

• Reading Comprehension 8 Level 11

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

In this lawsuit, the lawyer who represents three different insurance companies against one plaintiff is seeking a settlement agreement, wherein the plaintiff agrees to drop the lawsuit in exchange for a certain amount of money. The plaintiff has agreed to accept \$10,000. Now the lawyer must convince the companies, none of which wants to pay more than \$3,000, that it is in their interest to pay enough so that the total reaches \$10,000. The lawyer claims that this lawsuit is like a giant jigsaw puzzle.

Questions

- 1) The lawyer claims that “this lawsuit is like a giant jigsaw puzzle” mostly because it
 - A. cannot be solved
 - B. is a source of frustration and anxiety for the lawyer
 - C. has pieces that must fit together in a certain way
 - D. is too difficult for the lawyer to handle
 - E. is a confusing jumble of information

- 2) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that the settlement agreement can be reached if
 - I. each of the three companies agrees to pay a little more money
 - II. one of the companies is willing to pay an extra \$1,000
 - III. the plaintiff reduces the amount of money he or she is willing to accept
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

In this passage, the author describes a lawsuit. The author writes, "In this lawsuit, the lawyer who represents three different insurance companies against one plaintiff is seeking a settlement agreement, wherein the plaintiff agrees to drop the lawsuit in exchange for a certain amount of money." This means that there are four different parties involved in this lawsuit: the three companies and the plaintiff. Then the author explains that for the settlement agreement to work, "the lawyer must convince the companies, none of which wants to pay more than \$3,000, that it is in their interest to pay enough so that the total reaches \$10,000," which is the amount the plaintiff is willing to accept. If none of the companies pays more than \$3,000, then the total will only be \$9,000, and the settlement agreement will not work. If each of the three companies agrees to pay a little more money, or if one of the companies is willing to pay an extra \$1,000, or if the plaintiff reduces the acceptable amount, then the pieces will fit together in such a way that the settlement agreement will work. If the pieces do not fit together in a certain way, though, the settlement agreement will not be reached. In the same way, a giant jigsaw puzzle has pieces that must fit together in a certain way to make the puzzle work. This means that the lawyer claims that "this lawsuit is like a giant jigsaw puzzle" mostly because it has pieces that must fit together in a certain way. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although the lawsuit has not yet been solved, the passage does not suggest that it cannot ever be solved (see above). Furthermore, a jigsaw puzzle can be solved, so if the lawsuit could not be solved, this would be unlike a giant jigsaw puzzle. This makes **(A)** incorrect. While some people may find a giant jigsaw puzzle to be a source of frustration and anxiety, the passage does not provide information to suggest that the lawyer finds the lawsuit to be this way. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. While some people may find a giant jigsaw puzzle to be difficult, the passage does not provide information to suggest that the lawsuit is too difficult for the lawyer to handle. This means **(D)** is incorrect. Although the lawsuit contains particular information, the information is not a confusing jumble. It is presented in an organized way that, albeit complicated, is readily understandable. This makes **(E)** incorrect.

2) **D**

In the passage, the author explains how the settlement agreement will work: "The plaintiff has agreed to accept \$10,000. Now the lawyer must convince the companies, none of which wants to pay more than \$3,000, that it is in their interest to pay enough so that the total reaches \$10,000." If each of the companies pays \$3,000, then the total will only be \$9,000 and the settlement agreement will not be reached. If, however, each of the three companies agrees to pay a little more money, they could have a total of \$10,000. This means that the settlement agreement can be reached if each of the three companies agrees to pay a little more money. This supports **option (I)**. In the passage, the author explains how the settlement agreement will work: "The plaintiff has agreed to accept \$10,000. Now the lawyer must convince the companies, none of which wants to pay more than \$3,000, that it is in their interest to pay enough so that the total reaches \$10,000." If two of the companies only pay \$3,000, but one of the companies is willing to pay an extra \$1,000 for a contribution of \$4,000, then the total will be \$10,000. This means that the settlement agreement can be reached if one of the companies agrees to pay an extra \$1,000. This supports **option (II)**. In the passage, the author explains how the settlement agreement will work: "The plaintiff has agreed to accept \$10,000. Now the lawyer must convince the companies, none of which wants to pay more than \$3,000, that it is in their interest to pay enough so that the total reaches \$10,000." If each of the companies pays \$3,000, then the total will only be \$9,000. But if the plaintiff reduces the amount of money he or she is willing to accept, then the settlement agreement can be reached. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.