

• Reading Comprehension 3 Level 5

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

Many people who are looking to get a pet dog get a puppy. There are many reasons why people get puppies. After all, puppies are cute, friendly, and playful. But even though puppies make good pets, there are good reasons why you should consider getting an adult dog instead.

When you get a puppy, you have to teach it how to **behave**. You have to make sure that the puppy is **housebroken** so that it does not go to the bathroom inside the house. You have to teach the puppy not to jump up on your guests or chew on your shoes. You have to train the puppy to walk on a leash. This is a lot of work.

On the other hand, when you get an adult dog, there is a good chance that it will already know how to do all of the previously mentioned things. Many adult dogs have already been housebroken. Many adult dogs will not jump on or chew things that you do not want them to jump on or chew. Many adult dogs will be able to walk on a leash without pulling you to the other side of the street.

Puppies also have a lot of energy and want to play all of the time. This can be fun, but you might not want to play as much as your puppy does. Puppies will not always sleep through the night or let you **relax** as you watch television.

On the other hand, most adult dogs will wait on you to play. What is more, they will sleep when you are sleeping and are happy to watch television on the couch right beside you.

There is one last reason why you should get an adult dog instead of a puppy. When most people go to the pound to get a dog, they get a puppy. This means that **many adult dogs spend a lot of time in the pound, and some never find good homes**. So if you are looking to get a dog for a pet, you should think about getting an adult dog. They are good pets who need good homes.

Questions

- 1) The author apparently thinks that puppies are
 - A. bad pets because they take too much work to own
 - B. friendly, playful, and a lot of work
 - C. not as cute as adult dogs
 - D. not as playful as adult dogs

- 2) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best synonym for **behave**?
 - A. listen
 - B. understand
 - C. train
 - D. act

- 3) The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to explain how puppies
 - A. are very immature
 - B. do not make good pets
 - C. can be very destructive
 - D. are a lot of work

- 4) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best example of a dog that is **housebroken**?
- A. Spot goes outside to use the bathroom.
 - B. Rex always breaks things inside of the house.
 - C. Rover never jumps on guests.
 - D. Muffin chews on people's shoes.
- 5) According to the passage, why are adult dogs easier to take care of than puppies?
- I. Puppies need to learn how to walk nicely on a leash.
 - II. Adult dogs have less energy than puppies do.
 - III. It is harder for adult dogs to find a home than it is for puppies.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 6) Based on information in the passage, which of the following statements is false?
- A. Puppies have a lot of energy.
 - B. Puppies need a lot of attention.
 - C. Adult dogs do not like to play.
 - D. Adult dogs do not need eat very much.
- 7) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for **relax**?
- A. work
 - B. leave
 - C. play
 - D. rest
- 8) The author begins paragraphs 3 and 5 with the phrase, "On the other hand." This phrase is used to
- A. highlight an example
 - B. contrast previous information
 - C. contradict a later statement
 - D. support the upcoming paragraph
- 9) In the final paragraph, the author says, "many adult dogs spend a lot of time in the pound, and some never find good homes." Based on what you have read in the passage, why is this most likely the case?
- A. People see adult dogs as unhappy and dangerous, while they see puppies as cute and friendly.
 - B. People understand that most adult dogs still need to a lot of training before they understand how to behave properly.
 - C. People think that puppies are cute and playful and do not always think about how much work it will take to train them.
 - D. People do not want to get a dog that does not have much time left to live.
- 10) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that someone who owns a puppy must be
- A. strict
 - B. serious
 - C. careful
 - D. responsible

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 1, the author says that "puppies are cute, friendly, and playful." In paragraph 2, the author talks about all of the things you have to do to care for a puppy. At the end of the paragraph the author says, "This is a lot of work." These ideas are presented in **(B)**, making it the correct choice. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **D**

behave (*verb*): to act.

The question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings. In paragraph 2, the author says, "When you get a puppy, you have to teach the puppy how to behave." The author continues to talk about how the puppy goes to the bathroom, jumps on guests, chews your shoes, and walks on a leash. These are all ways in which the puppy acts. This means *act* is a good synonym for *behave*. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **D**

In paragraph 2, the author describes the things you will have to teach your puppy in order to make it behave properly. At the end of this paragraph, the author says, "This is a lot of work." Using this information, we can understand that the main idea of paragraph 2 is to explain how puppies are a lot of work. Choice **(D)** is correct. Paragraph 2 does describe ways in which puppies are immature and destructive, but this is not the main purpose. These are details used to support the idea that puppies are a lot of work. This means **(A)** and **(C)** are incorrect. **(B)** is incorrect because the author does not mean to say that puppies do not make good pets. We know this because the author says "puppies are cute, friendly, and very playful" in the first paragraph.

