



Level 5 Samples

3 Reading Comprehension Assessments

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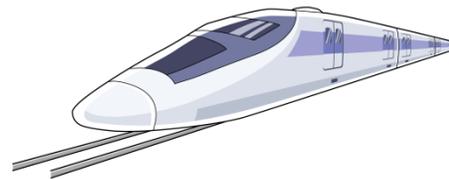
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• Reading Comprehension Sample 5.1

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

Bullet Trains

If you visit Japan, you might choose to travel around the country by shinkansen train. These high-speed trains connect the major cities of Japan. They are nicknamed “bullet trains” because they go very fast and have pointy noses like a bullet.



Bullet trains are a good way to travel for several reasons other than their speed. They are very **punctual**, often leaving on time to the second. They are also comfortable. All the seats face forward, and there is plenty of leg room. Most importantly, bullet trains are very safe. In their 35-year history, there have been only a few accidents and no deaths.

The only **downside** to bullet trains is that they are expensive. A ticket to travel to another city can cost almost as much as an airline ticket would. However, if you fly, you will land at an airport at the edge of a city. Train stations are usually right in the middle of a city. This means that it is often more convenient to take a bullet train instead of flying, because you will arrive exactly where you want to be.

Sources:
“Shinkansen.” Japan Guide. 2012. Web. 5 Oct. 2012.

Questions

- 1) What kind of train does the author talk about in this passage?
 - A. shinkanset
 - B. sinkansen
 - C. shinkansea
 - D. shinkansen

- 2) These trains are nicknamed “bullet trains” because of their
 - A. safety and shape
 - B. safety and timing
 - C. speed and shape
 - D. speed and timing

- 3) This passage was most likely written for
- A. tourists who travel to Japan
 - B. Japanese business travelers
 - C. people who are interested in Japan
 - D. people who like to learn about trains
- 4) In paragraph 2, we learn that bullet trains "are very punctual." As used in paragraph 2, which of these people can also be described as **punctual**?
- A. Antonio, who checks his work carefully to make sure there are no mistakes
 - B. Rochelle, who has to have her desk organized in exactly the right way
 - C. Carolyn, who always calls someone if she says she is going to
 - D. Harvey, who is never late to class even when it is raining
- 5) According to the author, bullet trains are comfortable because
- I. all the seats face forward
 - II. there is plenty of leg room
 - III. there is extra space for bags
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 6) As used in the final paragraph, the word **downside** most nearly means
- A. hill
 - B. problem
 - C. argument
 - D. mistake
- 7) The author says that one reason to take a bullet train instead of flying is because the bullet train is often
- A. much faster
 - B. much cheaper
 - C. more comfortable
 - D. more convenient
- 8) To help travelers decide between a bullet train and an airplane, it would be most helpful for the author to add information about
- A. how many seats each one has
 - B. how many miles each one travels
 - C. how much time each one takes
 - D. which one most people choose

• Reading Comprehension Sample 5.2

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

At the Carnival

There are lots of things to do at a carnival. The first thing you do when you get to a carnival is buy tickets, which are also called script. You pay for everything at a carnival with script instead of money. You can use script to buy food like caramel popcorn or cotton candy. You can also use script to play games for prizes. When I go to a carnival, I spend all my script on the best part: the rides.



There are many different rides at a carnival, but my favorite is the roller coaster. Roller coasters are **thrilling**. They go so fast that you feel like you are flying. All roller coasters are a little bit different, so you never know what to expect on a new one. Some roller coasters have loops that make you go upside down. Some roller coasters have one huge hill. On all roller coasters, at some point you will probably feel like your stomach is dropping out of your body.

Although I love roller coasters, not everyone likes them. Some people think they are too scary. Some people feel sick because of the speed and the curves. These people would probably like other rides better, like the tea cups or the Ferris wheel. Some people even go to a carnival and do not go on any rides. They spend all their script on food or games. It seems strange to me, but they say they still have a good time.

