

Distance Learning Schedule 8th Grade Reading

WEEK 1 April 6- April 10

Monday- Literary Devices and Figurative Language

Tuesday- Setting and Plot

Wednesday- Point of View notes and worksheet

Thursday- Summarize, paraphrase, and generalize ideas

Friday- Inferences Lesson

WEEK 2 April 13- April 17

Monday- “Examination day”

Tuesday and Wednesday- “The Most Dangerous Game”

Thursday and Friday- “Lamb to the Slaughter”

WEEK 3 April 20- April 24

Monday- Text structure lesson

Tuesday- Context Clues

Wednesday- Context Clues through short passages

Thursday- Punctuation powerpoint, lesson, and 2 practice worksheets

Friday- Capitalization

WEEK 4 April 27- May 1

Monday- “Dirty Air Can Harm Your Brain and Stress the Body.”

Tuesday- “Can DNA Editing Save Endangered Species?”

Wednesday- “Emmett Till”

Thursday- “Female WWII Pilots: The Original Fly Girls”

Friday- “Who Was Anna Frank?”

WEEK 5 May 4- May 8

Monday- Sentence Editing

Tuesday- Affixes worksheet

Wednesday- Multiple-meaning words

Thursday- Evaluating information

Friday- Genres of Writing

Edit your sentences for . . .

Transitions

- Transitions are phrases or words that are used to connect ideas.
- Transitions help link ideas in a text, making the flow of ideas smoother. The transitional word being used may differ based on the ideas in the sentences.
- For example, "however" and "but" can be used for linking two contrasting ideas. "To be precise" or "in fact" can be used to make an idea clearer. "Furthermore," "Moreover," or "In addition" can be used when additional information needs to be presented. "As a result," "Consequently," "Therefore," or "Thus" can be used to emphasize a consequence, effect, or to serve as a concluding sentence.

Read the following passage carefully.

(1) Janice wanted a new bicycle for her 10th birthday because her old bike had been wrecked in a recent fall. (2) Her parents presented her with a giant doll house. (3) As she unwrapped the gift, her face fell. (4) For the past two weeks she had been dreaming about riding around the neighborhood with her friends. (5) She had imagined herself smelling the fresh grass and soaking up the sun's warmth as she rode along the lawns and houses. (6) But she immediately changed her expression to a smile so that her parents wouldn't see her disappointment.

1) Which transition should be used at the beginning of sentence 2?

1. However,
2. Although,
3. As a result,
4. In fact,

Explanation: The correct answer is A, "However,". The ideas in sentence 1 and sentence 2 are contrasting, and thus should be connected with a transitional word or phrase that highlights the contrast of ideas.

2) Which transition should be used at the beginning of sentence 5?

1. Moreover,
2. Otherwise,
3. In other words,
4. To be specific,

Explanation: The correct answer is A, "Moreover,". The idea in sentence 5 is an addition to the idea in sentence 4. Janice wanted to ride around the neighborhood with her friends and she also wanted to smell the fresh grass and soak in the sun's warmth. Thus, the two sentences should be connected with a transition that highlights the addition of ideas.

Point of View

- Consistency in point of view throughout a text is one of the most important factors when editing text.
- The text should be edited in such a way that it uses only one point of view—the first person point of view, second person point of view, or third person point of view.
- The first person point of view will consistently use the pronouns "I," "me," or "my" for singular form and "we" or "us" for plural form. The second person point of view will consistently use the pronouns "you" and "your" for both singular and plural forms. The third person point of view will consistently use the pronouns "she/he," "him/her" "person/one," for singular form and "them/they" or "their" for plural form.
- In explanatory or persuasive texts, maintaining a consistent point of view goes beyond proper pronoun usage. In a persuasive text, the author normally takes a

stand about a topic. The author has to ensure that he or she does not drift from the standpoint as the text progresses.

Read the following passage carefully.

(1) Baking is one of the most challenging yet enjoyable hobbies that one can have. (2) Baking isn't like ordinary cooking where I can add various ingredients according to my liking and whip up a delicious dish. (3) Baking requires precision, patience, and a steady hand to manage intricate dishes such as crepes or puff pastries. (4) Baking also requires concentration, as leaving a cake in the oven for too long can be disastrous. (5) However, baking can be as relaxing as knitting a sweater for people who are practiced in it. (6) Nevertheless, the secret to a successful get-together is a tray of hot, baked goodies, straight out of the oven. (7) After all, who can resist a mouthwatering chocolate chip cookie?

1) How should sentence 2 be edited to make the point of view consistent throughout the passage?

1. Baking isn't like ordinary cooking where a person can add various ingredients according to their liking and whip up a delicious dish.
2. Baking isn't like ordinary cooking where you can add various ingredients according to your liking and whip up a delicious dish.
3. Baking isn't like ordinary cooking where people can add various ingredients according to their liking and whip up a delicious dish.
4. Baking isn't like ordinary cooking where we can add various ingredients according to our liking and whip up a delicious dish.

Explanation: The correct answer is C. The passage uses the third person plural point of view. Thus, the correct answer changes the pronouns "I" and "my" in sentence 2 to

"people" and "their" so that the third person plural point of view is maintained throughout the passage.

2) Which sentence should be eliminated from the passage so that the author's point of view remains consistent?

1. sentence 5
2. sentence 7
3. sentence 1
4. sentence 6

Explanation: The correct answer is A. Throughout the passage, the author emphasizes that baking is a challenging task that requires a lot of effort. The only sentence in the passage that goes against this point of view is sentence 5. Thus, this sentence should be eliminated from the passage so that the author's point of view remains consistent.

Rhythm

- Be sure that no parts of the paper are "short and choppy"; be sure that the rhythm of your paper is not interrupted, except for a good reason, like emphasis. A good way of smoothing out such a problem is to try combining sentences, and in so doing showing the relationship between them.
 - **Original:** The best show in terms of creating a tense atmosphere is *Jeopardy*. This is probably the most famous of all games shows. It is my favorite show.
 - **Revision:** The best show in terms of creating a tense atmosphere is *Jeopardy*, which is also probably the most famous of all game shows and happens to be my favorite.

Subject/verb agreement

1. Find the main verb in each sentence.
2. Match the verb to its subject.
3. Make sure that the subject and verb agree in number.

Pronoun reference/agreement

1. Skim your paper, stopping at each pronoun. Look especially at *it*, *this*, *they*, *their*, and *them*.
2. Search for the noun that the pronoun replaces. If you can't find any noun, insert one before the pronoun or change the pronoun to a noun. If you can find a noun, be sure it agrees in number and person with your pronoun.

Parallel structure

1. Skim your paper, stopping at key words that signal parallel structures. Look especially for the following: and, or, not only . . . but also, either . . . or, neither . . . nor, both . . . and.
2. Make sure that the items connected by these words (adjectives, nouns, phrases, etc.) are in the same grammatical form.

Spelling

1. Examine each word in the paper individually. Move from the end of each line back to the beginning. Pointing with a pencil helps you really see each word.
2. If necessary, check a dictionary to see that each word is spelled correctly.

Compound sentence commas

1. Skim for conjunctions: and, but, for, or, nor, so, and yet.

2. See whether there is a complete sentence on each side of the conjunction. If so, place a comma before the conjunction.

Introductory commas

1. Skim your paper, looking only at the first two or three words of each sentence.
2. Stop if one of these words is a dependent marker, a transition word, a participle, or a preposition.
3. Listen for a possible break point before the main clause.
4. Place a comma at the end of the introductory phrase or clause (which is before the independent clause).

Comma splices

1. Skim the paper, stopping at every comma.
2. See whether there is a complete sentence on each side of the comma. If so, add a coordinating conjunction after the comma, replace the comma with a semicolon, or divide into two sentences.

Fragments

1. Look at each sentence to see whether it contains an independent clause.
2. Pay special attention to sentences that begin with dependent marker words (such as "because") or phrases such as "for example" or "such as."
3. See if the sentence might be just a piece of the previous sentence that mistakenly got separated by a period.

