The North American Robin is usually called the “rob in.” The robin is a bird. The male robin has a bright red breast. The robin has a cheerful song. Robins live throughout North America. They live in Canada. They live in Alaska. They live in the 48 lower states. In the winter, robins go south. In the winter, some robins go to central Mexico. Some robins go to the Pacific coast.


To stay safe, robins stay vigilant. Robins pay close attention to their surroundings. When they gather in groups, they watch other robins for signs of danger. Robins give loud warning calls when a dangerous predator approaches. Although robins are territorial, they band together for protection from predators.

The robin is a sign a spring. Some people think that seeing the first robin of springtime brings good luck.

Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are true?

   I) Some robins go to South America during the winter.
   II) The female robin has a bright red breast.
   III) Cats hunt adult robins.

   A) I only
   B) II only
   C) III only
   D) I and II only
   E) II and III only

2. What is the main idea of the fourth paragraph?

   A) Squirrels hunt baby robins.
   B) Other animals prey on robins.
   C) Adult robins do not care for their young.
   D) Crows and hawks hunt adult robins.
   E) Other birds steal robin eggs.

3. In line 14, vigilant most closely means

   A) attentive
   B) dangerous
   C) noisy
   D) safe
   E) territorial
Answers and Explanations

1. The correct answer is C.
   
   I) Incorrect. Lines 4-5 state that “In the winter some robins go to central Mexico. Some robins go to the Pacific coast.” While some robins may go to Central America during the winter, there is no information in the passage about Central America.
   
   II) Incorrect. Lines 1-2 state that “The male robin has a bright red breast.” There is no mention of the coloring of the female robin.
   
   III) Correct. Line 13 states that “Cats prey on adult robins.” To prey on means to hunt, so it is true that cats hunt adult robins.

   A) I only
   B) II only
   C) III only
   D) I and II only
   E) II and III only

2. The correct answer is B.
   
   A) Incorrect. While line 10 states that “Squirrels prey on robin eggs and baby robins,” the paragraph goes on to list other animals which prey on, or hunt, robins and their eggs. So the main idea does not center on squirrels, but rather on animals which prey on robins and their eggs.
   
   B) Correct. Lines 10-12 list the animals which prey on baby robins and robin eggs. Lines 12-13 list animals which prey on adult robins. Therefore, the entire paragraph is centered on animals which prey on robins.
   
   C) Incorrect. While lines 10-12 list animals which prey on baby robins and robin eggs, and lines 12-13 list animals which prey on adult robins, there is no mention that the adult robins do not care for their young.
   
   D) Incorrect. Lines 12-13 state that “Crows prey on baby robins and robin eggs. Hawks prey on adult robins.” However, there is no mention that crows prey on adult robins or that hawks prey on baby robins and robin eggs.
   
   E) Incorrect. While lines 10-12 state that some animals prey on baby robins and robin eggs, the main idea does not center on the robin eggs, but rather on the animals which prey on robins.

3. The correct answer is A.
   
   A) Correct. According to line 14, “To stay safe, robins are vigilant. Robins pay close attention to their surroundings.” Vigilant robins are robins which pay close attention to their surroundings. To pay attention means to be attentive. Therefore, vigilant must mean attentive.
   
   B) Incorrect. According to lines 14-16, “To stay safe, robins are vigilant. Robins pay close attention to their surroundings. When they gather in groups, they watch other robins for signs of danger.” Since vigilant robins watch for signs of danger, it stands to reason that the word vigilant does not mean dangerous.
   
   C) Incorrect. According to lines 14-16, “To stay safe, robins are vigilant. Robins pay close attention to their surroundings. When they gather in groups, they watch other robins for
signs of danger. Robins give loud warning calls when a dangerous predator approaches.” Although vigilant robins do give loud or noisy warning calls in when there is a dangerous predator in the area, the other sentences in the paragraph center on the attentiveness, the watchfulness, and the awareness of danger that robins possess. So their noisiness seems to stem from their vigilance, but noisy does not mean the same as vigilant.

D) Incorrect. According to line 14, “To stay safe, robins are vigilant.” While vigilance and safety seem to go together, they do not have the same meaning. So the word safe does not mean the same as vigilant.

E) Incorrect. The paragraph states, “To stay safe, robins are vigilant. … Although robins are territorial, they band together for protection from predators.” While banding together for protection is a way of staying safe or to find protection from predators, robins are also said to be territorial. Being territorial seems to mean something very different from banding together. Therefore, if birds are vigilant for safety and if they also band together for safety, vigilant cannot mean the same as territorial.