

READING COMPREHENSION

General strategies

- Keep on smiling... (^ . ^)
- Read the questions first, find the KEYWORDS
- Read every first line carefully
- Answer the questions which are NOT related to the text: reference, vocabulary
- Answer the questions which are LESS related to the text.
- Answer main idea/topic questions
- Manage your time...
- Good luck!!

reference

- They, them, theirs, he, she, it
- Refers to
- The answer is probably the subject of the previous sentence

Carnivorous plants such as the sundew and the Venus flytrap, are generally found in humid areas where there is an inadequate supply of nitrogen in the soil. In order to survive, these plants have developed mechanism to trap insects within their foliage. They have digestive fluids to obtain the necessary nitrogen from the insect. These plants trap the insects in a variety of ways. The sundew has sticky hairs on its leaves; when an insect lands on these leaves, it gets caught up in the sticky hairs, and the leaf wraps itself around the insect. The leaves of the Venus flytrap function more like a trap, snapping suddenly and forcefully shut around an insect.

- The pronoun “they” in line 5 refers to

- (A) Humid areas
- (B) these plants
- (C) insects
- (D) digestive fluids

- The pronoun “it” in line 8 refers to

- (A) a variety
- (B) the sundew
- (C) an insect
- (D) the leaf

vocabulary

- Find the definition from word part:

Misspelled

- (A) highly improper
- (B) vulgar
- (C) incorrectly written
- (D) slang

Use the context

- The barges headed across the lake...

A “barge” is probably which of the following?

- (A) a train
- (B) a plane
- (C) a bicycle
- (D) a boat

- 
- He put his answer this way

The word “put” can be best replaced with:

- (A) placed
- (B) set
- (C) expressed
- (D) handed

Detail Information Questions

- Read the questions and the multiple answer choice.
- determine the keywords
- Scan the text, find the keywords on the text
- Read carefully the sentence which contains the keywords

Williamsburg is a historic city in the Virginia situated on a peninsula between two rivers, the York and the James. It was settled by English colonists in 1633, twenty-six years after the first permanent English colony in America was settled at Jamestown. In the beginning the colony at Williamsburg was named Middle Plantation because of its location in the middle of the peninsula. The site for Williamsburg had been selected by the colonists because the soil drainage was better there than at the Jamestown location, and there were fewer mosquitoes.

- According to the passage, Williamsburg is located
 - (A) On an island
 - (B) In the middle of a river
 - (C) Where the York and the James meet
 - (D) On a piece of land with rivers on two sides

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 - (A) Was settled in 1633
 - (B) Was settled twenty-six year after Williamsburg
 - (C) Was the first permanent English colony in America
 - (D) Was originally named Middle Plantation

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TOPIC

- Read carefully every first sentence of the paragraph
- Skim the supporting sentences
- The topic must:
 - Cover every scope of the text
 - Not too general
 - Not too specific

In the philosophy of John Dewey, a sharp distinction is made between “intelligence” and “reasoning”. According to Dewey, intelligence is the only absolute way to achieve a balance between realism and idealism, between practicality and wisdom of life. Intelligence involves “interacting with other things and knowing them”, while reasoning is merely the act of an observer, “...a mind that beholds or grasps objects outside the world of things...” with reasoning, a level of mental certainty can be achieved, but it is through intelligence that control is taken of events that shape one’s life.

What is the topic of this passage?

- (A) The intelligence of John Dewey
- (B) Distinctions made by John Dewey
- (C) Dewey’s ideas on the ability to reason
- (D) How intelligence differs from reasoning in Dewey’s work

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Main idea questions

- How to identify the questions: what is the topic of the passage?, what is the subject of the passage?, what is the main idea of the passage?, what is the author's main point in the passage?, with what is the author primarily concerned?, which of the following would be the best title?,
- Where to find the answer: the answer to this type of question can be generally determined by looking at the first sentence of each paragraph.
- How to answer the question: 1. read the first line of each paragraph, 2. look for a common theme or idea in the first lines, 3. pass your eyes quickly over the rest of the passage to check that you really have found the topic sentence

Recognize the organization of ideas

If asked who invented the game of baseball, most Americans would probably reply that it was Abner Doubleday. At the beginning of this century, there was some disagreement over how the game of baseball had actually originated, so sporting-goods manufacturer Spaulding inaugurated a commission to research the question. In 1908 a report was published by the commission in which Abner Doubleday, a U.S. Army officer from Cooperstown, New York, was given credit for the invention of the game. The National Baseball Hall of Fame was established in Cooperstown in honor of Doubleday.

Today, most sports historians are in agreement that Doubleday really did not have much to do with the development of baseball. Instead, baseball seems to be a close relation to the English game of rounders and probably has English rather than American roots.

Organization of ideas

- How to identify the question: how is the information in the passage organised?, how is the information in the second paragraph related to the information in the first paragraph?.
- Where to find the answer: the answer to this type of question can generally be determined by looking at the first sentence of the appropriate paragraph.
- How to answer the question: 1. read the first line each paragraph, 2. look for words that shows the relationship between the paragraphs, 3. choose the answer that best expresses the relationship.

In English there are many different kinds of expression that people use to give a name to anything whose name is unknown or momentarily forgotten. The word *gadget* is one such word. It was first used by British sailors in the 1850s and probably came from the French word *gachette*, which was a small hook. In everyday use, the word has a more general meaning. Other words are also used to give a name to something unnamed or unknown, and these words tend to be somewhat imaginative. Some of the more commonly used expressions are a *what-d' ye-call-it*, a *whatis*, a *thingamabob*, a *thingamajig*, a *doodad*, or a *doohickey*.

1. Which of the following is NOT true about the word “gadget”? A. It is used to name something when the name is not known. B. It was used at the beginning of the nineteenth century. C. It most likely came from a word in the French language. D. It's first known use was by British sailors.

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as an expression for something that is not known?

- a. A thingamabob
- b. A gadget
- c. A doohickey
- d. A what-is-it

How to identify the question: which of the following is not stated..?, which of the following is not mentioned..?, which of the following is not discussed..?, all of the following are true except...

Where to find the answer: the answer to these questions are found in order in the passage.

How to answer: choose a keyword in the question, scan in the appropriate place (related idea)

Answer Implied detail questions

The Hawaiian language is a melodious language in which all words are derived from an alphabet of only twelve letters, the five vowels a, e, i, o u, and the seven consonants h, k, l, m, p, w. Each syllable in the language ends in a vowel, and two consonants never appear together, so vowels have a much higher frequency in the Hawaiian language than they do in English.

This musical-sounding language can be heard regularly by visitors to the islands. Most Hawaiians speak English, but it is quite common to hear English that is liberally spiced with words and expressions from the traditional language of the culture. A visitors may be greeted with the expression *aloha* and may be referred to as a *malil ini* because he is a new comer to the island. The vistor may attend as outside *luau* where everyone eats too much and may be invited afterwards to dance the *hula*.

1. Which of the following is probably NOT a Hawaiian word?

- a. *Mahalo*
- b. *Mahimahi*
- c. *Mekien*
- d. *Moana*

2. It is implied that a *luau* is:

- a. A dance
- b. A feast
- c. A concert
- d. A language

1. Quantum physics made great headway and found many application after the end of world war II. The word “headway” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning to which of the following:

- a. Munitions
- b. Progress
- c. Weapon designs
- d. Defense project

2. Synthetic plastics have become an inexpensive substitute for such materials as wood, metal, and fiber. The word “inexpensive” as used in the sentence above is most similar in meaning: a. A practical b. A primitive c. A cheap d. A ubiquitous