Run-on sentences

1. Review each sentence to see whether it contains more than one independent clause. Start with the last sentence of your paper, and work your way back to the beginning, sentence by sentence.

2. Break the sentence into two sentences if necessary.

Left-out words

1. Read the paper aloud, pointing to every word as you read. Don't let your eye move ahead until you spot each word.
2. Also, make sure that you haven't doubled any words.

Study Island

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1. This afternoon my mom was home for lunch. She wanted to know about my schedule for the day. My mom asked, "Do you have band practice after school?" I told her I did, and she asked me if I needed a ride home.

What type of error can be found in the paragraph above?

- A. punctuation
- B. subject/verb agreement
- C. spelling
- D. capitalization

Art started out as a hobby for me. I had always been interested in painting. I didn't think I had the ability to do it well.

_____, I couldn't draw a straight line. _____ I'm still not sure that I can draw one now. First, I signed up for a beginner's painting class. _____ I found out I loved painting and was actually pretty good at it.

2. Which word best fills in the blank?

_____ I found out I loved painting and was actually pretty good at it.

- A. Also,
- B. As a result,
- C. On the other hand,
- D. Since,

3. Not long after we left I began to notice a knocking sound in my car. _____, there had only been the purr of the motor.

Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

- A. Another
- B. Before
- C. Similarly
- D. Generally

4. Which of the following sentences contains a spelling error?

- A. I knew every correct anser on the test.
- B. We have a history exam next Thursday.
- C. Jill was very glad to receive an A on the test.
- D. I am glad that test is over.

You may have seen little ceramic or plastic creatures with pointed hats and beards in the gardens around your neighborhood. Those tiny, human-looking figures are called garden gnomes.

Gnomes were first shown in European mythology. _____ their attributes are different depending on the story and the storytellers, gnomes are consistently described as having humanlike features. They also live underground. Myths about gnomes say they can walk through solid earth as easily as humans move through air. In several countries, people have reported seeing real gnomes.

Today, garden gnomes are used for decoration. They originated in Germany during the 1800s. They became popular with gardeners around the world. Some myths say that they come to life and help care for gardens when no one is around. Their magic powers help the flowers bloom and the leaves change color.

People sometimes steal gnomes and attempt to "return them to the wild." They say the gnomes should not be forced to work in gardens. The "kidnapped" gnomes are often taken on trips around the world. They are photographed at famous landmarks. The pictures are sent to their owners. This traveling gnome prank has been used in movies and video games.

5. What word is used as a transition in paragraph 3?

- A. around
- B. Today
- C. consistently
- D. Myths

(1) Few people know that the seminal 1975 movie *Jaws* almost never happened. (2) The main character of the shark itself had so many technical mishaps and malfunctions that it set the filming back for 4 weeks. (3) In fact at one point, the shark sank to the bottom of the oceans near Martha's Vineyard. (4) During that time director Steven Spielberg began growing more and more frustrated. (5) In the end, he decided to use the malfunction to his advantage. (6) It forced him to make the shark's appearance happen midway through the film. (7) This played on the audience's sense of fear since it knew a shark was attacking the characters, but it didn't see the shark right away. (8) The movie worked, and audiences were terrified. (9) Some vowed to never enter any body of water ever again.

(10) The movie proved so effective in scaring people that many left the theater with a fear of sharks. (11) Some even went as far as to hunt down sharks as they thought them all to be man-eating monsters. (12) Thirty years later we now know more about sharks than what was taken from the theaters. (13) We know that many sharks are on the endangered species list. (14) We also know that more people are killed by lightning each year than are eaten by sharks. (15) We even know that sharks should be more terrified of humans than humans are of sharks since mass hunting is one reason many sharks are endangered. (16) In fact, Peter Benchley, the author of the novel *Jaws*, the book that inspired the movie, became a shark conservationist, trying to educate the public he once helped to terrify. (17) Benchley once said, ". . . for every human life taken by a shark, 4.5 million sharks are killed by humans."

6. What change, if any, should be made to sentence 7?

- A. Change new to knew.
- B. Replace the period with an exclamation point.
- C. Make no change.
- D. Capitalize shark.

7. Carolyn woke up late this morning. _____, she missed her bus.

Choose the linking word or phrase that best fits in the sentence above.

- A. Finally
- B. Consequently
- C. Earlier
- D. For example

8. What type of error can be found in the paragraph below?

Every year, people come from all over the world to visit Walt Disney World in Florida. Many people visit from as far away as Europe, Asia, and South America. Disney World, with its many theme parks, is a fun place to visit for people of all ages and nationalities.

- A. capitalization
- B. spelling
- C. punctuation
- D. subject verb agreement

After more than 30 minutes of sitting in the sun waiting for a tow truck to come, Dawn was tired and frustrated. I'm tired of just sitting here waiting. She thought that maybe since she'd spent so much time in mechanic shops, some of their repair skills had rubbed off on her.

First, Dawn figured out how to open the hood. That was quite the accomplishment for someone who had never so much as held a screw driver. "Okay, I've got this under control," she said to herself.

Next, Dawn tried to figure out where the smoke she saw may have been coming from. "I have no clue what any of this stuff under here is; nevertheless, I am pretty sure I can figure it out."

Then, she burned her hand on one of the hot metal pieces near what she thought might be the engine.

"I can't take it anymore!" Dawn screamed and slammed the hood of her car down. "This piece of a car has broken down on me for the last time."

"I looked at so many cars before I decided on this one. I can't believe I got stuck with a lemon!"

She thought back to the day she first saw the car online. It had seemed so perfect, Dawn thought. The whole way to the car dealership she had prayed it would be as nice as the pictures online.

For the most part, the cars she had seen up until then had been complete junkers. It hadn't taken her a minute to make up her mind not to buy them. Thus, it was a major surprise for her to see that the car looked even better than its pictures. The car was in her price range, too. After all the trouble Dawn had gone through, this car seemed too good to be true.

Also, she never test drove the car for herself. Maybe that's where I went wrong? Dawn thought. The next day after she bought the car, it started acting weird. It jerked every time she tried to press the gas and acted like it was going to stop.

Finally, the tow truck arrived, and she was snapped out of her memories. Dawn was once again transported to her mechanic. All in all, I guess dealing with this car situation has taught me patience and perseverance, Dawn thought.

9. Read the following sentence from the passage.

Thus, it was a major surprise for her to see that the car looked even better than its pictures.

What is the purpose of the linking word Thus in this sentence from the passage?

- A. to show cause and effect
- B. to summarize an event
- C. to indicate a sequence
- D. to provide an illustration

10. Which of the following sentences contains an error in word choice?

- A. Our school is selling calendars for the annual fundraiser.
- B. Everyone knew about the party except Kate.
- C. Mr. Hart assigned everyone a part in the new play.
- D. My brother worried that he had not studied hard enough for the test.

(1) Its official name is "Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress," but the castle has historically been called "The Tower" or "London Tower." (2) It served as a fortress, a royal palace, a zoo, and the national mint. (3) It is most famous for being a prison. (4) Many well-known figures spent time behind bars at London Tower. (5) Queen of England Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Queen Elizabeth I, and Sir Walter Raleigh are just a few.

(6) The Tower of London is where the ceremonial regalia, known as Crown Jewels, of the English monarchs are kept and guarded. (7) The crowns and other symbolic items used in English coronations are on display for the public at the Tower.

(8) The Tower has been home to seven ravens. (9) Although no royalty currently resides there, the Tower is guarded by Yeoman Warders, who are retired military officers. (10) They live and work at the Tower.