Questions

- 1) Using the passage as a guide, we can understand that "script" is another word for
 - A. money
 - B. rides
 - C. games
 - D. tickets

- 2) The author thinks the best part of a carnival is the
 - A. rides
 - B. games
 - C. food
 - D. prizes

- 3) Paragraph 2 is mostly about
 - A. rides
 - B. carnivals
 - C. roller coasters
 - D. loops and hills

- 4) As used in paragraph 2, the word **thrilling** most nearly means
 - A. fast
 - B. great
 - C. exciting
 - D. frightening

- 5) According to the author, some people do not like roller coasters because they
 - A. get scared and feel sick
 - B. spend too much money
 - C. do not win any prizes
 - D. cannot eat junk food

- 6) The author suggests that a carnival is a place where everyone
 - A. can have fun
 - B. can see friends
 - C. will win prizes
 - D. goes on rides

- 7) Compared to roller coasters, the tea cups and the Ferris wheel are rides that
 - I. go slower
 - II. have fewer curves
 - III. cost less
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

• Reading Comprehension Sample 5.3

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

The Luthier

A luthier is a person who makes guitars or any other stringed musical instruments. In this passage, a reporter interviews a guitar maker named Joe Ripner.

Reporter: Can you tell us how you got started making guitars?

Joe Ripner: Well, I have played guitar ever since I was about 12, and I also have a lot of experience working with wood. I have my own shop and make custom furniture. So after a few years of making furniture, it was only natural that I would start thinking about whether I could make a guitar. Turns out I could.



Reporter: What goes into making a guitar?

Joe Ripner: First you have to design the style and shape. From there, you have all kinds of decisions such as scale length and what kind of wood to use for the body of the guitar. Rosewood is a common wood to use for the body, but you can use all kinds of **exotic** woods. Cedar or spruce is often used for the soundboard. Then there is the actual process of building the guitar: that involves measuring, cutting, and gluing the pieces of wood together.

Reporter: How long does it take you to make a guitar?

Joe Ripner: There is usually 15-20 hours of shop time to make the actual structure, and then several more hours of set up, setting up the neck and checking the frets. The stringing takes a certain amount of time, and of course you have to apply multiple layers of finish. All the layers have to dry and be polished before the next layer can be added. So there is some waiting in between steps.

Reporter: How much do you charge for your custom guitars?

Joe Ripner: Depending on the wood I use and the complexity of the design, my guitars cost between 400 and 800 dollars.

Reporter: What do you like best about making guitars?

Joe Ripner: I like spending the time getting to know one object so well. I make guitars one at a time, so it's almost like I get to watch the instrument being born over a few weeks. Then it goes out in the world and has a life of its own, being played by someone I may never even meet.

Sources:
 "How Custom Guitars Are Made: Interview with Paul from Tsunami Guitars." Strum School. 2011. Web. 19 June 2012.

Questions

- 1) The reporter most likely interviewed Joe Ripner to
 - A. find out the cost of a guitar made by him
 - B. get a chance to meet famous musicians
 - C. learn more about an unusual job
 - D. get to know him better as a person
- 2) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that Joe Ripner became a luthier because he
 - I. likes to play the guitar
 - II. has experience working with wood
 - III. has plenty of free time
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 3) In paragraph 3, Joe Ripner says, "I have my own shop and make custom furniture." This statement is intended to
 - A. teach a basic lesson
 - B. illustrate an upcoming point
 - C. provide an example
 - D. clarify an earlier statement
- 4) Using the passage as a guide, we can understand that if a guitar made by Joe Ripner was made of more valuable wood, it would
 - I. be more expensive
 - II. have a simpler design
 - III. take longer to build
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 5) Based on its use in paragraph 5, it can be understood that the word **exotic** belongs to which of the following word groups?
 - A. costly, expensive, valuable
 - B. alien, strange, weird
 - C. hard, solid, strong
 - D. different, uncommon, unusual
- 6) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that a "neck" and "frets" are both
 - A. parts of a guitar
 - B. made out of wood
 - C. parts of the soundboard
 - D. the last parts to be made
- 7) What does Joe Ripner like best about making guitars?
 - A. working with the wood in his shop
 - B. getting to be his own boss
 - C. meeting customers who play his guitars
 - D. getting to know one object so well
- 8) Using the passage as a guide, we can understand that one of Joe Ripner's guitar could cost
 - A. \$275
 - B. \$399
 - C. \$764
 - D. \$989

Sample 5.1

1) D

Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author first discusses this kind of train in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 1 reads: "If you visit Japan, you might choose to travel around the country by shinkansen train." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in paragraph 1. In paragraph 1, the author writes, "If you visit Japan, you might choose to travel around the country by shinkansen trains." This tells us that the author talks about shinkansen trains in this passage. Therefore (D) is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices (A), (B), and (C). Therefore they are incorrect.

