



ESL Vocabulary Worksheet for Adults

Reading Passage - Minimal Pairs

Practice for /b/ and /v/ Sounds

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Reading Passage

In the vibrant city of Valbrook, visitors often observe the buzzing energy of the local businesses. Valerie, a veteran baker, runs a beloved bakery known for its variety of breads. On the opposite block, Victor, an ambitious biologist, manages a botanical garden, showcasing a diverse array of vibrant blooms and verdant plants.

One breezy evening, Valerie ventured to Victor's garden. She was amazed by the vivid colors and the sheer variety of vegetation. Victor explained the biology behind each plant, emphasizing the balance of nature. Valerie, inspired by the visit, decided to bake a batch of vanilla and blueberry bread.

Back at her bakery, Valerie carefully blended the ingredients, mindful of the delicate balance between the vanilla and blueberry flavors. The aroma of the baking bread filled the air, inviting passersby to visit. Among them was Victor, who was delighted to see the influence of his garden in Valerie's baking.

Their collaboration highlighted the beauty of blending different fields - biology and baking, in this case. This partnership not only brought Valerie and Victor closer but also added a unique flavor to the community of Valbrook.

EXERCISE 1: Multiple-Choice Questions

1. vibrant - bakery
2. veteran - visible
3. biology - bubble
4. venture - ribbon
5. vivid - bribe
6. blooms - valve
7. breeze - behave
8. batch - voyage
9. vegetation - obverse
10. balance - above



EXERCISE 2: Fill-in-the-Gaps

Complete the sentences using the words from the reading passage.

1. Valerie is a _____ who runs a popular bakery.
2. Victor manages a _____ garden.

3. The bakery is known for its _____ of breads.
4. The garden showcases _____ colors.
5. They collaborated to highlight the _____ of different fields.
6. Valerie blended the ingredients _____.
7. Victor is an _____ biologist.
8. The bread had a _____ and blueberry flavor.
9. The garden had a _____ array of plants.
10. Their partnership added a unique _____ to the community.



EXERCISE 3: Vocabulary Matching

Match the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A	Column B
vibrant	different kinds, assortment
veteran	welcoming, tempting
venture	type of scientist
biologist	harmony or equilibrium
blend	experienced person

balance	one of a kind, distinctive
variety	full of life, energetic
delicate	to go on an undertaking or journey
inviting	fine, easily damaged
unique	to mix together



EXERCISE 4: Discussion Questions

1. Do you find it challenging to pronounce the /b/ and /v/ sounds correctly? Why or why not?
2. Are there similar sounds in your native language that are not present in English? How do they compare to /b/ and /v/?
3. What strategies or techniques do you use to improve your pronunciation of English sounds?
4. Can you think of any minimal pairs in English that involve other sounds besides /b/ and /v/? Share some examples.
5. How important do you think pronunciation is when learning a new language? Explain your viewpoint.
6. Describe a situation where mispronouncing the /b/ or /v/ sound could lead to misunderstanding.

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7. Have you ever encountered words in English where the /b/ and /v/ sounds change the meaning significantly? Share some examples.
 8. How often do you practice pronunciation in your English learning journey?
 9. Are there any tongue twisters or exercises you use to improve your pronunciation?
 10. Do you feel more confident in your pronunciation after completing this worksheet?