11. Which linking word or phrase could be added to sentence 8 to improve the passage's flow?

- A. As a result,
- B. Chiefly,
- C. For many years,
- D. Therefore,

(1) Murray walked closely behind Gerard. (2) They were both crouched low, and Murray could sense the effect it was having on his back. (3) Catching his breath Murray closed his eyes and imagined the pain he felt piercing at his back was just a mosquito. (4) The mosquitoes swarmed around them both due to the humidity lingering in the air. (5) Their buzzing had become a sort of mantra—almost like a prayer one says to one's self over and over again. (6) This was the longest that Gerard and Murray had been away from base camp, and Murray was

beginning to think Gerard was lost. (7) It would have been the first time since Gerard was the best tracker in the unit. (8) Even with Gerard leading, Murray had his doubts. (9) This was the first outing where they didn't come back with food, and it was getting later with every flap of the mosquitoes wings.

(10) By 5 in the morning, the trip had taken his toll, and Murray had an aching back, flooding water in his boots, and a grumbling stomach that was so loud it almost gave away their position. (11) In their last three outings, the island natives, the people the unit was feuding with, seemed to be getting closer and closer to base camp. (12) It was clear they had crossed the neutral zone, it also meant there were fewer places for the unit to fall back to should the natives attack.

(13) If they did decide to hit the unit, the only place left for them to retreat was the beach. (14) The beach would have to be the last stand, but it also meant no fresh water, limited food, and the danger of storms. (15) Murray was beginning to wonder if they should just give up and save themselves from all of the crouching and creeping around in the jungle. (16) He was beginning to wonder how things were on the other side of the island.

adapted from "The Winter Soldiers" by c.safos

12. What change, if any, should be made to sentence 15?

- A. Make no change.
- B. Capitalize jungle.
- C. Insert a comma after up.
- D. Insert a semicolon after wonder.

13. Which of the following sentences contains an error?

- A. About four months ago, Andy decided to learn to ice skate.
- B. Kim needs to buy some stationary to complete her English assignment.
- C. Kale likes performing science experiments at home.
- D. Aziz practices the piano for three hours every day.

14. Which of the following sentences contains an error in usage?

- A. My sister and I always ride the bus together in the afternoons.
 - B. The band played for fifteen minutes before the play began.
 - C. Yesterday, my class take a field trip to the new planetarium.
 - D. Will Enrique arrive late to the game once again?
-

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. A
13. B
14. C

Explanations

1. The third sentence is missing an opening quotation mark. It should read: My mom asked, "Do you have band practice after school?"
2. This sentence tells the reader what the result of the writer signing up for a painting class was. The answer choice As a result best fits here.
3. The first sentence tells you when the speaker first hears the knocking sound. This is a clue that a good linking word to use in the second sentence could be one that is related to time or sequence. Before is the best answer choice to use here.
4. I knew every correct answer on the test. Correct spelling: answer
5. Transitions, or linking words, help make connections. In this case, using the word "Today" as a linking word helps the reader transition from the history and mythology of gnomes in the second paragraph to the modern-day use of garden gnomes in the third.
6. Knew and new may be pronounced the same way, but they mean entirely different things. Knew is the past tense of the verb know.
7. Carolyn missed her bus as a result of waking up late this morning. Consequently is the only transition listed that indicates a result of an event.
8. Europe, Asia, and South America are proper nouns and must be capitalized.
9. Linking words help make connections. In this case, the word Thus is used to show the effect of the previous sentence. Readers learn that the cars Dawn saw before she purchased her car were all bad. As a result, she was very surprised to see that the car she bought looked better than its pictures.
10. Everyone knew about the party except Kate. The sentence should read: Everyone knew about the party except Kate.

11. The linking phrase "For many years" best introduces the information in sentence 8 and creates flow in the passage.
12. This sentence is grammatically correct and requires no change.
13. "Stationary" means something that is motionless, while "stationery" means materials used in writing such as paper, pens, pencils, and ink. The word "stationery" would make better sense for the given sentence. The sentence should read, "Kim needs to buy some stationery in order to complete her English assignment."
14. Yesterday, my class take a field trip to the new planetarium.

The sentence contains an error in verb tense. The sentence should read:

Yesterday, my class took a field trip to the new planetarium.

Working with Morphemes/Affixes Name _____

Aim: How can morphemes help me to determine meaning?

Mini lesson-- Morphemes, or affixes, are the smallest meaningful element of speech or writing. Morphemes include prefixes and suffixes and root words. You can use these to deconstruct and reconstruct words.

Independent Practice—Study the prefixes, roots and suffixes in the chart below.

Prefix	root	Suffix
ab-away	bio-life	ate-to become associated with
auto-self	cred-believe	ible-cable of being
co-together	derm-skin	ic-having the nature of
com-with	dict-to say	ion-the result of
contra-against	duct-to lead	ize-to become
endo-within	fect- to make	ment-state of
hypo-under	graph-write	tion-the result of
In-not	medic-physician	y-a version of
para-beside	ordin-order	
re-again	part-piece or portion	
	scop-to see	
	vis-to look	
	vital-full of life	

Now, take each word apart. Consider the prefix, root and suffix meaning of each word to create a definition that shows a real understanding of the word. An example has been done for you.

Word	Prefix and Definition	Root and Definition	Suffix and Definition	Complete definition
revitalize	<i>Re-again</i>	<i>Vital-full of life</i>	<i>ize – to become</i>	<i>To become full of life again</i>
contradictory				
compartment				
hypodermic				
coordinate				
abduction				
credible				

endoscopic				
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Working with Morphemes **Name** _____ **Date** _____

Directions: Write out six sentences with context clues using six of the words above. Remember, context clues give the reader a clue as to what the word means. An example is given.

Example: His words were **credible**, which is why he was found innocent.

word	sentence

Challenge: Think of a word that is not on the list. Identify its prefix, root, and suffix. Write a sentence for it.

word	prefix	root	suffix
Sentence			

Answer Key

Word	Prefix and Definition	Root and Definition	Suffix and Definition	Complete definition
revitalize	<i>Re-again</i>	<i>Vital-full of life</i>	<i>ize – to become</i>	<i>to become full of life again</i>
contradictory	contra-against	dict-to say	y-a version of	against a version of what is said
compartment	com-with	part-piece or portion	ment-state of	state if being with a part
hypodermic	hypo-under	derm-skin	lc-having the nature of	having the nature of being under the skin
coordinate	co-together	ordin-order	ate-to become associated with	to become associated with order together
abduction	ab-away	duct-lead away	tion-the result of	the result of being lead away
credible		cred-believe	ible-capable of being	capable of being believed
endoscopic	Endo-within	Scop-to see	lc-having the nature of	having the nature of seeing within

Commonly Confused Words

Words that sound alike can cause trouble for writers. There are many words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. Some of these words are homophones. Homophones are words that are pronounced the same but differ in meaning and sometimes spelling. When writing, it is important to choose the correct word. Below are some examples of commonly confused words.

Their, There, They're

- Their = possessive pronoun: They got **their** books.
- There = that place: My house is over **there**.
- They're = contraction for *they are*: **They're** making dinner.

Its, It's

- Its = possessive pronoun: The crab had an unusual growth on **its** shell.
- It's = contraction for *it is* or *it has* (in a verb phrase): **It's** still raining; **it's** been raining for three days.

We're, Where, Were

- We're = contraction for *we are*: **We're** glad to help.
- Where = location: **Where** are you going?
- Were = a past tense form of the verb *to be*: They **were** walking side by side.

Your, You're

- Your = possessive pronoun: **Your** shoes are untied.
- You're = contraction for *you are*: **You're** walking around with your shoes untied.

To, Too, Two

- To = preposition, or first part of the infinitive form of a verb: They went **to** the lake **to** swim.
- Too = very, also: I was **too** tired to continue. I was hungry, **too**.
- Two = the number 2: **Two** students scored below passing on the exam.

Than, Then

- Than
 - used in comparison statements: He is richer **than** I.
 - used in statements of preference: I would rather dance **than** eat.
 - used to suggest quantities beyond a specified amount: Read more **than** the first paragraph.
- Then
 - a time other than now: He was younger **then**. She will start her new job **then**.
 - next in time, space, or order: First we must study; **then** we can play.
 - suggesting a logical conclusion: If you've studied hard, **then** the exam should be no problem.

