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Level 3 Samples

3 Reading Comprehension Assessments

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Name_____
Date_____

• Reading Comprehension Sample 3.1

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

Robots

A robot is a machine. But it is not just any machine. It is a <mark>special</mark> kind of machine. It is a machine that moves. It follows instructions. The instructions come from a computer. Because it is a machine, it does not make mistakes. And it does not get tired. And it never complains. Unless you tell it to!

Robots are all around us. Some robots are used to make things. For example, robots can help make cars. Some robots are used to explore dangerous places. For example, robots can help explore volcanoes. Some robots are used to clean things. These robots can help vacuum your house. Some robots can even recognize words. They can be used to help answer telephone calls. Some robots look like humans. But most robots do not. Most robots just look like machines.

Long ago, people imagined robots. Over 2,000 years ago, a famous poet imagined robots. The poet's name was Homer. His robots were made of gold. They cleaned things and they made things. But they were not real. They were imaginary. Nobody was able to make a real robot. The first real robot was made in 1961. It was called Unimate. It was used to help make cars. It looked like a giant arm.

In the future, we will have even more robots. They will do things that we can't do. Or they will do things that we don't want to do. Or they will do things that are too dangerous for us. Robots will help us fight fires. They will help us fight wars. They will help us fight sickness. They will help us discover things. They will help make life better.
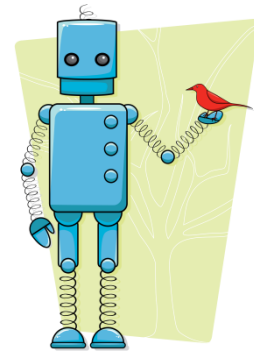
Sources:
Goldsmith, Mike. "Robots." *Everything You Need To Know About Science.* New York: Kingfisher, 2009. Print.

Questions

1) As used in paragraph 1, we can understand that something **special** is NOT

    A. normal
    B. expensive
    C. perfect
    D. tired

2) According to the author, robots may be used to

    I. make cars
    II. explore volcanoes
    III. answer telephone calls

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

3) What is the main purpose of paragraph 2?

    A. to show how easy it is to make a robot
    B. to tell what a robot is
    C. to describe the things a robot can do
    D. to explain the difference between a robot and a machine

4) According to the passage, when was the first real robot made?

    A. 1961
    B. 1900
    C. 2003
    D. 2000 years ago

5) Which of these gives the best use of a robot?

    A. to help make a sandwich
    B. to help tie shoes
    C. to help read a book
    D. to help explore Mars

6) How does the author of this passage <u>most likely</u> feel about robots?

    A. Robots are old.
    B. Robots are confusing.
    C. Robots are helpful.
    D. Robots are dangerous.

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• Reading Comprehension Sample 3.2

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

Three Cheeses

Kat, Alice, and Debbie are planning a dinner party.

They want to serve appetizers to the guests before dinner is served. They decide to buy vegetables, dips, crackers, bread, and cheese for the appetizers.

"What kind of cheese should we buy?" Kat asks Alice and Debbie.

"Hmm. Good question," says Debbie. "I don't know much about cheese." She turns to Alice. "What about you, Alice? Do you know which cheese we should buy?"

"No sorry," says Alice. "I don't know much about cheese either. Maybe we should ask a mouse."

The girls laugh. "I know," says Kat. "Let's go look at the cheese. Then maybe we can make a decision."

The three girls walk through the store in search of the dairy section. They turn down aisle 9 and stop in front of the cheese. "There are so many different kinds!" says Kat. "Which one looks good to you two?"
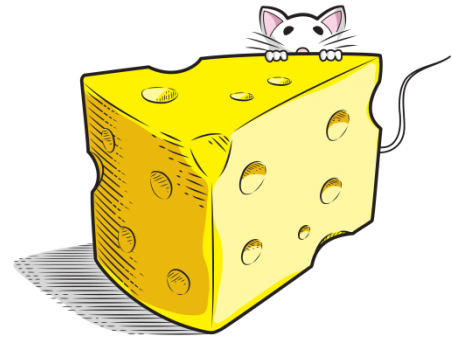
"I like how Swiss cheese looks. It has lots of holes in it," Alice says.

