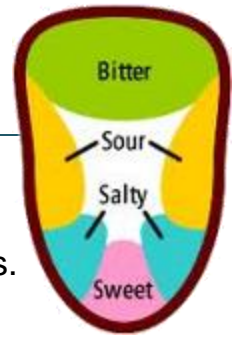


“Taste”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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



People taste different things on different parts of the tongue.

If something is sweet, like candy, we taste it on the tip of our tongues.

If something is salty, like potato chips, we taste it just behind the tip.

If something is sour, like a lemon, we taste it on the sides of our tongues.

We taste **bitter** things, like dark chocolate, at the back of our tongues.

Questions:

- 1) What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Our tongues have many different places.
 - B. We taste sour things on the sides of our tongues.
 - C. We taste different things on different parts of our tongues.
- 2) Which part of the tongue do you use to taste ice cream?
 - A. the tip
 - B. the back
 - C. the sides
- 3) Which food is tasted by the sides of the tongue?
 - A. candy
 - B. a lemon
 - C. potato chips
- 4) As used at the end of the story, what does the word **bitter** mean?
 - A. strong
 - B. sour
 - C. sweet

What is your favorite food? Why?

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The first sentence says, "People taste different things on different parts of the tongue." The main idea of a passage is usually found at the beginning, so this is an important clue. The rest of the passage supports the first sentence by explaining where on our tongues we taste different things. Since the first sentence gives us an idea that is backed up by the rest of the passage, we can understand that the first sentence is the main idea. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The passage says that there are different places on our tongue, but also says that different places on the tongue do different things. The idea that there are "different parts of the tongue" is just part of the main idea, not the entire main idea. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story says that we taste sour things on the side of our tongues. This sentence supports the main idea that "people taste different things on different parts of the tongue." It is a supporting detail, not the main idea. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

2) **A**

Ice cream is sweet. The passage says, "If something is sweet, like candy, we taste it on the tip of our tongues." Since ice cream is sweet, and people taste sweet things on the tip of our tongues, we use the tip of our tongues to taste ice cream. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The passage says, "We taste bitter things, like dark chocolate, at the back of our tongues." Therefore, we do not taste sweet things like ice cream at the back of our tongues. **(B)** is incorrect. The passage says, "If something is sour, like a lemon, we taste it on the sides of our tongues." Therefore, we do not taste sweet things like ice cream on the sides of our tongues. **(C)** is incorrect.

3) **B**

The story says, "If something is sour, like a lemon, we taste it on the sides of our tongues." This tells us that we taste sour foods on the sides of the tongue. Lemons are sour, so we taste lemons on the sides of the tongue. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Candy is sweet. Since we taste sour foods on the sides of our tongues, we do not taste candy on the sides of our tongues. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Potato chips are salty. Since we taste sour foods on the sides of our tongues, we do not taste potato chips on the sides of our tongues. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **A**

bitter (*adjective*): having a sharp or strong taste.

The story says, "We taste bitter things, like dark chocolate, at the back of our tongues." We can understand from this that dark chocolate is *bitter*. Dark chocolate has a strong taste and is not as sweet as milk chocolate. Therefore **(A)** is correct. Dark chocolate is not sour like lemons. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Dark chocolate is not sweet like candy. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.