

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Should Fidget Spinners Be Allowed at School?"

1. alleged (uh-LEJD or uh-LEJ-id) *adjective*; If something is *alleged*, someone has claimed that it is true but without proof. This doesn't mean that it *isn't* true; it might very well be true—there just isn't any proof. *Alleged* is often used to refer to people who are suspected of a crime but have not yet gone to court and are therefore still presumed innocent. For example, a newspaper article might say, "The alleged thief was arrested shortly after 10 a.m."

Alleged can also be used to mean "so-called" or "supposed," as in, "Who is this alleged friend of yours? He doesn't sound like a friend at all!"

2. concrete (KON-kreet or kon-KREET) *noun or adjective*; Concrete (KON-kreet) is a pourable mixture of cement, sand, broken rocks, and water that hardens into a strong building material. Highways and sidewalks are made of concrete.

The adjective *concrete* (kon-KREET) means "real or solid." If you have some ideas about what you might do this weekend but you haven't committed to anything yet, you could say that you don't have concrete plans for the weekend. Your dad might ask if you have any concrete evidence that your sister ate the last cupcake, as you claim that she did.

3. drawback (DRAW-bak) *noun*; A drawback is a disadvantage or an undesirable feature. One major drawback of smartphones is the need to constantly charge them.

4. impede (im-PEED) *verb*; *Impede* means "to interfere with or slow the progress of." Watching TV and texting while doing homework might impede your ability to finish your assignments.

5. relatively (REL-uh-tiv-lee) *adverb*; *Relatively* means "when compared with others." In the middle of winter, a 60-degree day might feel relatively warm—but in the middle of the summer, a 60-degree day might feel relatively cool.

Relatively is also often used to mean "somewhat." If you thought *Guardians of the Galaxy 2* was kind of a funny movie, but not *that* funny, you might describe it as relatively funny.

Directions: On the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Should Fidget Spinners Be Allowed at School?"

Directions: Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. impede

- Ⓐ help Ⓑ delay

2. drawback

- Ⓐ flaw Ⓑ benefit

3. concrete

- Ⓐ fake Ⓑ actual

4. relatively

- Ⓐ extremely Ⓑ sort of

Directions: For each statement below, fill in the circle to show whether you think it's true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

- 5.** If your neighbor is an **alleged** undercover FBI agent, your neighbor is definitely an undercover FBI agent.

- Ⓐ true Ⓑ false

Reason: _____

- 6.** A tall person wearing a hat who sits in front of you at the movies might **impede** your view of the screen.

- Ⓐ true Ⓑ false

Reason: _____

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

relatively concrete drawback alleged

- 7.** One disadvantage of having a snake for a pet is that you have to feed it rats.

- 8.** "There were not a lot of people at the game last night," said Mark. "The bleachers were fairly empty."

- 9.** The "alien encounter" that Max claims to have experienced took place in his backyard.