"I like Colby Jack. I like it because it is two different colors. It is both orange and white," Debbie says.

"I like Blue cheese," Kat says. She picks it up and smells it. "I like it because it smells strong."

"Well, which kind of cheese should we buy?" Alice asks.

"Let's get all three of them!" Debbie says.

Questions

1) In the beginning of the passage, we learn that Kat, Alice, and Debbie "want to serve appetizers to the guests before dinner is served." Which of these foods could also be served as an **appetizer**?

    A. grilled steak and mashed potatoes
    B. cake and ice cream
    C. cheeseburger and fries
    D. carrot sticks and crackers

2) What kind of products are available in aisle 9?

    A. dairy products
    B. meat products
    C. grain products
    D. The passage does not give this information.

3) According to the passage, which kind of cheese has holes in it?

    A. Swiss cheese
    B. Colby Jack cheese
    C. Blue cheese
    D. The passage does not give this information.

4) According to the passage, Colby Jack cheese is

    I. white
    II. orange
    III. blue

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

5) Which kind of cheese is Kat's favorite?

    A. Swiss cheese
    B. Colby Jack cheese
    C. Blue cheese
    D. The passage does not give this information.

6) Using the information in this passage, we can understand that Kat <u>probably</u>

    A. dislikes Colby Jack
    B. likes strong flavors
    C. eats a lot of cheese
    D. is afraid of mice

Name_____
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• Reading Comprehension Sample 3.3

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

The Weather Changes

The weather where I live changes. It changes every day. Some people don't want the <mark>climate</mark> to change. They want it to stay the same. But not me. I like it when the weather changes.

Some days it is hot. The sun is bright. There are no clouds. I play soccer on hot days. I sweat a lot. I come back home from playing soccer. My mom says, "Drink water. You need to drink water when it is hot." So I drink some water.

Some days it is cloudy. The sun is hidden. It is hidden behind the clouds. You can't see the sun when it is hidden behind the clouds. Everything looks grey. My mom says, "You can't see the sun. But it is still very strong. Put on some sunscreen." So I put on some sunscreen.

Some days it is rainy. The rain falls down in big, fat drops. It falls to the ground. It makes little puddles. I like to splash around in them. My mom says, "Put on your boots." So I put on my boots.

Some days it is cold. The wind stings my face. It really hurts! I wear a heavy coat. I put up my hood when I go outside. This helps to protect my face from the wind. My mom says, "Don't forget your scarf." I see my scarf hanging by the door. I leave it there and run outside.

As you can see, the weather changes a lot where I live. Some people don't like it. But I sure do!

Questions

1) As used in paragraph 1, the word **climate** most nearly means

   A. land
   B. water
   C. house
   D. weather

2) The narrator talks about all of these kinds of weather EXCEPT

   A. rain
   B. wind
   C. snow
   D. clouds

3) Why does the narrator's mother <u>most likely</u> tell the narrator to "put on your boots"?

   A. because it is rainy outside
   B. because it is windy outside
   C. because it is sunny outside
   D. because it is cloudy outside

