

## I Reading comprehension exercise

Read the story "Ready for Anything!" before answering Numbers 1 through 6 below.

### Ready for Anything!

By Jean Lawler

Justin was always prepared. His motto was "Never throw anything out, you never know when it might come in handy." His bedroom was so full of flat bicycle tires, bent tennis rackets, deflated basketballs, and games with missing pieces that you could barely get in the door. His parents pleaded with him to clean out his room.

"What use is a fish tank with a hole in the bottom?" his father asked. But Justin simply smiled and repeated his motto, "Never throw anything out, you never know when it might come in handy."

When Justin was away from home, he always carried his blue backpack. He liked to think of it as a smaller version of his bedroom—a place to store the many objects that he collected. It was so worn and stretched that it hardly resembled a backpack anymore. It was full of the kind of things that seemed unimportant, but when used with a little imagination, might come in handy.

Justin had earned a reputation for figuring things out and getting people out of otherwise hopeless situations. Many of his classmates and neighbors sought him out when they needed help with a problem. On the first day of school, his friend Kenny, came looking for Justin.

"Do you think you have something in your bag that could help me remember my locker combination?" he asked. "I lost the scrap of paper it was written on. I have science class in two minutes and if I'm late on the first day it'll make me look bad for the rest of the year." Kenny looked genuinely worried.

"Relax," Justin said, taking his backpack off and unzipping the top. "Remember how you borrowed my notebook in homeroom to write the combination down? Well, I know how we can recover what you wrote."

He took the notebook and a soft lead pencil out of his bag. The page that Kenny had written on had left faint indentations on another page in the notebook. Justin held the pencil on its side and rubbed it lightly over the indentations. Slowly but surely the numbers of the locker combination appeared in white, set off by the gray pencil rubbings.

"That's amazing!" Kenny said. "I owe you one." And he dashed off to open his locker.

During science class, Mr. Tran was lecturing on the structure of the solar system using a model. He made a sudden gesture and the model fell apart. Planets and rings and connector rods went everywhere, rolling and clattering and disappearing under desks. The students scrambled around on the floor for ten minutes and were finally able to recover every piece except one—a connector rod that was lodged in a crack between two lab stations.

"If we had a magnet," said Mr. Tran, "we could easily coax it out that way. But I loaned all of the magnet kits to the elementary school yesterday."

Justin was already searching through his backpack. "I have some materials that will work just as well, I think," he told Mr. Tran. He pulled out a battery, an iron nail, and some electrical wire and tape, while Mr. Tran and the other students looked on in amazement.

"Why do you have all of that stuff?" Louise Baxter asked. Justin just smiled and repeated his motto. "Never throw anything out, you never know when it might come in handy."

By wrapping the wire around the nail and taping each end to a battery terminal, he was able to make a magnet strong enough to lift the rod out of the crack.

"Bravo!" said Mr. Tran.

"No problem," said Justin.

After school, Justin rode the bus to the mall where he worked at a music store. His boss, Gail, was taking inventory of all of the CDs and tapes in the classical music section. As he helped a customer at the register, Justin heard her exclaim, "Oh, no! I forgot my glasses! There's no way I can read this list without them." Justin sighed, picked up his backpack, and walked over to Gail.

"I think I can help you out," he said, unzipping the bag. While Gail watched in surprise, he pulled out a jar of petroleum jelly, a washer, a glass slide, and a small bottle of water. He put the jelly on the bottom of the washer, placed it securely, jelly-side down, on the glass slide, and then put a drop of water in the center of the washer.

He put the contraption on top of the inventory list and said to his boss, "See what happens when you look through the water droplet." Gail looked and her eyes widened with delight.

"Wow!" she cried. "It enlarges the print that I'm looking at, just like a magnifying glass!" She patted Justin on the back. "I'm all set now," she said. "Thanks."

Justin smiled. "No problem," he said, returning to the register.

It was just another day in the life of the boy whose motto was "Never throw anything out, you never know when it might come in handy."

1. Why is Justin's room such a mess?
  - a) He always forgets to clean.
  - b) He never throws anything away.
  - c) He has no time to clean.
  - d) He shares a room with his brother.
  
2. What does *reputation* mean (line 10)?
  - a) One's personality
  - b) An award
  - c) How one is thought of by others
  - d) The support of others

3. In what way is Justin's backpack a smaller version of his bedroom?
  - a) He uses it as a place to store objects.
  - b) He uses it to carry his books and sports equipment.
  - c) His parents tell him to clean it all the time.
  - d) He's had it for as long as he can remember.
  
