

“Big City Noise”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

My name is Olaf.

I live in a big city.
I live on a busy road.
During the day and at night, cars go by.
Buses go by.
Trucks go by.

People do not seem to hear the noise during the day.
But at night, the noise makes it hard to sleep.

My road has a lot of animals, too.
People keep their animals outside in their yards at night.
There are cats.
There are dogs.



The dogs make a lot of noise.
To me, the dogs are like the trucks.
The dogs are like the cars.
The dogs are like the buses.
All of them are loud!

One dog barks more than the others do. His name is Simba.
Simba is Mr. Cheek's dog.
“That is a very bad dog. He keeps me up at night,” says Mr. Lucas. Mr. Lucas lives next door to Mr. Cheek. “You should give him away,” says Mr. Lucas. This makes Mr. Cheek very mad. “You should not sleep with your windows open,” says Mr. Cheek.
“You should take your dog inside at night,” yells Mr. Lucas.

The two men argue about Simba's barking almost every day.
I think this is funny.

To me, Simba is as bad as the cars.
He is *as bad as the buses*.
He is as bad as the trucks.

This is what living in a big city is like. There is a lot of noise.

Questions:

1) In what place does Olaf live?

- A. in a small apartment
- B. in a big city
- C. in a quiet neighborhood
- D. in a busy town

2) According to Olaf, what makes noise?

- I. dogs
 - II. buses
 - III. airplanes
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

3) What goes by at night?

- A. bikes
- B. cats
- C. dogs
- D. trucks

4) Why may people not seem to hear the noise during the day?

- A. because it is quiet
- B. because they are sleepy
- C. because they are busy doing other things
- D. because they do not hear well during the day

5) What is Olaf's road like?

- I. It is dirty.
- II. It is noisy.
- III. It is busy.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

6) Which noise makes Mr. Lucas mad?

- A. cats meowing
- B. trucks going by
- C. a dog barking
- D. people talking

7) Who argues every day?

- A. Mr. Lucas and Olaf
- B. Olaf and Mr. Cheek
- C. Simba and Mr. Lucas
- D. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Cheek

8) What could Mr. Cheek do to help Mr. Lucas sleep?

- A. get a cat
 - B. not argue with him
 - C. not drive his car at night
 - D. take his dog inside at night
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Questions (continued):

9) What could Mr. Lucas do to sleep better?

- A. close his windows at night
- B. not argue with Mr. Cheek
- C. go to bed later
- D. talk to Olaf

10) Who says Simba is a bad dog?

- A. Olaf
- B. Mr. Lucas
- C. Olaf and Mr. Lucas
- A. no one

11) Who does Mr. Cheek live next door to?

- A. Olaf
- B. Mr. Lucas
- C. Olaf and Mr. Lucas
- D. no one

12) What does Olaf mean when he says Simba is *as bad as the buses*?

- A. that Simba barks at the buses
- B. that Simba and the buses argue
- C. that Simba runs down the street at night
- D. that Simba and the buses both make noise

13) According to Olaf, what could be done about noise in a big town?

- A. People could ride bikes.
- B. Dogs could be inside.
- C. People could walk everywhere.
- D. Nothing can be done.

Is it better to live in the city or in the country? Why?

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

At the beginning of the story, Olaf says, "I live in a big city." Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect. A big city might be busy, and the story says that Olaf lives "on a busy road." But the story also says that Olaf lives in a "big city," not a busy town. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

In the middle of the story, Olaf says, "The dogs make a lot of noise." This supports **option (I)**. In the middle of the story, Olaf also says that the dogs "are like the trucks," "the cars," and "the buses" because "all of them are loud." We can understand from this that the buses also make noise. This supports **option (II)**. Airplanes are not mentioned in the story at all. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

3) **D**

At the beginning of the story Olaf says, "At night and during the day, cars go by. Buses go by. Trucks go by." We can understand from this that trucks go by at night. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The story does not say anything about bikes, so **(A)** is incorrect. In the middle of the story, we learn that people keep their cats and dogs "outside in their yards at night." However, cats and dogs do not go by like cars, trucks and buses do. This means **(B)** and **(C)** are incorrect.