Accept, Except

- accept = verb meaning to receive or to agree: He **accepted** their praise graciously.
- except = preposition meaning all but, other than: Everyone went to the game **except** Alyson.

Affect, Effect

- affect = verb meaning to influence: Will lack of sleep **affect** your game?
- effect = noun meaning result or consequence: Will lack of sleep have an **effect** on your game?
- effect = verb meaning to bring about, to accomplish: Our efforts **have effected** a major change in university policy.

Advise, Advice

- advise = verb that means to recommend, suggest, or counsel: I **advise** you to be cautious.
- advice = noun that means an opinion or recommendation about what could or should be done: I'd like to ask for your **advice** on this matter.

Conscious, Conscience

- conscious = adjective meaning awake, perceiving: Despite a head injury, the patient remained **conscious**.

- conscience = noun meaning the sense of obligation to be good: Chris wouldn't cheat because his **conscience** wouldn't let him.

Lead, Led

- lead = noun referring to a dense metallic element: The X-ray technician wore a vest lined with **lead**.
- led = past-tense and past-participle form of verb meaning to guide or direct: The evidence **led** the jury to reach a unanimous decision.

Bank, Bank

- bank = noun referring to a place where money is stored: Joanie went to the **bank** to put some money into savings.
- bank = noun referring to the area along the side of a river (riverbank): Trey's family liked to camp along the **bank** after they canoed down the river.

A few other helpful hints

- Pronouns have apostrophes only when two words are being shortened into one:
 - you're = you are
 - they're = they are
 - we're = we are
 - it's = it is or it has (in a verb phrase)
- Where, there, here:
 - These are all place words, and they all contain the word *here*.
- Two, to, too:
 - *Two*, *twelve*, and *between* are all words related to the number 2, and they all contain the letters *tw*.
 - *To* is a preposition: *I went **to** the ballgame.*
 - *Too* can mean *also* or can be an intensifier, and you might say that it contains an extra *o* ("one too many").

One Word or Two?

- **all ready**: used as an adjective to express complete preparedness
- **already**: an adverb expressing time
 - At last I was **all ready** to go, but everyone had **already** left.
- **all right**: used as an adjective or adverb; older and more formal spelling, more common in scientific and academic writing

- **alright:** alternate spelling of all right; less frequent but used often in journalistic and business publications, and especially common in fictional dialogue
 - Will you be **all right** on your own? (adjective)
 - He does **alright** in school. (adverb)
- **all together:** an adverb meaning considered as a whole, summed up
- **altogether:** an intensifying adverb meaning wholly, completely, entirely
 - **All together**, there were thirty-two students at the museum.
 - His comment raises an **altogether** different problem.
- **awhile:** an adverb meaning for a short time; usually needs no preposition
- **a while:** a paired article and noun meaning a period of time; usually used with *for*
 - Won't you stay **awhile**?
 - We talked for **a while**, and then we said good night.

Note these similar forms:

- **anyone:** a pronoun meaning any person at all
- **any one:** a paired adjective and noun meaning a specific item in a group; usually used with *of*
 - **Anyone** who can solve this problem deserves an award.
 - **Any one** of those papers could serve as an example.
 - Note: There are similar distinctions in meaning for *everyone* and *every one*.
- **anyway:** an adverb meaning in any case or nonetheless
- **any way:** a paired adjective and noun meaning any particular course, direction, or manner
 - He objected, but she went **anyway**.
 - **Any way** we chose would lead to danger.
- **maybe:** an adverb meaning perhaps
- **may be:** a form of the verb *to be*
 - **Maybe** we should wait until the rain stops.
 - This **may be** our only chance to win the championship.

Question 1 .

Which sentence uses capitol or capital correctly?

- A. The United States Capitol, where Congress holds its sessions, is in Washington D.C.
- B. The capital building in Austin, Texas, is located on Congress Avenue.
- C. The capitol that the firm requires for the project will be loaned by a bank.
- D. The grammar rule states that sentences should begin with a capitol letter.

Question 2 .

Norman and Bella knew they were being followed. As they tried to bolt through the alley, they could hear the footsteps getting closer and closer. Norman panicked and wanted to shelter himself, but Bella had a brilliant idea. She picked up a nearby stick, waved it at the dogs, and tossed it. They immediately went for it, and Norman and Bella walked away relieved.

Using context clues, you can determine that brilliant means what?

- A. smart
- B. shiny
- C. friendly
- D. sunny

Question 3 .

Two times a _____ I visit my grandmother in the city.

Which of the following answer choices fits the blank?

- A. woke
- B. wake
- C. week
- D. weak

Question 4 .

Identify the word which means "overly conceited."

- A. wane
- B. vein
- C. vain
- D. vane

Question 5 .

essence (e-sən(t)s) n. [Latin]

Definition 1: the core personality

Definition 2: the important part of something (as in an argument)

Definition 3: a perfume

Definition 4: an oil extracted from a plant

What is the meaning of the word essence in the sentence below?

Geert is such a good photographer—he has a way of bringing out the essence of his models.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 4
- C. definition 2
- D. definition 3

Question 6 .

Before you turn in your homework, be sure you _____ your name at the top of the page.

Choose the correct word to complete this sentence.

- A. write
- B. right
- C. wright
- D. rite

Question 7 .

assume \ə-'süm\ verb

Definition 1: to take for granted or without proof

Definition 2: to try on or wear something

Definition 3: to take upon oneself, to place oneself in

Definition 4: to pretend to have or be; feign

What is the meaning of the word assume in this sentence?

Hans Fischer will assume the office of Chancellor in the month of April.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 4
- C. definition 2
- D. definition 3

Question 8 .

settle \'se-təl\ verb

Definition 1: to come to a decision

Definition 2: to establish a residence or colony

Definition 3: to conclude a lawsuit by agreement out of court

Definition 4: to close an account by making a payment

What is the meaning of the word settled in this sentence?

After checking out of the hotel, Amy settled the bill at the reception desk.

- A. definition 4
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 1
- D. definition 3

Question 9 .

Which sentence uses the word solution as it is used in the sentence below?

The teacher asked the students to record the boiling point of the acidic solution.

- A. Jess added more sugar to the water and then poured this solution in the bowl containing lemon juice.
- B. As a solution to heavy and constant rains, people in these regions build strong houses with sloping roofs.
- C. Nathan spent an hour finding the solution to the complex math problem.
- D. Ron came up with a brilliant solution at the last minute to clear the misunderstanding.

Question 10 .

Which sentence uses the word account as it is used in the sentence below?

It is Margo's job to account for all of the funds.

- A. Lizette was the account manager for about thirteen years.
- B. My bank account is running disturbingly low.
- C. You are the only person who can account for your actions.
- D. All you need is your telephone number and account information.

Question 11 .

Norman and Bella knew they were being followed. As they tried to bolt through the alley, they could hear the footsteps getting closer and closer. Norman panicked and wanted to shelter himself, but Bella had a brilliant idea. She picked up a nearby stick, waved it at the dogs, and tossed it. They immediately went for it, and Norman and Bella walked away relieved.

Using context clues, you can determine that bolt means what?

- A. to run fast
- B. to work
- C. to tighten
- D. to fasten

Question 12 .

A thin film of soap grime covered the shower door.

Which sentence uses the word film as it is used in the box above?

- A. Perhaps you should film Edith's performance Friday night.
- B. The film was both evocative and well-directed.
- C. Jorge was dismayed to find that his camera was out of film.
- D. The piano was covered with a heavy film of dust.

Question 13 .

The damage ended up being relatively minute.

Which sentence uses the word minute as it is used in the box above?

- A. I'll set the microwave for one minute.
- B. I'll be there in just a minute.
- C. I'll make a few minute changes to your essay.
- D. I'll just take a minute of your time.

Question 14 .

keen ('kEn) adj. [English]

Definition 1: having a sharp edge or point

Definition 2: full of enthusiasm

Definition 3: having or showing mental sharpness

Definition 4: very nice

What is the meaning of the word keen in the sentence below?