4) The narrator listens to her mother

   A. none of the time
   B. some of the time
   C. most of the time
   D. all of the time

Sample 3.1

1) A
Question Type: Vocabulary
special *(adjective):* being a particular one; particular, individual, or certain.
In order to answer this question correctly, we need to figure out what the word special means as it is used in paragraph 1. Then we need to say which word means the opposite of this meaning. To do this, we can start by using context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what the word special must mean, as it is used in paragraph 1. In paragraph 1, we read: "It is a special kind of machine." In the previous two sentences, we are told that a robot is "a machine," but that it is "not just any machine." From this, we can tell that a robot is a machine, but that it is not just any machine. Because it is not just any machine, we can tell that it is not like other machines, or that it is different from normal machines. From this, we can understand that, when the author says that a robot is "a special kind of machine," he or she must mean that it is not a normal or ordinary kind of machine. This lets us know that, as it is used in paragraph 1, the word special must mean "different from normal." We can now understand that the word special means the opposite of "normal." Something special is not normal. Therefore **(A)** is correct. Using the above information, we can tell that the word special, as it is used in paragraph 1, must mean "different from normal." This lets us know that the meaning of the word special does not have anything to do with whether or not it is expensive. We can now understand that the word special does not mean "not expensive." This eliminates **(B)**. Using the above information, we can tell that the word special, as it is used in paragraph 1, must mean "different from normal." This lets us know that the meaning of the word special does not have anything to do with whether or not it is perfect, since something that is different from normal might or might not be perfect. We can now understand that the word special does not mean "not perfect." This eliminates **(C)**. Using the above information, we can tell that the word special, as it is used in paragraph 1, must mean "different from normal." This lets us know that the meaning of the word special does not have anything to do with being tired. We can now understand that the word special does not mean "not tired." This eliminates **(D)**.

2) D
Question Type: Detail
In paragraph 2, we read: "robots can help make cars." This lets us know that robots may be used to make cars. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 2, we also read: "robots can help explore volcanoes." This lets us know that robots may be used explore volcanoes. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 2, we again also read that robots "can be used to help answer telephone calls." This lets us know that robots may be used to answer telephone calls. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

3) C
Question Type: Detail
In paragraph 2, we are told all about the things that robots can do. We are told that "some robots are used to make things." We are told that "some robots are used to explore dangerous places." We are told that "some robots are used to clean things." We are told that "some robots can even recognize words," and "answer telephone calls." We are also told about some examples of things that robots do. For example, we are told about robots that help build cars, that help explore volcanoes, and that vacuum houses. All of this lets us know about things that robots can do. From this we can understand that the main purpose of paragraph 2 must be to describe the things a robot can do. Therefore **(C)** is correct. In paragraph 2, we are told all about the things that robots can do. We are not told anything about how to make a robot. From this we can understand that the main purpose of paragraph 2 cannot be to show how easy it is to make a robot. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Although this passage does tell us what a robot is, it does not tell this to us in paragraph 2. It tells us in paragraph 1, where we are told that a robot is a machine that can move and follow instructions from a computer. In paragraph 2, we are told all about the things that robots can do, but we are not told what a robot is. From this we can understand that the main purpose of paragraph 2 cannot be to tell what a robot is. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Although this passage does explain to us the difference between a robot and an ordinary machine, it does not do so in paragraph 2. It does this in paragraph 1, where we learn that a robot is a "special machine," and we are told that a robot is a special machine because it can move and follow instructions from a computer. In paragraph 2, we are told all about the things that robots can do, but we are not told how to tell the difference between a robot and a machine. From this we can understand that the main purpose of paragraph 2 cannot be to explain the difference between a robot and a machine. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) A
Question Type: Detail
In paragraph 3, we read: "The first real robot was made in 1961." This lets us know that, according to this passage, the first real robot was made in 1961. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)** or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect. Although the passage does tell us that a famous poet imagined robots over 2000 years ago, it also tells us that these robots "were not real," and that the "first real robot was made in 1961." This lets us know that the first real robot was not made 2000 years ago. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

5) D
Question Type: Inference
In paragraph 4, we read that, in the future, robots "will do things that we can't." We also read that they "will do things that we don't want to do." Again, we also read that they "will do things that are too dangerous for us." We are then given some examples of these things that robots will do. For example, they will help us fight fires, wars, and sickness. And they will help us discover things. All of this lets us know that the best uses for robots are for tasks that are very hard for humans to do, or very dangerous for humans to do, or that help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. Going to explore Mars would be both very hard and very dangerous for humans to do, and would help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. From this we can understand that helping to explore Mars is a best use of a robot. Therefore **(D)** is correct. Using the above information, we can tell that the best uses for robots are for tasks that are very hard for humans to do, or very dangerous for humans to do, or that help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. Helping to make a sandwich is not something that would be very hard or dangerous for humans to do, and would not help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. From this we can understand that helping to make a sandwich is not a best use of a robot. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Using the above information, we can tell that the best uses for robots are for

