WHAT VIDEO GAMES CAN TEACH US / THE VIOLENT SIDE OF VIDEO GAMES

Vocabulary Strategy

CHOOSE THE BEST SYNONYM

Words that have the same or similar meaning are called synonyms. A word can have many synonyms, so a writer has to choose carefully. For example, the vocabulary word captivating describes a video game that holds or captures interest better than its synonym interesting would. In a thesaurus (a book or electronic tool for finding synonyms), the word captivating is also grouped with words such as fascinating and spellbinding.

Directions: For each sentence, underline the synonym in parentheses that best replaces the boldfaced word in the context provided. Consult a dictionary or thesaurus for help.

1. Kelly put the pie on the top shelf hoping her brothers wouldn’t find it. (expose, notice)
2. Alex was running late and still had to rush home before the game. (hurry, accelerate)
3. José liked the diner because the portions were tasty and not too big. (servings, pieces)
4. The defendant firmly denied that she had committed the crime. (stiffly, strongly)
5. The camping trip was memorable for the beautiful views and clean air. (fresh, tidy)
6. All the food smelled so delicious, Dora couldn’t make a decision. (tasteful, delectable)
7. Dan spent part of his Saturday helping the old man next door (elderly, decrepit)
8. Eva decided it was a fine day to take a casual stroll around town. (leisurely, slow)
9. Due to her busy schedule, Maddie decided to get up an hour earlier. (restless, hectic)
10. The cake was so delicious, Ed cut himself another large piece. (colossal, ample)
11. There was nothing Julian liked better than a hot summer day. (sultry, boiling)
12. Aaron woke up that morning to the smell of his mother’s cookies. (odor, aroma)
13. Dana’s team won the game after she belted a home run. (smashed, chopped)
14. It seemed as though Steve could look at his new bike for hours. (glance, stare)