Chris' teachers often compliment his keen mind.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 3
- C. definition 4
- D. definition 2

Question 15 .

expose ('ik-'spOz) v. [French]

Definition 1: to leave without shelter, protection, or care

Definition 2: to put on display (as in a store window)

Definition 3: to make known (expose a dishonest scheme)

Definition 4: to reveal the face of a playing card

What is the meaning of the word exposed in the sentence below?

The politician's dishonesty was exposed to the public.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

Answers

1. A
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. A
9. A
10. C
11. A
12. D
13. C
14. B
15. C

Explanations

1. "Capitol" written with an uppercase "c" is the place where the U.S. legislature meets, and "capitols" with lowercase "c" are where state legislatures meet. "Capital" has several meanings. It is a city that is the official seat of government. It is also the money or property used by a business.
2. The word brilliant has several meanings. As a noun, it refers to a gem. As an adjective, it refers to being known by intelligence, mental keenness, or alertness.
3. "Week" is a noun that refers to seven days, Sunday through Saturday. "Weak" is an adjective that means fragile or not strong.
4. The correct answer choice "vain" means "overly conceited." A "vein" carries blood from the capillaries towards the heart. "Vane," a noun, most frequently refers to a device used to determine the direction of wind. "Wane" means to decrease in size, extent, or degree.
5. The sentence states how Geert is a good photographer because he is able to bring out his models' essence, or core personality, in his photographs. The only definition that fits this context is definition 1.
6. Right means correct or the opposite of left. To write is to place words on paper.
7. Replace the word "assume" with "take upon oneself or place oneself in" in the sentence: Hans Fischer will take upon himself the office of Chancellor in the month of April. The meaning in definition 3 makes sense.
8. Replace the word "settled" with "making a payment" in the sentence: After checking out of the hotel, Amy paid the bill at the reception desk. The meaning in definition 4 makes the most sense.
9. The word "solution" has multiple meanings. The meaning of "solution" that fits the context of the sentence in the box is "a liquid mixture in which something is dissolved." The

sentence that uses the same meaning of the word "solution" is "Jess added more sugar to the water and then poured this solution in the bowl containing lemon juice.

10. The correct answer uses the word "account" to mean "be responsible for" as it is used in the boxed sentence.

11. The word bolt has several meanings. As a noun, it refers to a wood or metal bar or rod used to fasten. As a verb it also has dual meanings. When you bolt, you run fast to try to escape, or you lock up, fasten, attach, or secure something.

12. The correct answer uses the word "film" to mean "a thin layer" as it is used in the boxed sentence.

13. The correct answer uses the word "minute" to mean "small or insignificant" as it is used in the boxed sentence.

14. The sentence discusses Chris' mind, or intelligence. The only definition that makes sense is definition 3, which relates to mental abilities.

15. Replace the words made known for exposed in the sentence: The politician's dishonesty was made known to the public. The meaning in definition 3 makes sense.

Study Island

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We live in an information age. It's easier than ever to become well informed on a variety of subjects. Now, most questions can be answered conveniently with the click of a computer mouse or with a visit to the local library. Below is a list of various research resources.

Almanac An almanac is an annual publication composed of various lists, charts, and tables of information in many unrelated fields. The almanac is full of statistics on population, past events, and weather.

Artifact An artifact is an object made by humans, especially an object remaining from a particular period in history.

Atlas An atlas is a book of maps.

Autobiography An autobiography is a written account of a person's life by himself or herself.

Biography A biography is a written account of another person's life.

Books Books are good sources because they go into great depth about one subject. Like with all resources, it's important to double-check the information you find in books because the information could be outdated—especially if the book was printed several years ago.

CD-ROM A CD-ROM is a storage disc containing information, games, learning tools, or computer software.

Diary A diary is a first-person account of an event. People write their thoughts, feelings, and observations in diaries. Many years later, historians can read the diaries to gain more information about a historical event.

Dictionary Use the dictionary to find the definition of a word or to learn its spelling or pronunciation.

E-mail E-mail is short for electronic mail, an excellent communication medium found on computers via Internet access. In addition to traditional notes, you can also attach documents to messages to be printed out by the recipient.

Encyclopedia An encyclopedia is a comprehensive reference book that has information on a wide variety of subjects. Encyclopedias are good for summary reports on a great many topics.

Field Trip A field trip is a trip to a particular location or museum for learning purposes.

Footnote Footnotes are found at the bottom of the corresponding book page. These notes explain which outside source the author used. Footnotes can also be used to expand upon information in the paragraph. When found at the end of a book, these notes are called **end notes**.

Glossary A glossary is found at the back of a textbook. This resource is an alphabetical list of terms and definitions, specific to the book.

Index An index is found at the end of a book. This alphabetical resource lists terms, people, or pictures found in the book and their corresponding page numbers.

Journal A journal is a collection of articles written by scholars and experts. Journals cover one subject, like the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Library Catalogue Database The library catalogue database is a searchable resource at the library found on computers. It helps a person find a book, a magazine, a video, or other media by title, author, or subject. The database is often accessible online.

Magazine A magazine provides detailed information on a particular subject or person of interest. Magazines can be a good resource because they often offer interesting slants, or perspectives, on different subjects, events, and people.

Newspaper A newspaper is a daily publication of articles. The articles cover current events. A local newspaper will be a source of information for local issues and events.

Online Newspaper Archives Old newspaper articles are stored in online archives. Libraries and well-established newspaper companies should have an archives section on their Web sites. There, people can easily find old articles by searching by date and subject.

People People are an excellent research resource when they provide stories, personal experiences, or professional knowledge. Librarians are an exceptional resource for research.

Periodicals Newspapers and magazines are called periodicals. Newspapers give some of the most up-to-date information available, and a majority of the information you find can be trusted as fact. Because they cover a lot of information and topics, newspapers can't go into as much detail as other print sources like magazines or books. Magazines can be a good resource because they often offer interesting slants or perspectives on an event.

Search Engine Search engines are Internet sites that quickly scan Web sites and pages for the keywords entered. Be careful to use respected, verifiable sites when doing Internet research.

Table of Contents A table of content is found at the beginning of a book. This resource shows chapter titles and main ideas.

Thesaurus Use the thesaurus to find a synonym of a word. When you look up a word in the thesaurus, you will find a list of words that mean nearly the same thing.

Question 1 . Where would someone look to find the most reliable information about how tornadoes are measured?

- A. the personal blog of a storm watcher
- B. a Web page that anyone can edit
- C. the National Weather Service Web site
- D. a newspaper story about a storm

Question 2 . Erykah would like to investigate which book in the country sold the most copies last year. **Which of these is a reliable source for her to look at for this information?**

- A. The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
- B. a blog about publishing your first fiction book
- C. The New York Times Best-Selling Books List
- D. her favorite bookstore's annual sales report

Question 3 . Amisho is interested in learning more about the Young Band because it was started in his hometown of Denton. **Where should he look to find information about the group?**

- A. an unauthorized group biography
- B. a review of the Young Band's concert
- C. Web sites that are run by fans
- D. the Young Band's official Web site

Question 4 . Rico is looking for an after-school job. He needs to complete a résumé but has never worked on one before. **Where should he look to find reliable information on writing a résumé?**

- A. a social networking site
- B. a job and career Web site

- C. a person who has a part-time job
- D. a friend who works at the mall

Question 5 . Patrick wants to write about the life of the members of the music group U2. **Which of these would be the best way to find information on them?**

- A. watching one of their concerts
- B. reading a fan blog on the Internet
- C. reading a biography about the group
- D. buying their music albums

Question 6 . Lisa wants to gather some information about the process of entering a political primary as a candidate in South Carolina. **Where should she look to find the most reliable information?**

- A. each political party's local office
- B. South Carolina's state representative
- C. a political candidate's Web site
- D. South Carolina's Elections Web site

Question 7 . **Which of these would be a good source to locate information about the Irish Potato Famine that occurred between 1845 and 1852?**

- A. a Web site that brings Irish Americans together
- B. books that focus on the history of Ireland
- C. articles on some diseases that ruin crops
- D. a historical narrative by an Irish person

Question 8 . Shania is researching the U.S. military's current draft policy. Currently, all male citizens of the country who are between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for the draft. The Selective Service System is responsible for running the draft when it is needed. Shania found out that men who serve in the military and

get out before their 26th birthday are still required to register for the draft. She doesn't think that is fair.

