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All Academies  
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STUDY DATA - DEFINITION  
OF WORDS ERROR

A frequent and major error I have come across when giving checkouts is the following situation:-

Coach (or Examiner): "What does the word syncopated mean?"

Student: "What is the sentence it is in?"

Coach: "Jazz music has a syncopated rhythm."

Student: "Oh, well then that means jazz has an oom-pah beat."

Coach: "OK."

FLUNK!

Why? Well, in the first place giving the student the sentence allows the word syncopated (which the student does not understand on its own) to be given meaning by the context and thus disguised as a misunderstood.

Secondly he is rewording the sentence in different words so that one cannot tell from his answer whether he knows what syncopated means or not.

So the following rules apply -

1. YOU NEVER GIVE THE SENTENCE A WORD IS IN WHEN ASKING FOR ITS DEFINITION.
2. YOU ONLY ASK THE EXACT WORD YOU WANT A DEFINITION OF AND NOTHING MORE.

Proper examples of the above would be:-

Coach: "What does syncopated mean?"

Student: "What is the sentence it is in?"

Coach: "Thank you. What does the word syncopated mean?"

Student: - "Well, um, ... I know I know it!...."

Coach: "Flunk. Comm-lag. Look it up."

Or another example,

Coach: "What does syncopated mean?"

Student: "'Syn' means 'together' and 'copate' is from 'copee' which means 'to cut' so it means 'cut-together.'" In music this occurs when two normally separate notes are collapsed to make one longer one causing an emphasis to occur on the off-beat."

Coach: "Very good. Pass!"

You sometimes come across a word which has more than one meaning of course. Take the word "counsel" which has the meaning of advice but is also the English term for "Attorney". Well even here one can distinguish by asking either 'What is "A counsel?" or 'What does "counsel" mean?' If it was "council" one would spell out the word for the student.

In other words one would understand what you were trying to achieve and not enter into a Q and A on the subject.

Study data is very simple and it's for use. Use it well for a fast happy full course and lots of competent auditors.

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W/O Robin Lindsell  
Flag 4th Mate  
for  
L. RON HUBBARD  
Founder