

Answers

A) Match the phrases to the definitions

Based on the context of the article, can you match the words in the box to the definitions listed below? Then add the word into the example sentence. You may need to change the form of the word to fit the meaning of the sentence.

conscientious	meticulous/thorough	to the letter	to take on
to go the extra mile	to strive to	driven	
Extensive experience	profound knowledge	to draw on	

1. To accept a new task, a new responsibility or a new client: **to take on**

*"I have decided to **take on** some new students."*

2. Extremely motivated to achieve a goal: **driven**

*"I consider myself to be a really **driven** person."*

3. A large amount of experience: **extensive experience**

*"I have **extensive experience** in project management, so I believe that I have a lot to offer your company."*

4. To do more than what is expected of you: **to go the extra mile**

*"I will always **go the extra mile** to help my colleagues if they are unsure about a task."*

5. To use your experience, knowledge or skills as a resource: **to draw on**

*"It was a situation that we had never been in before, so I had to **draw on** my experience in order to find a solution."*

*"Thankfully, as a team we have a lot of experience to **draw on**."*

6. Very careful and precise, paying attention to detail: **meticulous/thorough**

*"She is very **meticulous** when she checks the accuracy of the figures."*

7. Deep knowledge: **profound knowledge**

*"He has a **profound knowledge** of how the industry really works."*

8. Wishing to do your work to the best of your ability: **conscientious**

*"We are an extremely **conscientious** company, who hold ourselves to the highest standards."*

9. Doing exactly what the task requires: **to the letter**

*"We had a detailed plan, and we carried it out **to the letter**. I believe that is why we were so successful."*

10. To make a great effort to do something: **to strive to**

*"We **strive to** provide a high-end service for our customers."*

*"Unfortunately we are experiencing some technical problems at the moment. We **are striving** to solve them as soon as possible."*

B) Key Words in a New Context

The Conscientious English Teacher

My name is John, and I am an English teacher from the USA with over 10 years' experience.

I am looking to **take on** some really **driven/conscientious** students, who are ambitious and highly motivated to take their English to the next level.

All of my courses begin with a trial lesson, where we discuss your needs and your goals for your future English development. During the trial lesson, I make **meticulous** notes about all of your needs, strengths and weaknesses as an English speaker. I then take these notes and put together a course which I believe will be most suitable for your development. With all of my students, I **strive** to tailor my courses to your specific needs.

When lessons begin, I always **go the extra mile** for my students by providing extra materials and offering additional optional homework for the most **conscientious/driven** English learners. I also go to great lengths to answer any questions that you have about your English outside of lessons.

With my 10 years' of **extensive experience** in English teaching, I have a **profound knowledge** of the grammar concepts that you might be struggling with, as well as a deep understanding of the vocabulary that you will need in order to make significant progress. All vocabulary that we have learnt is recorded in a Google document, which is used as a basis for revision and implementation in speaking. The idea is that after a few lessons, we will already have a large bank of vocabulary that you can **draw on** in your active speaking.

C) Comprehension Questions

- Based on context, can you think of a synonym for the verb 'to tailor' in paragraph 3?
To 'tailor' something means to adapt something according to a particular person's or client's needs.
- Can you think of a synonym for the idiom 'to go to great lengths to do something' in paragraph 4?
To go to great lengths to do something is to make a really big effort to do something. We could say a synonym here is 'to strive' to do something.

3. In the final paragraph, the article mentions drawing on vocabulary to use in your active speaking. If we can draw on anything related to knowledge or skills, can you think of some further examples of phrases with 'draw on'?

If we can draw on knowledge, we can also draw on information, or draw on data.

We can also draw on our strengths or our expertise.