Which of these would be the most reliable source for her to find more information about the draft policy?

- A. the Selective Service System's Web site
- B. a political group that opposes the draft
- C. someone who has written about the draft
- D. articles about the World War II draft

Question 9 . Where would a person most likely find reliable information about Native American basket weaving?

- A. a book about Native American basket weaving as an art
- B. the historical book about the Industrial Revolution
- C. a book on basket weaving materials and other crafts
- D. the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 official document

Question 10. Select all the correct answers.

Alan is curious about the G20 economic summit held in Antalya, Turkey. He has decided to write an essay about the summit, including information on its purpose and achievements.

In which two sources will Alan find the relevant information he needs to write his essay?

- an atlas page showing information about Antalya, Turkey
- an online video showing how the venue for the summit was designed
- a web site that lists the different destinations where the summits were held
- a magazine interview of one of the leaders of the G20 summit
- a newspaper article about the economic goals addressed in the summit

Question 11 . Which of the following could be considered an unreliable source of information?

- A. an article by a doctor who lost his or her license
- B. a clinical research study about heart problems
- C. a blog run by a newspaper staff in New York City
- D. an article by a retired cardiovascular surgeon

Question 12 . Jake's favorite food is Buffalo wings, so he decides to do some research on their history. He knows that they were originally made in Buffalo, New York, and eventually became popular with Americans in all parts of the country.

Which of these would be the most reliable source for Jake to find more information?

- A. a cookbook with different recipes for Buffalo wing sauce
- B. a Buffalo wing enthusiast's personal blog
- C. an atlas of popular food in U.S. culture
- D. an opinion piece on the best Super Bowl snack foods

Question 13 .

Olympic Games

The modern Olympic Games began in the last decade of the 19th century. These games were inspired by the ancient Olympic Games, which took place in Greece from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. In ancient Greece, these games were part of a religious festival organized every four years in honor of the god Zeus. The Greeks were often at war, but the games served as a period of temporary truce between the warring groups. All athletic participants had to agree to follow the rules and regulations, which promoted a sense of fair play. Today, the modern Olympics Games include several events in the summer and winter games. Over 200 countries participate in the summer games and over 80 nations participate in the winter games every four years.

Select all the correct answers.

Ella is writing an article on the history of the Olympic Games for her school magazine.

Which two sources would provide the most relevant information about the Olympic Games?

- a list of the events at the summer and winter Olympics
- a book about the games from the Olympic Museum in Switzerland
- a sports magazine's article on the Olympics in the 20th century
- a news article on the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games
- a student's research paper on the Olympic Games

Question 14 . Carlos would like to learn how to make homemade spinach dip. He did a quick Internet search and a number of Web sites came up. **Which one of these is probably the most credible and relevant source?**

- A. a Web site that belongs to a farmer who grows spinach
- B. the Web site of a chip manufacturer that sells spinach dip
- C. the Web site of a restaurant that has a famous spinach dip
- D. the Web site of a famous chef that includes favorite spinach recipes

Answers

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. A
10. --
11. A
12. C
13. --
14. D

Explanations

1. The National Weather Service observes weather around the country. It would probably have the most reliable information about tornadoes and the official system that is used to measure them.
2. The New York Times is one of the most popular and respected newspapers in the country. Its best-sellers list will more than likely have information on which book sold the most copies last year.
3. The best place to find information about the Young Band would probably be the group's official Web site. The other sources that are listed could all be written based on someone's opinion or include untrue information.

4. Of these choices, a job and career site would be most likely to have information that could help Rico come up with a résumé and find an after-school job.
5. A biography usually documents the events in a person's or, in this case, people's lives. Patrick will find the information he needs in a biography on U2.
6. The most reliable place to find information about the elections process is probably the state's official election Web site.
7. Books on Irish history would more than likely include information on the Potato Famine since it is an important event in the history of Ireland. The other sources might mention it but probably would not include as much information.
8. The most reliable source about the military's draft policy would probably be the organization that is in charge of running it. The articles about World War II's draft would not help Shania if she is researching the current draft policy.
9. Native Americans are well known for their art, which includes basket weaving. This answer choice would probably give a person the most reliable information about it.
10. A magazine interview of one of the leaders of the G20 summit is a good source for Alan to find relevant information because he would be able to get the necessary details about the summit. A newspaper article on the summit's goals will also contain relevant information about the purpose of the summit.
11. A doctor who loses his or her license probably got in trouble for doing something wrong or dishonorable. An article by this person would not be a reliable source.
12. This answer choice would most likely have information about Buffalo wings because it includes popular food around the U.S.
13. The two sources that provide the most relevant information for her research are "a sports magazine's article on the Olympics in the 20th century" and "a book on the games from the Olympic Museum in Switzerland." The sports magazine article is

relevant because it covers the recent history of the Olympics. The book is relevant because it comes from a credible source about the Olympics.

14. A Web site with recipes is probably the most reliable and relevant source for Carlos to choose, especially one from a famous chef. The chip manufacturer and the restaurant probably would not give their recipes away because they are selling products. The farmer is also just interested in selling his spinach.

Writing can be classified into different types. Four common types of writing are narrative, persuasive, poetic, and informational. Knowing the type of passage you are reading can help you understand a passage better or even enjoy it more.

Narrative

Narrative writing tells a story. An author will describe events and the characters who are involved in the events. Novels and short stories are examples of narrative writing.

Persuasive

In persuasive writing, an author will try to persuade an audience to agree with his or her point of view. Examples of persuasive writing are commercials or advertisements. These are written to convince people to buy something or believe in something. Some words used in persuasive writing are "should," "must," "ought," or "need."

Poetic

Some writing is poetic. Poetry uses interesting language and vivid images. The authors of poetic pieces often want readers to experience an emotion while reading their poetry. Poetic pieces are usually written in short, rhythmic lines. Remember that poetry does not always rhyme.

Informational

An informational piece explains something or gives information about a certain topic. A news article is an example of informational writing.

Question 1 .

As I sat and watched droplets of water descend from above, I missed home. I would always feel the loneliest at night, and the darkness here was uncomfortable. Everything around me was so different and confusing. Where I come from, water never moved. There was just one giant mass of water back home, and I had never seen waves or ripples in it. I had never seen anything fall from the sky except that black object which fell on my head and brought me to this strange place.

Back home, we had one of everything. There was one tree with branches and leaves that never swayed. We had one mountain with snow on its top. I never tried to climb it because—well—I never left my hole very often. I wish I had seen what was beyond the mountain before I landed here.

Here, everything was in motion, all the time. Well, maybe not everything moved here. Last night, I saw many tall objects with lights, and those tall objects did not move a bit. Creatures were coming in and out of the tall structures all the time. This creature with two eyes, hands, and legs even saw me climb a tree to watch the tall object. He had brought more creatures with flashy objects and had disappeared at night. Like the others, he resembled me except he seemed to have two of everything I had. I never knew I would come to such a place where nothing was unique.

Which of these **best** helps identify the genre of this passage?

- A. "I would always feel the loneliest at night, and the darkness. . ."
- B. "I never knew I would come to such a place where nothing was. . ."
- C. "I had never seen anything fall from the sky except that black. . ."
- D. "As I sat and watched droplets of water descend from above. . ."

Question 2 .**The World Is not Your Dog's Toilet**

In recent years, urban living has become increasingly popular. The young and trendy are enjoying everything that living in downtown and uptown locations has to offer. However, for those of us who work in these areas, inconsiderate residents are becoming a problem.