4. Which word is a synonym for *pleaded* (line 3)?
  - a) Ignored
  - b) Asked
  - c) Pushed
  - d) Begged
  
5. How do most of the characters in the story feel toward Justin?
  - a) Annoyed
  - b) Grateful
  - c) Disinterested
  - d) Angry

( \_\_\_ / 5)

**II Choose the most appropriate word or phrase that best completes each sentence. Mark ONE of the four possible answers.**

1. You must be fed up \_\_\_\_\_ listening to me complaining about my problems.
  - a) of
  - b) with
  - c) about
  - d) in
  
2. Could you please \_\_\_\_\_ me a pencil sharpener?
  - a) borrow
  - b) lend
  - c) lent
  - d) burrow
  
3. My car is \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment.
  - a) repairing
  - b) repaired
  - c) being repaired
  - d) repairs
  
4. The trouble \_\_\_\_\_ you is that you don't listen to anybody.
  - a) of
  - b) about
  - c) with
  - d) in
  
5. I drive a very \_\_\_\_\_ car.
  - a) economic
  - b) economize
  - c) economical
  - d) economics
  
6. I think it was Van Gogh who was famous \_\_\_\_\_ painting sunflowers, wasn't it?
  - a) by
  - b) for
  - c) about
  - d) in
  
7. If there's a word I don't know, I \_\_\_\_\_ in my dictionary.
  - a) look after it
  - b) pick it up
  - c) fill it
  - d) look it up
  
8. I'm afraid I'm pretty \_\_\_\_\_ - I hate going to parties and making small talk.

- a) sociable                      b) rude                                      c) lazy                                      d) timid

9. I usually see my cousins \_\_\_\_ Christmas.

- a) on                                      b) at                                      c) in                                      d) in

10. I'm really angry \_\_\_\_ Daisy. She took my new dress without permission.

- a) on                                      b) about                                      c) with                                      d) at

( \_\_\_\_ / 10)

**III      Insert the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets (active or passive).**

**The Tragic Tale of Ruddy Wee Hoody – Part 1**

There was this young girl called ..., actually, I don't know what she \_\_\_\_\_ (be called) really, because I only ever \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) her being called by her nickname – "Ruddy Wee Hoody", at least I think it was her nickname. It was how they usually \_\_\_\_\_ (refer) to her in the village, anyway. I always \_\_\_\_\_ (assume) that it \_\_\_\_\_ (come) from the red hooded top that she \_\_\_\_\_ (wear), day in day out, wherever she went. But I might have been wrong.

Anyway, one day her mother \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) her to take a basket filled with goodies to her granny, who \_\_\_\_\_ (happen) to live on the other side of the forest. Sorry, I forgot to tell you that this girl \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in a small cottage on the edge of a big forest, and that she \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) all her life there, up until that fateful day.

She \_\_\_\_\_ (set) off in a happy mood. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) through the trees, the birds \_\_\_\_\_ (sing). It was just as though everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for Walt Disney to come and draw the scene. What \_\_\_\_\_ (can) possibly spoil such a perfect day?

What indeed? While she \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) through the forest, she \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a wolf \_\_\_\_\_ (stroll) slowly towards her, humming something to himself. A minute or so earlier, the wolf \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) her from behind a tree, and \_\_\_\_\_ (think) to himself, "She'd make a nice juicy meal".

( \_\_\_\_ / 20)

**IV    COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS EXERCISE**

**Choose the correct "confusing" word from the pair to complete the sentence.**

1. As a waitress, I was only allowed one fifteen-minute \_\_\_\_\_. (brake / break)
2. This pattern works best with \_\_\_\_\_ heavy fabric. (coarse/ course)
3. The airplane began \_\_\_\_\_ descent. (Its / It's)
4. The book arrived in a \_\_\_\_\_ white envelope. (plane / plain)
5. If you come over, \_\_\_\_\_ you can meet my new puppy. (then / than)
6. When you are \_\_\_\_\_ (threw / through) slicing the carrots, can you help me with potatoes?
7. I'm not sure \_\_\_\_\_ to wait or to come back later. (weather / whether)
8. Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ sweater this is? (whose / who's)
9. There were \_\_\_\_\_ students at the dance this year than last year. (less / fewer)