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tasks that are very hard for humans to do, or very dangerous for humans to do, or that help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. Helping to tie shoes is not something that would be very hard or dangerous for humans to do, and would not help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. From this we can understand that helping to tie shoes is not a best use of a robot. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Using the above information, we can tell that the best uses for robots are for tasks that are very hard for humans to do, or very dangerous for humans to do, or that help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. Helping to read a book is not something that would be very hard or dangerous for humans to do, and would not help us discover things we couldn't discover otherwise. From this we can understand that helping to read a book is not a best use of a robot. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

6) C
Question Type: Global
In this passage, we learn many things about robots. We learn what a robot is, and that robots do not make mistakes or get tired. We learn that robots can help make things, explore dangerous places, clean things, and recognize words. We learn that the first robot was made to help build cars, and that before that imaginary robots were imagined as helping to clean and to make things. We learn that in the future robots will help us to do the things we cannot do or do not want to do, and that they will "make life better." All of this lets us know that the most important thing about robots, according to the author of this passage, is that they help. The author does not talk about any robots that do not help or that cause harm. All of the robots he or she talks about are helpful robots. From this we can understand that the author of this passage most likely feels that robots are helpful. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although the author of this passage does tell us that people from long ago in history imagined robots, this does not mean that robots are old. In fact, we are told that nobody was able to make a real robot until 1961. Also, the author of this passage talks mostly about the robots of today or the robots of tomorrow. The only old robot that he or she talks about is the first real robot, the Unimate. From this we can understand that the author of this passage most likely does not feel that robots are old. This eliminates **(A)**. The author of this passage does not say anything that might make us think that robots are confusing. From this we can understand that the author of this passage most likely does not feel that robots are confusing. This eliminates **(B)**. Although the author of this passage does talk about dangerous things, he or she does not say that robots are dangerous. He or she says that robots can help to "explore dangerous places" or "do things that are too dangerous for us." This lets us know that the author of this passage most likely does not feel that robots are dangerous. This eliminates **(D)**.

Sample 3.2

1) D
Question Type: Vocabulary
appetizer (*noun*): food or drink served before a main meal to stimulate the appetite.
In the passage, the author writes, "They decide they want to serve appetizers to the guests before dinner is served. They decide to buy vegetables, dips, crackers, bread, and cheese for the appetizers." This tells us that an appetizer is served before a main dish and also gives us examples of what kinds of foods are served as appetizers. The girls decide to serve vegetables and dips as appetizers. Carrot sticks and crackers are examples of this. This means choice **(D)** is correct. An appetizer is a served before a main dish. Grilled steak and mashed potatoes is an example of a meal that would be served as a main dish. Therefore, choice **(A)** is incorrect. An appetizer is a served before a main dish. Cake and ice cream is an example of dessert. Dessert would be served after a main dish. Thus, choice **(B)** is incorrect. An appetizer is a served before a main dish. A cheeseburger and fries is an example of a meal that would be served as a main dish. Therefore, choice **(C)** is incorrect.

2) A
Question Type: Inference
In the middle of the passage, it says, "The three girls walk through the store in search of the dairy section. They turn down aisle 9 and stop in front of the cheese." Since the girls are in search of the dairy section and then turn down aisle 9, we can understand that this must be where the dairy section is. Therefore, we know that dairy products are available in aisle 9. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) A
Question Type: Detail
In the passage, Kat, Alice, and Debbie each describe a type of cheese. "I like how Swiss cheese looks. It has lots of holes in it," Alice says. This means choice **(A)** is correct. In the passage, Kat, Alice, and Debbie each describe a type of cheese. Debbie says Colby Jack cheese "is two different colors. It is both orange and white." She does not say that Colby Jack cheese has holes in it. Therefore, choice **(B)** is incorrect. In the passage, Kat, Alice, and Debbie each describe a type of cheese. Kat says Blue cheese "is blue and white" and "has a very strong taste." She does not say that Blue cheese has holes in it. Therefore, choice **(C)** is incorrect. The information to answer the question is given in the passage. This eliminates choice **(D)**.