When people choose to have pets in downtown apartments, they have to realize that there is no grass or play area for their dogs. Instead of taking them to a park to

run, play, and use the bathroom, many pet owners choose to walk their pets on the sidewalk. Since there is no grass, the poor animals are forced to go on the concrete.

Despite the city's "doggy clean up" stations complete with plastic bags to dispose of dog waste, many owners still leave it in the middle of the sidewalk. This seems especially common with owners of small breeds. Whether the dog is a Great Dane or a Poodle, leaving defecation behind for unsuspecting pedestrians to step in is inconsiderate.

Residents of uptown have an advantage because there is grass near their homes, as many apartment complexes have lawns. However, there are also many businesses whose landscaping has become a doggy dumpster. It is beyond inconsiderate for pet owners to walk their dogs in the shrubbery and flowers in front of an office building. People allow their dogs to use the bathroom on the sidewalk uptown as well.

This thoughtlessness has to stop. Consideration for all should be the standard. Dog owners should not only pick up after their pets, but also choose locations that are not adjacent to businesses to let them use the bathroom. Those pet owners who do not should be fined.

What kind of writing is the passage above?

- A. myth
- B. diary
- C. letter
- D. editorial

Question 3 .

Jude is silent

by A. Gautam

Hello, hey Jude! Our lovely Jude!
Why won't you sing today?
The violin rests restlessly.
Its strings will burst in agony.
Nobody looks as good as you
resting their chin on the violin—
head tilted sideways, hair flowing,
deep-set eyes closed,
and soft, open smile, pearls glowing.
No melodies fill the room
as big as the entire school.
Your silence is heavy today.
Hello, hey Jude! Won't you play?

Which of the following best characterizes this passage as a poem?

- A. The passage has irregular line breaks.
- B. The passage creates a playful mood.
- C. The passage is about playing the violin.
- D. The passage has a silent main character.

Question 4 .

Super Danny

by D. U. Derino

Daniel threw his cape on the back of the chair and slumped down his couch. He was just about to give up hope. He had been trying to break into the superhero business for five years, and he just could not make any headway.

If he heard about a robbery on 12th and Main, Wonder Guy would swoop in just before he got there to save the day instead. If he found out a kid was stuck in a hot

car, Laser Dude would cut open the doors before he could find his crowbar. Even that one time when there were some students trapped in a flooding girl's locker room, he had to call Awesome Lady so he didn't violate any codes of ethics.

Five long, trying years Daniel had been brainstorming ways to become a card-carrying superhero, but each year when he went to register, they denied his application due to inadequate heroics. He also didn't have an alter ego. He was just Daniel. He possessed no real special powers other than being able to stare at the sun for vast amounts of time without hurting his eyes. It seemed hopeless.

Daniel let out a disappointed sigh and turned on the television. His eyes got wider as he stared at the screen. His spine straightened abruptly. There it was right there before him on TV. His opportunity to become a certified, licensed superhero stared him right in the face. Daniel didn't have time to turn off the TV. He had better get moving before someone else tried to steal his moment in the sun.

What type of writing is this?

- A. poetry
- B. fiction
- C. drama
- D. nonfiction

Question 5 .

Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919)

Boyhood and Youth

Naturally grandfather on my father's side was of almost purely Dutch. When he was young, he spoke some Dutch. He was a part of the Dutch Reformed Church in New York while he was a small boy.

About 1644, his ancestor Klaes Martensen van Roosevelt came to New Amsterdam as a "settler". This was the name for an immigrant who came over in a sailing ship in the seventeenth century instead of a steam boat in the nineteenth century. From that time, for the next seven generations, every one of us was born on Manhattan Island.

My father's ancestors were from Holland. The only one who didn't was one named Waldron, a wheelwright. He was one of the Pilgrims who stayed in Holland when the others came over to found Massachusetts. My father's mother was a Pennsylvanian. Her family had come to Pennsylvania with William Penn, some in the same ship with him. They included Welsh and English Quakers, an Irishman, and peace-loving

Germans, who were some of the founders of Germantown. They had been driven from their Rhineland homes when the armies of Louis the Fourteenth ravaged the Palatinate. My grandmother was a sweet and strong woman. Although she was not herself Dutch, it she was the person who taught me the only Dutch I ever knew. It was a baby song of which the first line was, "Trippe troppa tronjes." I always remembered this, and when I was in East Africa it became a bond between me and the Boer settlers. It was interesting to meet these men whose ancestors had gone to the Cape about the time that mine went to America two centuries and a half earlier. It was also interesting to find that the descendants of the two streams of emigrants still sang to their children some of the same nursery songs.

adapted from an excerpt from Theodore Roosevelt by Roosevelt

Which of these most helps the reader know the passage's genre?

- A. It is historical.
- B. It is written in the first-person point of view.
- C. It is about the former President of the United States.
- D. It is written in the second-person point of view.

Question 6 .

Why the Vulture is Bald

The vulture was originally a humble old bird, and rather stupid. His plumage was not exceptionally beautiful, but quite passable. One day, however, he noticed that his feathers were falling off. He consulted other birds, who told him that he was merely molting, and new feathers would grow later. But the vulture was pessimistic, and soon became thin and sickly with worry about his plumage. At last the other birds took pity on him, and each gave him a feather to stick on his body. When all the birds had given him their feathers, the vulture looked like a wonderful bird with a plumage of all colors.

The vulture now became conceited. He strutted about in his borrowed feathers, and declared that he was the most beautiful of all the birds. He became more and more proud until he asked the birds to recognize him as their king. At this insolence, the birds pecked off, not only the feathers that they had given the vulture, but also the vulture's own feathers. So when the birds had finished with him, the vulture looked old and ugly and bald. That is why even at the present day the vulture is a sour and ugly old bird.

adapted from "Why the Vulture is Bald" by Maung Htin Aung

What characteristic from the passage suggests this is a myth?

- A. The main character in the story is an animal.
- B. It doesn't have any characters that speak.
- C. It gives an explanation as to why vultures are bald.
- D. It takes place in the real world.

Question 7 .

635 Sandalwood
Terrace
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
August 14, 2008

Dear Johnny,

I'm your biggest fan! Your musical group, Boy Band, is the best. I own every Boy Band CD, and you have the best voice of anyone ever! You're also the best dancer ever! I like the way you and the other members of the group perform sweet dance moves while wearing headset microphones. It's just magical. Although all of your band's songs are terrific, "Fifteen Minutes of Fame" is my favorite. Your music is so deep and meaningful that it has touched my life in every way. My friends and I have tickets to Boy Band's concert in Augusta, Georgia, and we're so excited. I'm patiently waiting to see you in person. Anyway, thanks so much for being so incredibly talented.

Yours truly,

Krista Jenkins

Readers can tell what kind of passage this is because

- A. it shows how magical song lyrics can be.
- B. it has a heading, greeting, and closing.
- C. it is written by a loyal fan-club member.
- D. it tells a story of an amazing boy band.

Question 8**July 26, 2008**

I'm visiting Grandma and Grandpa for a week. I really enjoy my time with them, but my grandma thinks that I'm two years old. I'm a teenager now, and she is making me drink from a sports bottle. She doesn't think I can handle a glass, so I'm basically drinking out of a child's sippy cup. Maybe tomorrow she'll see that I'm mature enough for a glass.

July 27, 2008

Although I had to drink my milk from a sports bottle, Grandma made some excellent peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies today. (Of course, she made sure that I didn't eat too fast. She is always afraid I will choke on my food for some reason, especially when I eat apples.) Grandpa took me fishing, and we caught fish after fish. Grandpa and I cleaned the fish, and Grandma fried them up for supper. What a feast! She's the best cook.

July 29, 2008

I'm going home tomorrow, and I sure will miss my grandparents. However, I'm not sure how much more pinching my cheeks can take. I don't understand why some grandmas like to pinch their grandchildren's cheeks. I wonder if she will ever kick this habit. Grandma doesn't seem to notice all of my pimples when she pinches my cheeks. This should be a clue to her that I'm way too old to be pinched.