2) C

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 1, the author writes, "They are nicknamed 'bullet trains' because they go very fast and have pointy noses like a bullet." This tells us that the trains are nicknamed "bullet trains" for their speed, because they go very fast. They are also nicknamed "bullet trains" for their shape, because they have pointy noses like a bullet. From this we can understand these trains are nicknamed "bullet trains" because of their speed and shape. Therefore (C) is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices (A), (B), and (D). Therefore they are incorrect.

3) A

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 1, the author writes, "If you visit Japan, you might choose to travel around the country by *shinkansen* trains." This tells us that the passage is written for people who visit Japan. The information in paragraph 2 explains why visitors might choose to take these trains: they are "punctual," "comfortable," and "very safe." In paragraph 3, the author says that bullet trains are more "convenient" than airplanes, because "you will arrive exactly where you want to be" if you arrive at a train station in the middle of a city. The information in this passage can help people who travel to Japan decide whether or not to take a bullet train. From this we can understand this passage was most likely written for tourists who travel to Japan. Therefore (A) is correct. Japanese business travelers likely live in Japan, so they would not need advice about how to travel if they "visit Japan." This eliminates (B). This passage offers information specifically about *shinkansen* trains, not about Japan in general. It has more information about the trains than about Japan, so it was not likely written for people who are interested in Japan. This makes (C) incorrect. Although this passage may be interesting to people who like to learn about trains, the information is very specific in order to help people who "visit Japan" decide whether or not to take a bullet train. This means that it was not likely written for people who like to learn about trains. Therefore (D) is incorrect.

4) D

Question Type: Vocabulary

punctual (*adjective*): strictly observant of an appointed time; not late; prompt.

In paragraph 2, the author writes of bullet trains: "They are very punctual, often leaving on time to the second." This tells us that the reason the trains are punctual is because they leave on time to the second. From this we can understand that the word punctual means on time. If Harvey is never late to class even when it is raining, then he is always on time to class, so he can be described as punctual. Therefore (D) is correct. If Antonio checks his work carefully to make sure there are no mistakes, we know he is very careful, but we do not know if he is on time. This means he cannot be described as punctual. This eliminates (A). If Rochelle has to have her desk organized in exactly the right way, we know she is very neat, but we do not know if she is on time. This means she cannot be described as punctual. This makes (B) incorrect. If Carolyn always calls someone if she says she is going to, we know she is very dependable, but we do not know if she is on time. This means she cannot be described as punctual. This eliminates (C).

5) B

Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses why bullet trains are comfortable in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 2 reads: "Bullet trains are a good way to travel for several reasons other than their speed." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in paragraph 2. In paragraph 2, the author writes of bullet trains: "They are also comfortable. All the seats face forward, and there is plenty of leg room." This tells us that bullet trains are comfortable because all the seats face forward and there is plenty of leg room. This supports option (I) and option (II). The passage does not say that bullet trains have extra space for bags. This eliminates option (III). Therefore (B) is correct.

6) B

Question Type: Vocabulary

downside (*noun*): a discouraging or negative aspect; disadvantage.

In the final paragraph, the author writes, "The only downside to bullet trains is that they are expensive." To understand the meaning of the word downside, it is helpful to look at context. In the first two paragraphs, the author explains all the good things about bullet trains: they are "very fast," "on time," "comfortable," and "very safe." But being expensive is the one bad thing about bullet trains. This tells us that the only problem with bullet trains is that they are expensive. This means that in this context, the word downside most nearly means *problem*. Therefore (B) is correct. Although a *hill* has sides that go down, downside does not literally mean a side that goes down. Instead it means something bad or a problem. This eliminates (A). Although people might argue against riding the bullet trains because they are expensive, this fact itself is not an *argument* to bullet trains. This means (C) is incorrect. We can understand from the context that a downside is something bad for the passengers, but this does not mean that it is a mistake. Perhaps the trains are expensive because of the cost of running them. This means it may not be a *mistake* that the trains are expensive. This makes (D) incorrect.