10. \_\_\_\_\_ the cloth over the table, and set a vase of flowers on it. (lay / lie)
11. In a wedding ceremony, the bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_ the bride down the aisle. (proceed / precede)
12. They are not going to \_\_\_\_\_ this game. (lose / loose)
13. Taking this medication might \_\_\_\_\_ your sleep (affect / effect).
14. These diet pills are a \_\_\_\_\_ of money (waste / waist).
15. Before the bell rang, the class was \_\_\_\_\_ to go home. (all ready / already)

( \_\_\_ / 15 )

## V WORD FORMATION EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with a word derived from the word in capital letters. The first one has been done for you.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Artists must be <u>creative</u> , otherwise they just repeat what they see or hear. | CREATE   |
| 2. Have they put the Christmas _____ yet?  | DECORATE |
| 3. I don't like those trousers, no matter how _____ they are.                          | FASHION  |
| 4. Why are you so _____ of his work? He is doing his best.                             | CRITIC   |
| 5. Life _____ varies according to county and gender.                                   | EXPECT   |
| 6. I _____ think that there's no point in arguing with Tim.                            | HONEST   |
| 7. Every afternoon, the cooks _____ their knives in preparation for dinner.            | SHARP    |
| 8. It was a really _____ party. Thanks for inviting me.                                | ENJOY    |
| 9. She smiled _____ when they offered her a new job.                                   | HAPPY    |
| 10. Be sure to contact him if you need advice. He is a very _____ person.              | HELP     |

( \_\_\_ / 10 )

## VI. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER BY EITHER UNDERLYING IT OR ENCIRCLING THE RIGHT ANSWER A, B, C OR D.

1. William Shakespeare did not write:

- a) King Lear b) Hamlet c) Cleopatra d) Macbeth

2. William Shakespeare, the world's best and most famous playwright, lived in

- a) 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> b) 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> c) 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> d) 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century.

3. Which is the first Harry Potter book?

- a) HP and the Goblet of Fire b) HP and the Philosopher's Stone c) HP and the Chamber of Secrets d) Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

4) What is the book 'Lord of the Flies' about?

- a) a road trip around the USA b) a swarm of killer flies c) schoolboys on a desert island

5) In the book 'The Lord of the Rings', who or what is Bilbo?

- a) dwarf b) wizard c) troll d) hobbit

**6) How many books does the series Hunger Games have?**

- a)2    b)3    c)4    d)5

**7) George Orwell, an English author known for his 'Animal Farm' also wrote:**

- a) 1999    b)1948    c)1984    d)1484

**8)Dan Brown, a famous American writer wrote:**

- a) 'The Catcher In the Rye'    b) 'New Moon'    c) 'Angels and Demons'    d) 'Carrie'

**9) Who wrote 'The adventures of Tom Sawyer' and 'Huckleberry Finn'?**

- a)Mark Twain    b)E.A.Poe    c) J.D.Salinger    d) William Faulkner

( \_\_\_/9)

**IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING FIGURES OF SPEECH IN THE EXAMPLES BELOW:**

*Metaphor, simile, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, alliteration. Some of the figures of speech have been used more than once and there might be more than ONE figure of speech in each line.*

1. ... the sea seems to lie before us like a land of dreams,... ( *M.Arnold 'Dover Beach'*)
2. Morning is  
A new sheet of paper  
For you to write on.
3. Death be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, ... ( *John Donne*)
4. Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly. ( *Langston Hughes, 'Dream Deferred'*)
5. ...the little hobbit could be seen kneeling on the hearth-rug, shaking like a bowl of  
jelly that was melting ( *J.R.R.Tolkien, The Hobbit*)
6. I've told you a million times not to exaggerate . ( *J.R.R.Tolkien, The Hobbit*)
7. Her soft voice was music to his ears.
8. Goblins smell as bad as three-day old cottage cheese.
9. ...fifteen birds in five fir trees... ( *J.R.R.Tolkien, The Hobbit*)
10. Listen! You hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling. ( *M.Arnold 'Dover Beach'*)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

## **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

**Choose one of the topics. Write a brief composition of app. 200 words.**

Organize your writing well and make sure that your composition is related to the topic.

Try to use the appropriate paragraphing, language, grammar, spelling, etc.

- 1. Should elementary school be mandatory? Discuss both views.**
- 2. Modern day heroes and role models for young people- who are they and what makes them heroes?**
- 3. To report or not to report a school bully-that is the question? Discuss.**

Content / 7 points

Organization / 7 points

Language / 7 points

**( \_\_\_\_\_ / 21 points)**