August 2, 2008

I made it home today. During lunch, I actually knocked over my glass of juice. Ever since, Mom has been teasing me. She threatens jokingly to make me drink from a sports bottle. I'm glad to be home, but I really miss my grandparents. Getting spoiled for a week was pretty cool.

How can a reader tell what kind of passage this is?

- A.** Grandparents are discussed.
- B.** The author dates every entry.
- C.** The author complains a lot.
- D.** The events are unbelievable.

Question 9 .

As I sat and watched droplets of water descend from above, I missed home. I would always feel the loneliest at night, and the darkness here was uncomfortable. Everything around me was so different and confusing. Where I come from, water never moved. There was just one giant mass of water back home, and I had never seen waves or ripples in it. I had never seen anything fall from the sky except that black object which fell on my head and brought me to this strange place.

Back home, we had one of everything. There was one tree with branches and leaves that never swayed. We had one mountain with snow on its top. I never tried to climb it because—well—I never left my hole very often. I wish I had seen what was beyond the mountain before I landed here.

Here, everything was in motion, all the time. Well, maybe not everything moved here. Last night, I saw many tall objects with lights, and those tall objects did not move a bit. Creatures were coming in and out of the tall structures all the time. This creature with two eyes, hands, and legs even saw me climb a tree to watch the tall object. He had brought more creatures with flashy objects and had disappeared at night. Like the others, he resembled me except he seemed to have two of everything I had. I never knew I would come to such a place where nothing was unique.

This writing can be **best** described as

- A. narrative essay.
- B. historical fiction.
- C. journal entry.
- D. science fiction.

Question 10 .

When I was little, my Uncle Pete had a necktie with a porcupine painted on it. I thought that necktie was just about the neatest thing in the world. Uncle Pete would stand patiently before me while I ran my fingers over the silky surface, half expecting to be stuck by one of the quills. Once, he let me wear it. I kept looking for one of my own, but I could never find one.

I was twelve when we moved from Pennsylvania to Arizona. When Uncle Pete came to say goodbye, he was wearing the tie. I thought he did so to give me one last look at it, and I was grateful. But then, with a dramatic flourish, he whipped off the tie and draped it around my neck. "It's yours," he said. "Going-away present."

I loved that porcupine tie so much that I decided to start a collection. Two years after we settled in Arizona, the number of ties in my collection was still one. Where do you find a porcupine necktie in Mica, Arizona - or anywhere else, for that matter?

On my fourteenth birthday, I read about myself in the local newspaper. The family section ran a regular feature about kids on their birthdays, and my mother had called in some info. The last sentence read: "As a hobby, Leo Borlock collects porcupine neckties."

Several days later, coming home from school, I found a plastic bag on our front step. Inside was a gift-wrapped package tied with yellow ribbon. The tag said, "Happy Birthday!" I opened the package. It was a porcupine necktie. Two porcupines were tossing darts with their quills, while a third was picking its teeth.

I inspected the box, the tag, the paper. Nowhere could I find the giver's name. I asked my parents. I asked my friends. I called my Uncle Pete. Everyone denied knowing anything about it.

At the time I simply considered the episode a mystery. It did not occur to me that I was being watched. We were all being watched.

adapted from Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

What elements from the passage distinguish it as realistic fiction?

- A.** Its main character is a famous boy who has been in the newspaper.
- B.** It has events, characters, and a setting that could take place in real life.
- C.** It is a mystery about a mysterious necktie that ended up on the main character's front door.
- D.** It has events, characters, and a setting that is too unbelievable to take place in real life.

Question 11 .

Nebraska

by D.U. Derino

Long stretches of asphalt
Broken yellow lines
In perfect symmetry
But keeping imperfect rhythm
But monotony falls not
On this old beat up Chrysler
I recall the way the sunbeams refracted
Off the window and onto your aging skin
The mesh ball cap that looked so antiquated
Yet I still have to this day
I can reflect on your reflection
Off the rearview mirror
As I lay sleeping
In the back seat
Too young to ease the burden
Of such a long, yet meaningful trip
The journey
Is a picture
That only you and I share
I anticipate seeing you again
And we can reminisce when I get there.

What characteristic from the passage proves it is a work of poetry?

- A.** the use of metaphor
- B.** the rhyme scheme
- C.** the line breaks
- D.** the use of simile

Question 12 .

The Lady Along the Shore

by D. U. Derino

As usual, I awoke with a violent gasp and sat up abruptly in my bed. It was just another typical night at my grandparent's house on Lake Martin. I turned on the light just long enough to survey the room, and when I knew for certain I was still alone I turned it back off. I didn't want my eyes adjusting to the light too quickly. I had to be able to see in the dark in order to watch her arrive.

I still don't know what compelled me to wait for her. I have been too scared to sleep through the night since the first time I saw her. She gave me horrible nightmares about what might have happened to her. Still, there was something about seeing her again and again that made me feel reassured for some reason.

I never told my grandparents about it, either. They might think I'm crazy. Worse, they might know exactly what I was talking about. Then they would want to tell me her story. Perhaps her story would put all those horrible nightmares to rest, but maybe I liked using my imagination about what happened to her.

Suddenly, she appeared. She was like clockwork showing up in the same spot at the same time every night. I sat back in the shadows of my room and watched through the window as her transparent form floated along the shore of the lake. The moonlight passed right through her, and apart from being a ghost, she was almost beautiful. Her appearance wasn't what gave me those nightmarish chills, though. It was the part at the end of her journey along the shoreline right in front of my grandparents' house. It was the part right before she disappeared into the dark lake water when she would stop and look over her shoulder. It was the part when she would stare me right in the eyes.

What characteristic from the passage proves it is a work of fiction?

- A. There are characters that are real people.
- B. It involves a ghost that may or may not be real.
- C. There is a conflict between two characters.
- D. It has a plot.

Answers

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. D
10. B
11. C
12. B

Explanations

1. Only the correct answer choice provides a clue to reader that some of the events in the story are happening in outer space. The incorrect answer choices reflect situations that can be true to many genre forms—like journal entry or any form of narrative.
2. It is nonfictional, so it cannot be a myth. The passage is not addressed to anyone, so it cannot be a letter. It also does not tell of events that happened, so it is not a diary entry. An editorial states an opinion or gives a perspective.
3. The structure of the passage best defines it as a poem. Poems are written in a different form than prose writing, such as stories, novels, or even essays. Poems are usually written with irregular line breaks, like the passage. Many poems contain stanzas and rhyme scheme.
4. Fiction is a literary work in which the story is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact. Examples of fictional works are mystery novels and fairy tales. Since some of the characters are superheroes, it's safe to assume this is a work of fiction.

5. The passage is written in sentences and paragraphs, so it is not a poem or drama. Since it's an account of the life of President Theodore Roosevelt, it's not a work of fiction. It must be an autobiography because it is an account of his life written by himself.
6. One of the main characteristics of a myth is that they often attempt to explain why things are the way they are now. For example, a myth might try to explain why the sky is blue through an interesting story. A myth doesn't always have to have dialogue or a character that is an animal. It can also take place in a real setting or a made-up setting.
7. Readers can tell what kind of passage this is because it has a heading, greeting, body, closing, and signature. The author is also directly addressing Johnny in the passage.
8. Diaries are usually arranged by date, which is written at the beginning of every entry.
9. This passage can be best described as science fiction because of the details of the story. Science fiction uses imagination and scientific knowledge. This passage shows a character that has come from outer space to a planet resembling Earth.
10. Realistic fiction contains elements, details, and situations which could take place in the real world. There are many people who go through similar family situations. This is a situation that is grounded in the real world with characters that could almost be real people and a setting that could take place in real life.
11. Line breaks are important in poetry because they show that poetry doesn't have to be read just sentence by sentence but line by line as well. Think of each line's end as a pause, and sometimes, you can read more into what is being written.

12. Fiction is a literary work in which the story is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact. The biggest clue that the work is a piece of fiction is the inclusion of a ghost.