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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 _____

Challenge Accepted!

Brian and Rita wouldn't stop fidgeting. They kept hitting and poking each other. Their mother said, "I challenge the two of you to stand on one sheet of newspaper for ten minutes. I don't think you can do it because you can't stop hitting and poking each other. In fact, I'm so sure you can't do it that I will offer you ten dollars each if you prove me wrong." Their mother was surprised when she had to give each child ten dollars. How did Brian and Rita not bother each other for ten minutes while standing only inches away from one another? They slipped the piece of newspaper under a closed door, and each stood on an opposite side!

What is the main idea?

- A. Brian and Rita's mother gave them each ten dollars for their excellent behavior.
- B. Brian and Rita surprised their mother with how they faced a challenge.
- C. Brian and Rita learned how to get along.

Take Your Vitamins

Vitamin D helps to strengthen our bones. It helps the body absorb bone-building calcium. Vitamin D is a unique vitamin because you can get it two ways. You can get it by eating certain foods such as egg yolks and oily fish like salmon or tuna. Some drinks, like milk and orange juice, are fortified with vitamin D. Your body can also produce it when your skin is exposed to sunlight. To get the proper amount of vitamin D, some people suggest spending ten to twenty minutes a day in bright daylight without wearing sunblock. Most doctors, however, would likely tell you that exposing unprotected skin to the sun is never a good idea. According to recent research, our bodies can produce vitamin D even while we're wearing sunblock.

What is the main idea?

- A. Your body can manufacture vitamin D.
- B. Vitamin D is a unique vitamin.
- C. Some foods are fortified with vitamin D.

Name _____ Date _____

Jaywalking

Ms. Tanaka’s students were on a quest for unusual trivia. Everyone liked what Susan and Rick discovered during their search. They found out that “jay” used to mean an inexperienced person. The word “jay” then became slang for a foolish person. People who ignored pedestrian street signs were referred to as jaywalkers because they were acting foolishly.

Which word can best replace the underlined word?

- A. journey
- B. vacation
- C. argument

Potential Presidency

There are certain constitutional requirements one must meet in order to become the president of the United States. Are you eligible? First, you have to be a natural-born United States citizen. That means you can either be born in the United States or be born in another country, but your parents must be American citizens. You need to be at least 35 years old, and you must still be a citizen of the United States. Finally, you must have lived as a resident of the United States for at least 14 years. It was originally thought that if you lived in the United States for at least 14 years, you would understand the needs of the country.

The underlined word means

- A. available.
- B. ready.
- C. qualified.

Name _____ Date _____

Incompatible Pets

Which two statements are **facts**?

- A. Crocodiles release heat through their mouths rather than through sweat glands.
- B. Dogs make better pets than crocodiles.
- C. Dogs regulate their body temperatures by sweating through their paws and by panting.

The Best State

Which two statements are **opinions**?

- A. New York is the best state to live in because it is on the Atlantic Coast.
- B. Some people live in Oregon, a state on the Pacific Coast.
- C. Louisiana is a great state to live in because it is on the Gulf Coast.

Missing Teeth

Which two statements are **facts**?

- A. When Washington became president in 1789, only one real tooth remained in his mouth.
- B. Making dentures out of ivory rather than from human teeth is better.
- C. One of Washington's sets of dentures was partly made out of hippopotamus ivory and human teeth.

A Long Day

Which two statements are **opinions**?

- A. Venus is the most interesting planet because one day on Venus is as long as 243 Earth days.
- B. It would be easy to stay awake for three days on Jupiter because a day is only 9.8 Earth hours.
- C. A day is the length of time it takes for a planet to completely rotate on its axis.

Border Buddies

Which two statements are **facts**?

- A. People should have to show their passports when they cross an international border.
- B. The border between the United States and Canada is the longest international border in the world shared between the same two countries.
- C. China and Russia each share borders with fourteen different countries.

Chilly Days

Which two statements are **opinions**?

- A. People are better off if they live in warmer climates.
- B. No one should live where heavy snow needs to be shoveled off of a roof.
- C. One winter in Cordova, Alaska, snow piled up six-feet-high on people's roofs.

Name _____ Date _____

Language Barrier

1. When they arrived at Carlos's home, Gail asked Carlos's mother to open the boot.
2. Carlos's mother didn't understand Gail.
3. Gail and Carlos put their book bags into the car's trunk.
4. Carlos explained to his mother that Gail was from England, and in England, the trunk of a car is called a *boot*.

What is the correct sequence?

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

Visit to France

1. People in Cairo's Egyptian Museum saw that the mummy of Ramesses II was rotting.
2. When the mummy landed in France, it was given extra-special care because it was a king.
3. The mummy was issued an Egyptian passport so it could be sent to France where it could be fixed.
4. The passport listed the mummy's occupation as "king (deceased)."

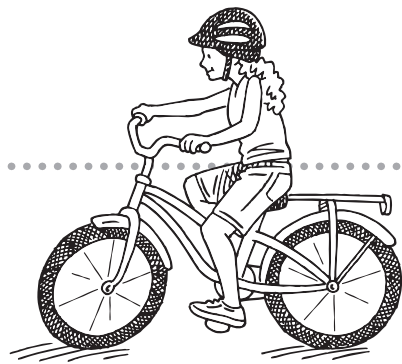
What sentence comes last?

- A. Sentence 2
- B. Sentence 3
- C. Sentence 4

Name _____ Date _____

A Day in the Park

Natalie and Roberto each packed a backpack, and then they rode their bikes to the park. When they got there, they locked up their bikes and then walked up to the top of a small grassy hill. Natalie opened her backpack, took out a blanket, and spread it on the grass. Next, she took out some containers. Roberto said, "Let me get out what I brought, too."



Predict the outcome.

- A. They are going to feed the birds.
- B. They are going to play a computer game.
- C. They are going to have a picnic.

Interesting Read

Everett was looking for something interesting to read, so he asked his older brother for some book titles. Everett's brother said, "If you want fantasy, I recommend *A Wrinkle in Time*. If you want something to do with the outdoors, I recommend *Hatchet*. If you want something funny but true, you should read *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be*." Everett decided he would read a nonfiction book followed by one about the outdoors.

Predict the outcome.

- A. Everett will read *Hatchet* second.
- B. Everett will read *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be* second.
- C. Everett will read *A Wrinkle in Time* second.