

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

1. To stall or act evasively in order to gain time is to:
  - Ⓐ elaborate
  - Ⓑ temporize
  - Ⓒ accrue
  - Ⓓ recapitulate
2. A position that is capable of being held or defended can be described as:
  - Ⓐ tenable
  - Ⓑ covert
  - Ⓒ indefensible
  - Ⓓ nebulous
3. Which of the following might be another word for *exploration*?
  - Ⓐ reconnaissance
  - Ⓑ hiatus
  - Ⓒ inception
  - Ⓓ reprisal
4. If power or control over something has been claimed or taken without right, it has been:
  - Ⓐ abdicated
  - Ⓑ renounced
  - Ⓒ thwarted
  - Ⓓ arrogated

Being on our school's debate team has done wonders for me. When I look back at myself, I can see that I used to be quite ineffective when I wanted to persuade someone to take action or to share my opinion. I would go on and on and *belabor* my point until the other person stopped listening and only pretended to pay attention. That's because he or she actually thought that I was mindlessly spewing *banal* comments or engaging in tedious *carping*. Now my speaking skills are vastly improved. I can be both brief and *coherent*, bringing up only ideas that are *germane* to my argument, along with reasons and examples to *substantiate* it. In short, I feel that preparing for debates has been like a workout program for my mind.

5. To *belabor* (line 3) a point is to:
  - Ⓐ avoid it
  - Ⓑ memorize it
  - Ⓒ overwork it
  - Ⓓ question it
6. Which of the following words could not be used to replace *banal* (line 4)?
  - Ⓐ trite
  - Ⓑ fresh
  - Ⓒ hackneyed
  - Ⓓ insipid
7. In line 5, *carping* means:
  - Ⓐ criticism
  - Ⓑ moralizing
  - Ⓒ instruction
  - Ⓓ apology
8. Which of the following words could be used to replace *coherent* (line 5)?
  - Ⓐ comprehensible
  - Ⓑ disjointed
  - Ⓒ muddled
  - Ⓓ persuasive
9. If ideas are *germane* (line 6) to an argument, they are:
  - Ⓐ foreign
  - Ⓑ inappropriate
  - Ⓒ relevant
  - Ⓓ extraneous
10. To *substantiate* an argument (line 6) is to:
  - Ⓐ validate it
  - Ⓑ disprove it
  - Ⓒ present it
  - Ⓓ refute it