7) **D**

Question Type: Detail

In the final paragraph, the author writes that “if you fly, you will land at an airport at the edge of a city. Train stations are usually right in the middle of a city. This means that it is often more convenient to take a bullet train instead of flying, because you will arrive exactly where you want to be.” This tells us that one reason to take a bullet train instead of flying is because the bullet train is often more convenient. Therefore **(D)** is correct. In paragraph 1, we learn that the bullet trains “go very fast,” but the author does not say that they are much faster than airplanes. This eliminates **(A)**. In the final paragraph, we learn that bullet trains are “expensive.” The author writes, “A ticket to travel to another city can cost almost as much as an airline ticket would.” This means that the train may be a little cheaper than flying, but not much cheaper. This makes **(B)** incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author writes of bullet trains: “They are also comfortable. All the seats face forward, and there is plenty of leg room.” However, the author does not say that bullet trains are often more comfortable than airplanes. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

8) **C**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 1, we learn that bullet trains “go very fast.” But we do not know whether they are faster or slower than airplanes. In paragraph 2, we learn that bullet trains are “very punctual,” “comfortable,” and “very safe.” But the author does not tell us how bullet trains compare to airplanes in these three areas of timing, comfort, and safety. From this we can understand that it would be helpful for travelers deciding between a bullet train and an airplane to know more about how the two compare in terms of speed, timing, comfort, and safety. If the author added information about how much time each one takes, then travelers would know whether a bullet train or an airplane is faster. This means that of the choices given, it would be most helpful for the author to add information about how much time each one takes. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although some travelers might be interested in knowing how many seats each one has, how many miles each one travels, or which one most people choose, none of these pieces of information would help a traveler compare a bullet train to an airplane in terms of speed, timing, comfort, or safety. This means that choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are incorrect.

Sample 5.2

1) **D**

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “The first thing you do when you get to a carnival is buy tickets, which are also called script.” Since the tickets are also called script, this means that “script” is another word for tickets. Therefore **(D)** is correct. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “You pay for everything at a carnival with script instead of money.” This means that you can use script to pay for things, but it is not the same thing as money. This tells us “script” is not another word for money. This eliminates **(A)**. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “When I go to a carnival, I spend all my script on the best part: the rides.” This means that you can use script to pay for rides, but “script” is not another word for rides. This makes **(B)** incorrect. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “You can also use script to play games for prizes.” This means that you can use script to play games, but “script” is not another word for games. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **A**

Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses the best part of a carnival in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 1 reads: “There are lots of things to do at a carnival.” This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in paragraph 1. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “When I go to a carnival, I spend all my script on the best part: the rides.” This means the author thinks the best part of a carnival is the rides. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **C**

Question Type: Inference

To understand what a paragraph is mostly about, we need to find the main idea. One place to look for the main idea is the topic sentence. The topic sentence of paragraph 2 reads: “There are many different rides at a carnival, but my favorite is the roller coaster.” Then the author explains why roller coasters are his or her favorite ride. He or she says they are “thrilling” and “they go so fast.” The author also says “all roller coasters are a little bit different,” describing how some have “loops” and some have “one huge hill.” From this information we can understand that in paragraph 2 the author describes roller coasters and explains why he or she likes them. This means that paragraph 2 is mostly about roller coasters. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although a roller coaster is a type of ride, the author does not tell us anything about other kinds of rides in paragraph 2. This means it is not mostly about rides. This makes **(A)** incorrect. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “There are lots of things to do at a carnival.” This means the paragraph 1 is mostly about carnivals, not paragraph 2. This eliminates **(B)**. In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Some roller coasters have loops that make you go upside down. Some roller coasters have one huge hill.” This means that the author does talk about loops and hills in paragraph 2. But the author also tells us why he or she likes roller coasters: they are “thrilling” and “they go so fast.” This means that paragraph 2 is about more than just loops and hills. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) **C**

Question Type: Vocabulary

thrilling (*adjective*): causing someone to have a sudden feeling of pleasure or excitement.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Roller coasters are thrilling.” To understand what the word thrilling means, we need to look at the context. In the previous sentence, the author tells us that his or her favorite ride “is the roller coaster.” Then the author explains that

they are thrilling. This tells us that thrilling must be something good, because the author likes thrilling roller coasters. In the next sentences, the author tells us, "They go so fast that you feel like you are flying. All roller coasters are a little bit different, so you never know what to expect on a new one." If you feel like you are flying and you never know what to expect, then we can understand that a roller coaster ride makes you feel excited. This means that the word thrilling most nearly means exciting. Therefore **(C)** is correct. In paragraph 2, the author tells us that roller coasters "go so fast," but this is not the only reason they are thrilling. They are also thrilling because "you feel like you are flying" and "you never know what to expect." This means that thrilling means more than just fast. This makes **(A)** incorrect. The author tells us that his or her favorite ride "is the roller coaster," so he or she likely does think roller coasters are great. But the author provides details in this paragraph about why roller coasters are exciting: they "go so fast that you feel like you are flying" and "you never know what to expect." This means great is not the best choice. This eliminates **(B)**. The author tells us that his or her favorite ride "is the roller coaster." Since he or she likes roller coasters and says they are "thrilling," we can understand that thrilling is something good. If the author thought roller coasters were frightening, he or she would not like them. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

