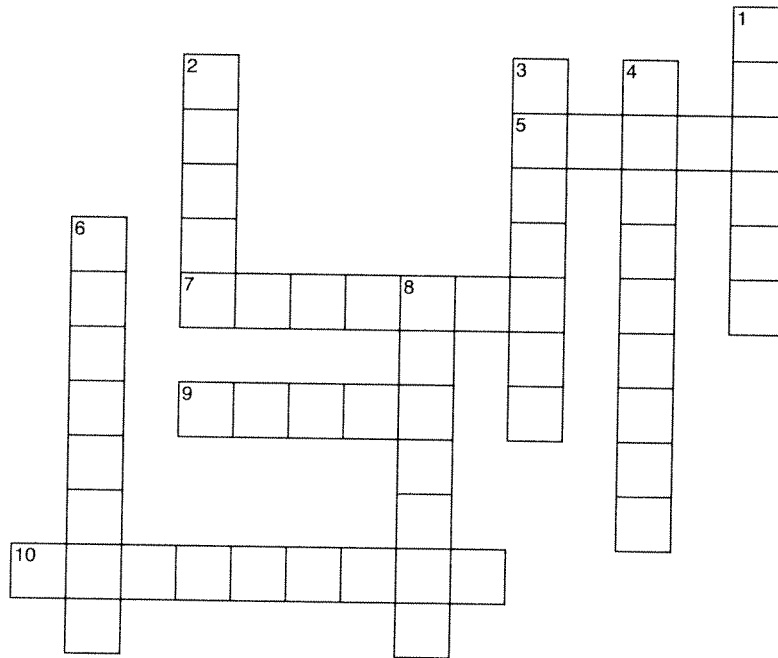
- (A) write her own scripts
- (B) remember her lines easily
- (C) not get a lot of parts
- (D) win a lot of awards

Word Breakdown

The word *bungle* might sound like a modern word, but it is actually at least 500 years old. No one knows for sure where it came from. Some people think it is a combination of the words *boggle*, meaning "to confuse," and *bumble*, meaning "to do something awkwardly." Others think it comes from the Icelandic word *banga*, meaning "to hammer."

Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.



ACROSS

- 5 To put forth effort.
- 7 Brendan was asked to _____ his painting at the school art show.
- 9 This is the last week of my sister's _____ as the Foldham County Potato Queen.
- 10 Courtney _____ me that she still liked me even though I missed her birthday party.

DOWN

- 1 To keep possession of.
- 2 To escape.
- 3 The teacher _____ whether she should let the class out early or not.
- 4 I wish my teacher would give us _____ goals; there's no way we can read a 500-page book in two days!
- 6 I was impressed that Patrice stayed _____, as everyone around her was going crazy.
- 8 The dumb crooks _____ their plans badly; instead of breaking into a bank, they accidentally broke into a police station!