

Cosmic Grammar and Galactic Vocabulary

Grammar & Vocabulary · Practice Test · 10 Questions

1. Which of the following astronomical terms is correctly spelled and most commonly used to describe a celestial body that orbits a star and is massive enough to be rounded by its own gravity, but has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit?

- A) Dwarf Planet
- B) Planetoid
- C) Sub-planet
- D) Minor Planet

2. Identify the grammatical structure that most accurately describes the function of the word 'transient' in the sentence: 'The transient glow of the supernova faded over months.'

- A) A noun signifying a short-lived event
- B) An adverb modifying the verb 'faded'
- C) An adjective describing the nature of the glow
- D) A preposition indicating duration

3. Which word, derived from Latin and meaning 'star-like,' is the most precise term for a star that is larger than the Sun but smaller than a red supergiant, often exhibiting a high surface temperature?

- A) Supernova
- B) Nebula
- C) Stellar Giant
- D) Blue Giant

4. Consider the sentence: 'The accretion disk surrounding the black hole emits intense radiation.' The word 'accretion' most accurately denotes which process in this context?

- A) The gradual build-up of matter onto a celestial body
- B) The expulsion of material from a celestial body
- C) The rapid collapse of a star
- D) The formation of planetary rings

5. What is the correct plural form of 'nebula,' a cloud of gas and dust in outer space visible in the night sky either as an indistinct bright patch or as a dark silhouette against other luminous matter?

- A) Nebulae
- B) Nebulas
- C) Nebulae's
- D) Nebulans

6. In the context of exoplanet detection, the word 'transit' refers to:

- A) The planet passing behind its star from the observer's perspective
- B) The star wobbling due to the planet's gravitational pull
- C) The planet emitting its own light
- D) The light from the star being blocked by the planet's atmosphere

7. Which of the following is a proper noun referring to the galaxy that contains our Solar System?

- A) Andromeda
- B) Milky Way
- C) Triangulum
- D) Whirlpool

8. The term 'exoplanet' is a portmanteau. What are the two words that were combined to create it?

- A) Extra + Planet
- B) Exterior + Planet
- C) External + Planet
- D) Exotic + Planet

9. Identify the correct possessive form of 'Sirius,' the brightest star in Earth's night sky, when referring to its gravitational influence.

- A) Sirius's
- B) Sirius'
- C) SiriuSES
- D) Sirius-'

10. Which astronomical term describes the apparent path of the Sun against the background of stars throughout the year, and is also the name of a zodiacal constellation that the Sun passes through?

- A) Celestial Equator
- B) Ecliptic
- C) Galactic Plane
- D) Zenith