5) **A**

Question Type: Inference

In the final paragraph, the author writes, "Although I love roller coasters, not everyone likes them. Some people think they are too scary. Some people feel sick because of the speed and the curves." From this we can understand that some people do not like roller coasters because they "think they are too scary" and "feel sick." This means that some people do not like roller coasters because they get scared and feel sick. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 1, the author tells us about a carnival. He or she writes, "There are lots of things to do at a carnival....You can use script to buy food like caramel popcorn or cotton candy. You can also use script to play games for prizes. When I go to a carnival, I spend all my script on the best part: the rides." This tells us that a carnival is a place where you can eat food, play games for prizes, or go on rides. All of these activities are things people do for fun. In the final paragraph, the author also writes, "Some people even go to a carnival and do not go on any rides. They spend all their script on food or games. It seems strange to me, but they say they still have a good time." This tells us that even though the author thinks the best part of a carnival are the rides, people who do not go on rides can still "have a good time" at a carnival. From this we can understand that the author suggests that a carnival is a place where everyone can have a good time or have fun. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The author does not say anything about seeing friends at a carnival. This means **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 1, the author writes, "You can also use script to play games for prizes." This means a carnival is a place where some people can win prizes, but this does not mean a carnival is a place where everyone will definitely win prizes. This makes **(C)** incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author writes, "Some people even go to a carnival and do not go on any rides...but they say they still have a good time." This means that a carnival is not a place where everyone goes on rides. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

7) **B**

Question Type: Inference

In the final paragraph, the author writes, "Although I love roller coasters, not everyone likes them....Some people feel sick because of the speed and the curves. These people would probably like other rides better, like the tea cups or the Ferris wheel." Since the author tells us that people who do not like roller coasters "would probably like other rides better, like the tea cups or the Ferris wheel," we can understand that the tea cups or the Ferris wheel do not make people "feel sick because of the speed and the curves." This means that compared to roller coasters, the tea cups and the Ferris wheel are rides that go slower and have fewer curves. This supports **option (I)** and **option (II)**. The author only suggests that people would probably like rides "like the tea cups or the Ferris wheel" better if they think roller coasters are "too scary" or if roller coasters make them "feel sick." The author does not say that these rides cost less than the roller coaster. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Sample 5.3

1) **C**

Question Type: Global

In this interview, the reporter asks questions like, "What goes into making a guitar?" and "How long does it take you to make a guitar?" All of the questions focus on Joe Ripner's job as a guitar maker. They do not ask about his personal life. This means that the reporter most likely interviewed him to learn more about the unusual job of making guitars. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although the reporter does ask how much Joe Ripner charges for his guitars, this is only one question asked. This means that the reporter did not likely do the interview just to find out the cost of a guitar. If that was the main reason, the reporter would not have asked any other questions. This eliminates **(A)**. The reporter does not suggest that he or she gets a chance to meet famous musicians by interviewing Joe Ripner. In fact, Joe says that he "may never even meet" the people who play his guitars. This means **(B)** is incorrect. The reporter focuses on questions about Joe's unusual job, not about his personal life. This means that the reporter most likely did not interview him to get to know him better as a person. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

2) **B**

Question Type: Inference

At the beginning of the passage, there is an introduction to the interview. It reads: "A luthier is a person who makes guitars or any other stringed musical instruments. In this passage, a reporter interviews a guitar maker named Joe Ripner." Since a luthier is a person who makes guitars, and Joe Ripner is a guitar maker, we can understand that Joe is a luthier. So, we know that Joe Ripner is a luthier, and that a luthier is a person who makes guitars. But why did Joe decide to become a luthier? The information we need to answer this question can be found in paragraph 3. After being asked how he "got started making guitars," Joe replies, "Well, I

have played guitar ever since I was about 12, and I also have a lot of experience working with wood. I have my own shop and make custom furniture. So after a few years of making furniture, it was only natural that I would start thinking about whether I could make a guitar." This lets us know that since Joe played guitar since he was 12, and since he has a lot of experience working with wood, it was only natural that he would start thinking about whether he could make a guitar, or in other words, about whether he could become a luthier. This supports **option (I)** and **option (II)**. The passage does not provide information to suggest that Joe has plenty of free time. In fact, because he makes custom furniture *and* custom guitars, he probably has very little free time. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