4) **C**

Daytime is when most people do activities or go places like work and school. Since most people are busy or gone during the day, they do not seem to notice the noise from the trucks, buses, and dogs. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Olaf says that his neighborhood is noisy in the day and at night, so it cannot be quiet. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. People usually get sleepy at night, not during the day. Also, being sleepy would not make people unable to hear the noise. This makes **(B)** incorrect. There is no information in the story to support the idea that people do not hear well during the day. That would not make sense. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

5) **C**

It does not say anywhere in the story that the road is dirty. This eliminates **option (I)**. Olaf says that cars, buses and trucks go by on the road and that "at night, the noise makes it hard to sleep." Olaf also says that there are dogs on his road. He says that "the dogs make a lot of noise." Using this information, we can understand that the road is noisy. This supports **option (II)**. At the beginning of the story, Olaf says, "I live on a busy road." This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

6) **C**

In the middle of the story, it says that a dog named Simba barks more than the others. We learn that Mr. Lucas thinks that Simba “is a very bad dog. He keeps me up at night.” Olaf says, “The two men argue about Simba’s barking almost every day.” Using this information, we can understand that Simba, the barking dog, makes Mr. Lucas angry. This means **(C)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **D**

At the end of the story, we learn that “Simba is Mr. Cheek’s dog.” We also learn that Mr. Lucas is bothered by Simba’s barking and that “the two men argue about Simba’s barking almost every day.” From this we can understand that Mr. Lucas and Mr. Cheek argue almost every day. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **D**

We know that Simba’s barking keeps Mr. Lucas up at night. When Mr. Lucas and Mr. Cheek argue, Mr. Lucas says, “You should take your dog inside at night.” Using this information, we can understand that Mr. Lucas thinks that he will not hear the dog if Mr. Cheek takes Simba inside at night. If Mr. Lucas does not hear the dog, he will be able to sleep at night. This makes **(D)** correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **A**

We know that Simba’s barking keeps Mr. Lucas up at night. When Mr. Lucas and Mr. Cheek argue, Mr. Cheek says, “You should not sleep with your windows open.” We can understand from this that Mr. Cheek thinks that Mr. Lucas would not be able to hear Simba barking at night if he closed his windows. If Mr. Lucas could not hear Simba barking, he would be able to sleep at night. This means **(A)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

10) **B**

In the middle of the story Mr. Lucas says, “That is a very bad dog,” about Simba. This means **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

11) **B**

In the middle of the story, Olaf says, “Mr. Lucas lives next door to Mr. Cheek.” This makes **(B)** the correct answer.

Olaf says that Simba is one of the animals that live on his road. Simba is Mr. Cheek’s dog. This tells us that Mr. Cheek lives on Olaf’s road. However, the story does not say where Mr. Cheek lives on the road, so we do not know if Mr. Cheek lives next door to Olaf. Therefore **(A)** and **(C)** are incorrect. The story tells us that Mr. Cheek lives next door to Mr. Lucas, so he can’t live next door to no one. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

12)**D**

In the middle of the story, Olaf says, “The dogs are like the trucks,” “the cars,” and “the buses,” because “all of them are loud.” Later in the story Olaf says that the dog Simba “barks more than others do.” We can understand from this that Olaf thinks that both Simba and the buses are noisy, so **(D)** is correct.

We do not know if Simba barks at the buses, so **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not say that Simba and the buses argue. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. At the beginning of the story, Olaf does say that buses go by at night, but the only thing we learn about Simba is that he barks a lot. We do not know if he runs down the street at night. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

13)**D**

Throughout the story, Olaf describes how noisy the big city is. He explains that the noise comes from vehicles like cars, trucks and buses and from dogs. He does not say that something could be done to quiet the noise. Instead, he says, “This is what living in a big city is like.” Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Olaf does not say that people could ride bikes to help the noise in the city, so **(A)** is incorrect. Mr. Lucas wants Mr. Cheek to put Simba indoors at night so that Mr. Lucas will not hear the dog barking. However, Olaf does not say that putting Simba inside would help the noise of the city. This means **(B)** is incorrect. Olaf does not say that people could walk everywhere to help the noise in the city. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.