4) B
Question Type: Detail
In the passage, Debbie says, "I like Colby Jack. I like it because it is two different colors. It is both orange and white." This supports option (I) and option (II). Debbie does not say that Colby Jack cheese is blue. This eliminates option (III). Therefore **(B)** is correct.

5) D
Question Type: Detail
Near the end of the passage, Kat says "I like Blue Cheese…because it smells strong." Although Kat does say that she likes Blue Cheese, she does not say that it is her favorite. Rather, as mentioned in the beginning of the passage, neither of the girls know much about cheese (they joke that they should ask a mouse). Using this information, we can see that the passage does not give this information. So choice **(D)** is correct. Since Kat does not have a favorite cheese, we know that choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** are incorrect.

6)   B
Question Type: Inference
In the passage, Kat says, "I like Blue Cheese. I like it because it smells strong." Since Kat says she likes cheese with a strong smell, we can assume she probably also likes strong flavors. This means choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

Sample 3.3

1)   D
Question Type: Vocabulary
In the opening line of the passage, the narrator says, "The weather where I live changes." The author then continues to describes how the weather where he or she lives changes. In paragraph 2, the author talks about hot days. In paragraph 3, the author talks about cloudy days. In paragraph 4, the author talks about rainy days. In paragraph 5, the author talks about cold days. Using this information, we can understand that when the author says the climate changes where he or she lives, he or she means to say that the weather changes where he or she lives. This means choice **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2)   C
Question Type: Detail
To answer this question correctly, it helps to use the process of elimination. In paragraph 4, the narrator says, "Some days it is rainy. The rain falls down in big, fat drops." This lets us know the narrator talks about rain. Choice **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 5, the narrator says, "Some days it is cold. The wind stings my face. It really hurts! I wear a heavy coat. I put up my hood when I go outside. This helps to protect my face from the wind." This lets us know the narrator talks about wind. Choice **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 3, the narrator says, "Some days it is cloudy. The sun is hidden. It is hidden behind the clouds. You can't see the sun when it is hidden behind the clouds." This lets us know the narrator talks about clouds. Choice **(D)** is incorrect. Using the process of elimination, we can see that the narrator talks about all kinds of weather EXCEPT snow. This means choice **(C)** is correct.

3)   A
Question Type: Inference
In paragraph 4, the narrator says, "Some days it is rainy. The rain falls down in big, fat drops. It falls to the ground. It makes little puddles. I like to splash around in them. My mom says, 'Put on your boots.' So I put on my boots." The narrator says he or she likes to splash around in the puddles. Using this information, we can understand that it makes sense for the narrator's mother to tell her to put on her boots. This way, the narrator's feet will keep dry in the rain. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4)   C
Question Type: Global
In paragraph 2, the narrator's mother tells the narrator to drink some water. The narrator then says, "So I drink some water." This lets us know that the narrator listens to his or her mother in paragraph 2. In paragraph 3, the narrator's mother tells the narrator to put on some sunscreen. The narrator then says, "So I put on some sunscreen." This lets us know that the narrator listens to his or her mother in paragraph 3. In paragraph 4, the narrator's mother tells the narrator to put on your boots. The narrator then says, "So I put on my boots." This lets us know that the narrator listens to his or her mother in paragraph 4. In paragraph 5, the narrator's mother tells the narrator not to forget his or her scarf. The narrator then says, "I see my scarf hanging by the door. I leave it there and run outside." This lets us know that the narrator does not listen to his or her mother in paragraph 5. So, the narrator listens to her mother 3 out of 4 times. This is most of the time. Therefore choice **(C)** is correct. According to the explanation above, the narrator listens to her mother 3 out of 4 times. This is more than none of the time. So choice **(A)** is incorrect. According to the explanation above, the narrator listens to her mother 3 out of 4 times. This is more than some of the time. So choice **(B)** is incorrect. According to the explanation above, the narrator listens to her mother 3 out of 4 times. This is less than all of the time. So choice **(D)** is incorrect.