3) D

Question Type: Inference

To answer this question, it helps to use context. Context is the text that surrounds the statement in question. In this case, the statement in question comes from paragraph 3, in which Joe Ripner responds to a question about how he got started making guitars. Joe says, "Well, I have played guitar ever since I was about 12, and I also have a lot of experience working with wood. I have my own shop and make custom furniture." Notice how, in the sentence before the sentence in question, Joe says that he has a lot of experience working with wood. In the sentence that comes directly afterward, he says that he has his own shop and makes custom furniture. Joe tells us this in order to clarify, or explain, how he came to have a lot of experience working with wood. If he did not provide this extra information, it would have been unclear where his experience came from. Using this information, we can understand that the statement in question is intended to clarify an earlier statement. This means **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) A

Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 9, Joe Ripner says, "Depending on the wood I use and the complexity of the design, my guitars cost between 400 and 800 dollars." From this we can understand that if the wood is more valuable and the design is more complex, then the guitars cost more money. This means that if a guitar made by Joe was made of more valuable wood, it would be more expensive. This supports **option (I)**. Joe says that the type of wood and the complexity of the design affect the price of the guitar. However, he does not suggest that using more valuable wood requires the guitar to have a simpler design or means it takes longer to build. This eliminates **option (II)** and **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

5) D

Question Type: Vocabulary

exotic (*adjective*): of foreign origin or character; not native; unusual.

In paragraph 5, Joe Ripner says, "Rosewood is a common wood to use for the body, but you can use all kinds of exotic woods." This means that rosewood is a common wood, but different kinds of less common woods can also be used. Since these other woods are different and uncommon, we can understand that *exotic* would belong in the word groups *different*, *uncommon*, *unusual*. Therefore **(D)** is correct. Joe does not say how much these exotic woods cost, so *exotic* would not belong to the word group *costly*, *expensive*, *valuable*. This eliminates **(A)**. In a different context, the word *exotic* could mean *alien*, *strange*, or *weird*. However, in the context of the passage, Joe does not suggest these woods are strange, only that they are less common than rosewood. This means **(B)** is incorrect. Joe does not say whether these woods are particularly *hard*, *solid*, or *strong* compared to rosewood. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

6) A

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 7, Joe discusses how long it takes him to make a guitar. He says: "There is usually 15-20 hours of shop time to make the actual structure, and then several more hours of set up, setting up the neck and checking the frets." Since setting up the neck and checking the frets are steps involved in making a guitar, we can understand that a neck and frets are both parts of a guitar. This means **(A)** is correct. Although Joe says some parts of the guitar are made out of wood, we do not know whether the neck and frets are made out of wood. This makes **(B)** incorrect. Earlier in the interview, Joe says that the soundboard is often made of cedar or spruce. But we do not know from the interview whether the neck and frets are parts of the soundboard. This means **(C)** is incorrect. Joe does not discuss the order of the steps involved in making a guitar. He says that the set up time at the end involves "setting up the neck and checking the frets," but this does not necessarily mean that the neck and the frets are the last parts to be made. This eliminates **(D)**.

7) D

Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the reporter asks what Joe likes best about making guitars in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan each of the questions in the interview, since the question will likely tell us what information can be found in the response. The final question reads: "What do you like best about making guitars?" This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in the response to the final question. In response to the final question, Joe says: "I like spending the time getting to know one object so well. I make guitars one at a time, so it's almost like I get to watch the instrument being born over a few weeks. Then it goes out in the world and has a life of its own, being played by someone I may never even meet." This tells us that Joe likes getting to know one object so well. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) C

Question Type: Inference

Near the end of the passage, we learn that "Depending on the wood I use and the complexity of the design, my guitars cost between 400 and 800 dollars." This lets us know that the price of one of Joe Ripner's guitars must fall within the range of \$400-\$800. \$764 is the only price that falls within this range. This means choice **(C)** must be correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.