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## Introduction

*Instant Reading Comprehension Practice* provides short reading and writing exercises that develop and strengthen the skills needed for reading comprehension.

This book is divided into two main sections: *Comprehension Activities* and *Strategies in Writing*. *Comprehension Activities* is divided into eight sub-sections that focus specifically on each of the following comprehension skills:

- Finding Main Ideas
- Noting Details
- Using Context Clues
- Identifying Facts and Opinions
- Finding Cause and Effect
- Sequencing
- Making Inferences
- Predicting Outcomes

Each sub-section includes at least 30 passages with questions designed to challenge students and guide them towards mastery in one of the eight skill areas.

The *Strategies in Writing* section provides students with the opportunity to identify and practice the same comprehension skills but in an open-ended, short-answer format. The activities in this section allow students to focus on a specific strategy and to think more critically as they respond to a given writing task.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Up and Away

Roger had always wanted to ride in a hot-air balloon. He saved enough money for his ticket by doing various jobs for the neighbors. It took a long time, but Roger finally had enough money. Roger wasn't nervous when he got into the basket. The higher the balloon climbed, the more Roger enjoyed the ride. Roger liked the feeling of peace and serenity as he soared over the hills. The view at sunrise was beautiful from up high.

What is the main idea?

- A. Roger couldn't believe how quiet the ride was in the hot-air balloon.
- B. Roger wasn't nervous when he rode in a hot-air balloon.
- C. Roger earned enough money to take a very enjoyable ride.

## Portrait Problems

The family went to a portrait studio. The family wanted a picture of everyone smiling. Things weren't working out because the baby kept crying, the children kept texting their friends, and the parents kept trying to make the children smile. Then the photographer asked, "How many bricks does it take to complete a brick building?" The children and the parents thought for a moment. They all smiled when they heard the answer, and that was when the photographer quickly snapped the picture. The answer was, "Only one—the last one."

What is the main idea?

- A. The photographer was finally able to make everyone smile for the photograph.
- B. The family picture didn't work out because the children kept texting their friends.
- C. To understand the riddle, one had to pay attention to the word "complete."

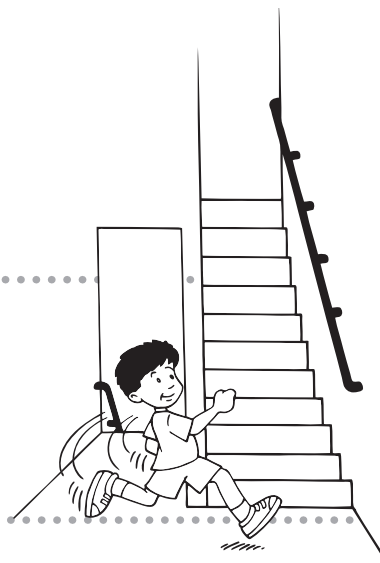
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Unexpected Workout

George and his family live in Washington, D.C. They live in a tall building. The power went out in their building last week, so the elevators weren't working. The family had to climb up several flights of stairs to get to their apartment.

When did the power go out?

- A. last week
- B. yesterday
- C. two days ago



## Giving Thanks

Frank's mother, Joan, is a doctor. Joan doesn't want to work on Thanksgiving Day, but it is her turn. Each year, Joan and the doctors she works with take turns working on all the major holidays. This is the year Joan is supposed to work on Thanksgiving. Frank said to his mother, "Let's celebrate Thanksgiving on Friday instead of Thursday. We can still give thanks for all the food, and we can still be thankful we are all healthy."

When will Joan have to work?

- A. on Friday
- B. on Thursday
- C. on Mother's Day

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### City Living

Which two statements are **facts**?

- A. Speed limits are slower near schools.
- B. Traffic tickets can involve paying fines.
- C. It is better to drive than to ride your bike.

### Beach Days

Which two statements are **opinions**?

- A. Playing in the sand at the beach is too messy.
- B. Some people build sandcastles at the beach.
- C. Swimming pools are more fun than the beach.

### Chocolate Milk

Which two statements are **facts**?

- A. Chocolate milk is only served in some schools.
- B. Chocolate milk is more delicious than white milk.
- C. White milk has fewer ingredients than chocolate milk.

### Water Sports

Which two statements are **opinions**?

- A. There are multiple swimming events in the Olympic Games.
- B. Swimming is the best Olympic sport to watch.
- C. The backstroke events are the hardest races for swimmers.

### Air Jordan

Which two statements are **facts**?

- A. Michael Jordan is a six-time NBA champion.
- B. Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time.
- C. Michael Jordan is a retired basketball player.

### Name That Dog

Which two statements are **opinions**?

- A. Bella, Molly, and Lucy should not have been the top three names for female dogs in 2013.
- B. It is hard to believe that the top three male dog names for 2013 were Max, Buddy, and Rocky.
- C. VPI Pet Insurance kept a list of the top dog names for 2013.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**No Peeking!**

Aaron and Tara took a typing class last November. The teacher told the class to avoid looking at their keyboards while they type. Aaron and Tara did not listen. Now they struggle with typing whenever they look away from the keys. Both of them signed up for another typing class.

The underlined statement is the **effect**. What is the **cause**?

- A. Aaron and Tara took a typing class last November.
- B. Aaron and Tara didn't listen to the directions.
- C. Aaron and Tara wanted to take the typing class again.

**Insert Another Quarter**

Eli's dad took him to the arcade. Eli put his quarter into one of the video-game machines. He pressed the start button, but nothing happened. The machine said to insert another quarter. Eli put in another quarter and had fun playing the game.

The underlined statement is the **cause**. What is the **effect**?

- A. Eli's dad took him to the arcade.
- B. Eli put in another quarter.
- C. Eli put a quarter into the machine and pressed the start button.

**Hard-Earned Money**

Ryan earns money by doing work after school. He gets three dollars for every job he does. Yesterday, Ryan mowed the neighbor's lawn, took out her trash, and raked his grandmother's yard. He earned nine dollars and used some of the money to buy a smoothie and a magazine.

The underlined statement is the **effect**. What is the **cause**?

- A. Ryan completed three jobs.
- B. Ryan bought a smoothie and a magazine.
- C. Ryan raked his grandmother's yard.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Lost in the Zoo

1. They found Nate and Nora looking at the zebras thirty minutes later.
2. The group members looked for Nate and Nora near the monkey exhibit.
3. A few minutes later, Sam and Selena noticed that Nate and Nora were missing.
4. While at the zoo, Nate and Nora left their group without anyone knowing.

What is the correct sequence?

- A. 4, 3, 2, 1
- B. 4, 2, 1, 3
- C. 2, 1, 3, 4

## Math Minded

1. To get the right answer, Carlos multiplied  $7 \times 6$ .
2. One of the math problems said to add  $7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7$ .
3. Instead of adding, Carlos decided it would be faster to multiply.
4. Carlos sat down to finish his math homework.

Which sentence comes third?

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 3
- C. Sentence 4