

Grade 8 English First Additional Language Worksheet

Dictionary skills

Activity 1

Look at the following extract adapted from *Collins Cobuild Essential English Dictionary* and then answer the questions which follow:

centre spelled center in American English *n count* 1 The **centre** of something is the middle of it. EG *He moved the table over to the centre of the room.* used as an adjective EG *a black wig with a centre parting.*

2 a **centre** is a building where people have meetings, get help of some kind, or take part in a particular activity. EG *a new arts centre ...*

3 If an area or town is a **centre** for an industry or activity, that industry or activity is very important there. EG *The region began as a centre for sheep-farming.*

4 The **centre** of an event or activity is the most important thing involved. EG *Mnisi was right at the centre of the action.*

5 If something is the **centre** of attention or interest, people give it a lot of attention EG *The television screen remained the centre of attention.*

vb to put something in the middle of an area

- **centre around** or **centre on** *phrasal verb* If something **centres around** a person or thing or **centres on** them, that person or thing is the main feature or subject of attention EG *the workers' demands centred around pay and conditions.*
- **central** *adj* Something that is central is in the middle of a place or area. EG *The houses are arranged around a central courtyard.*
- **centrally** *adv* EG *The pin is centrally positioned on the circle.*
- **centralise** *verb* **centralises, centralising, centralised**; To **centralise** a country or state means to create a system of government in which one central group of people gives instructions to regional groups. EG *We believe in a strong centralised state.*

centralisation EG *large-scale technology brings centralisation.*

1. Which meaning of the word 'centre' is being used in the following sentences:
 - 2.
 - 1.1 I am going to take my grandmother to the new health centre.
 - 1.2 Cheyenne was right at the centre of the party, and everyone was interested in her.
 - 1.3 Please put the vase of roses in the centre of the table. (3)
2. Choose the most suitable word from the dictionary entries above to complete each of the following sentences. Write down only the question number and the word you have chosen.
 - 2.1. The flat is in a good place because it is in a position. (1)
 - 2.2 The workers want to all the payments so that they come from one place. (1)

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|-----|---|-----|
| 2.3 | We all want to go to the shopping this morning. | (1) |
| 2.4 | The debate around how we can reduce greenhouse gases. | (1) |
| 2.5 | all the headings in this document. | (1) |
| 2.6 | The rose is placed with all the other flowers around it. | (1) |
| 2.7 | There is a new garden where I think we should have lunch. | (1) |

[10]

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Suggested Solutions

- 1.1 meaning 2
1.2 meaning 5
1.3 meaning 1 (3)
- 2.1. The flat is in a good place because it is in a central position. (1)
2.2 The workers want to centralise all the payments so that they come from one place. (1)
2.3 We all want to go to the shopping centre this morning. (1)
2.4 The debate centres/centred around how we can reduce greenhouse gases. (1)
2.5 Centre all the headings in this document. (1)
2.6 The rose is placed centrally with all the other flowers around it. (1)
2.7 There is a new garden centre where I think we should have lunch. (1)

[10]