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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 _____

Lost in Translation

Riley's family went to the zoo. An elephant had just been born there. Its name was Simba. It weighed 250 pounds at birth. Riley thought the elephant should have been named "Tembo" instead of "Simba." That's because in Swahili, "tembo" means elephant while "simba" means lion! Regardless of its name, Riley was very excited to see the baby elephant. She was hoping to get close-up pictures of it.

How much did Simba weigh at birth?

- A. 250 pounds
- B. 520 pounds
- C. 5200 pounds

Out with the Old

An old warehouse building is being torn down. A new community library will be built in its place. The library will be two stories tall. Children's books and magazines will be on the first floor. Research materials and computer stations will be on the second floor.



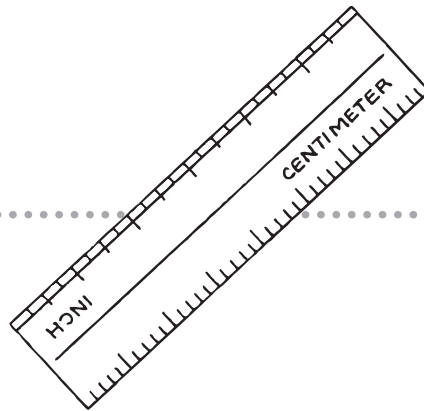
Where will the research materials be located?

- A. on the first floor
- B. on the second floor
- C. next to the children's books

Name _____ Date _____

Complicated Conversions

Liam and Lily were going to build a doghouse. First, they looked at the directions. That's when they saw that the lengths were given in centimeters. Liam and Lily only had a yardstick that showed inches. To build the doghouse correctly, Liam and Lily had to first convert all the measurements from centimeters to inches.



The underlined word means

- A. change.
- B. check.
- C. guess.

Unexpected Adventure

Dave and Daisy wanted to go on vacation. They decided to go to Ireland. There, they could rent a car and drive around the island. They could see castles, too. Dave and Daisy bought their tickets on the Internet. Finally, the day had arrived! They fell asleep as soon as they were seated on the plane. When they arrived at their destination, they were very confused. They were not in Ireland! They were in Iceland! They had made a simple typing blunder of just one letter, but it meant they were in the wrong country!

The underlined word means

- A. discovery.
- B. bargain.
- C. error.

Name _____ Date _____

A Busy Day

1. She spent the first few hours of her day in the back yard trying to chase birds.
2. By the afternoon, Chance was so hungry that she ate two bowls of food and drank an entire bowl of water.
3. Chance, our very energetic dog, went outside as soon as the sun came out this morning.
4. Chance rested all evening because she'd had such a busy day.

What is the correct sequence?

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

Clean Floor

1. The lights in the movie theater were turned down, and the previews started showing on the big screen.
2. After the movie ended, I looked around and saw that I had not spilled any popcorn onto the ground.
3. It got so dark in the theater that I could barely see my popcorn!
4. Pretty soon, my eyes were used to the dark.

Which sentence comes third?

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 4

Name _____ Date _____

Science Camp

The fifth graders are leaving for science camp next week. The teachers held a meeting for all the parents so that the parents could learn more about the trip. The teachers scheduled the meeting for a time when they thought most of the parents would be able to attend. The teachers told the parents that the students would be studying animals and hiking. The students would also be learning about astronomy and doing other fun things at the camp. The parents each got a list of things that the students should pack for the week.

Most likely, **when** was the meeting?

- A. in the morning
- B. at noon
- C. in the evening

Cooling Off

The Quinn family went for a boat ride one summer afternoon. Everyone started to get hot, so Mr. Quinn stopped the boat, and everyone jumped into the water to cool off. After Violet jumped in, she said, "I love swimming in this water because it's not salty!"

Most likely, **where** is the Quinn family?

- A. in a lake
- B. in an ocean
- C. in a swimming pool



Name _____

Date _____

Think about the laws in this country. If you had to write about laws, you could write about so many things! You could write about the history of the laws, how they are written, how they are enforced, and what happens if you don't obey them. You are going to write about laws, but you will have a specific **main idea**. Your main idea will be to give an example of one good law and one silly law. Knowing your main idea will help you stay organized.

You will need an additional sheet of paper to complete this assignment.

Law and Order



First paragraph: Introduce your topic by explaining what a law is and what you will be writing about. Next, give an example of one good law. Tell how this law helps people. What might happen if we didn't have this law?

Second paragraph: Pick one of the silly laws from the list below. Tell how you think this law came about. (Make your story as wild and fun as you want!) Then tell if you think this law is still needed today.

Silly Laws

- In Missouri, you cannot drive down the highway with an uncaged bear in the car.
- In Farmington, Connecticut, cows have the same rights on roads as motorists do.
- In Fargo, North Dakota, it is illegal to fall asleep with your shoes on.
- In St. Croix, Wisconsin, women are not allowed to wear anything red.
- In Boston, Massachusetts, it is illegal to take a bath unless ordered to by a doctor.