4) **A**

housebroken (*adjective*): trained to avoid excreting inside the house or in improper places.

In paragraph 2 the author says that "you have to make sure that the puppy is housebroken so that it does not use the bathroom inside of your house." Using this information, we can understand that if a dog is *housebroken*, then it will go outside to use the bathroom. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **B**

In paragraph 2, the author says you need to teach puppies how to do things that adult dogs already know how to do. The author tells us that you "have to train the puppy to walk on a leash." This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 4, the author says, "Puppies also have a lot of energy and want to play all of the time." On the other hand, in paragraph 5 the author says that adult dogs "sleep when you are sleeping and are happy to watch television on the couch right beside you." This lets us know that the author thinks that adult dogs have less energy than puppies do. This supports **option (II)**. In the final paragraph, the author tells us that "many adult dogs spend a lot of time in the pound, and some never find good homes." This lets us know that it is harder for adult dogs to find a home than it is for puppies. However, this is not meant to be a reason why adult dogs are easier to take care of than puppies. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

6) **C**

In paragraph 5, the author says, "most adult dogs will wait on you to play." This is not meant to say that adult dogs do not like to play. The author says this simply to contrast adult dogs with puppies, as described in paragraph 4. This makes **(C)** false, and therefore the correct choice. In paragraph 4, the author says, "Puppies also have a lot of energy and want to play all of the time." This means **(A)** is incorrect. Also in paragraph 4, the author says, "Puppies will not always sleep through the night or let you relax as you watch television." Since puppies don't sleep through the night and don't let you relax, it can be understood that they need a lot of attention. So **(B)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(D)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

7) **D**

relax (*verb*): to rest, especially after doing work.

The question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings. In paragraph 3 the author says that puppies have a lot of energy and always want to play. They will not "let you relax as you watch television." Given that people typically want to rest while watching television, we can understand that *rest* is a good synonym for *relax*. Choice **(D)** is correct. Work and play are not synonyms. Rather, they are antonyms (words that have the opposite meaning). Therefore **(A)** and **(C)** are incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(B)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

8) **B**

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In paragraphs 2 and 4, the author gives reasons why puppies are more work to teach than adult dogs. In paragraphs 3 and 5, the author gives reasons why adult dogs are easier to teach than puppies. Given that paragraphs 2 and 4 come previous to, or before, paragraphs 3 and 5, and that they supply contrary information, we can understand that this phrase is used to contrast previous information. Choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **C**

In paragraph 1, the author talks about how many people want to get a pet puppy because they "are cute, friendly, and playful." The author spends the rest of the passage describing how in reality, puppies take a lot of work before they learn to behave properly. Using this information, we can understand that the author believes people think that puppies are cute and playful and do not always think about how much work it will take to train them. This means **(C)** is correct. The author does not talk about how people see adult dogs as unhappy and dangerous. This means choice **(A)** is incorrect. **(B)** is incorrect because the author describes how adult dogs

do not need much training. Rather, the author describes how puppies need a lot of training. While it may be true that adult dogs do not have much time left to live, this is not a reason the author gives for why puppies are more likely to find good homes. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10) **D**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, "But even though puppies make good pets, there are good reasons why you should consider getting an adult dog instead." The author spends the rest of the passage telling us how much care a puppy needs. According to the author, it takes "a lot of work" to teach a puppy how to behave. Using this information, we can understand that someone who owns a puppy must be very *responsible*. Choice **(D)** is correct. Although in paragraph 2 the author says that "When you get a puppy, you have to teach it how to behave," this does not necessarily mean that you have to be strict, or severe, with it. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The author lets us know that someone who owns a puppy must be responsible. This does not mean that someone must also be serious, however. You can be humorous or happy and still be responsible. **(B)** is incorrect. Although you have to "do a lot of work" to teach a puppy how to behave properly, you do not necessarily have to be careful to do this. This makes **(C)** incorrect.