

READING COMPREHENSION (NO.4)

READING 1: Read the story about Joshua and Jack. Then answer the questions.



Joshua wanted to play basketball with Jack on Saturday afternoon. He called Jack. "Hi, Jack. This is Joshua. Do you want to play basketball with me now?" "I'm sorry, but I can't. I'm at the Riverdale Community Center," Jack replied. Joshua became curious and asked, "What are you doing there?" "I'm helping my mom raise money for children in the hospital. I'm selling cookies," Jack explained. "That sounds interesting," Joshua replied. "Why don't you sell cookies with me?" asked Jack. "We are going to visit the children at the hospital later, and play with them, too." Joshua thought it was a good idea and said, "OK. I will be right there."

Later that day, Joshua and Jack sold all the cookies, and the fundraiser was successful. "So how was your first time volunteering?" Jack asked. "It was so fun," Joshua answered. "I didn't know I could do something to help others." "Wait until you meet the children at the hospital," said Jack. "They may be physically weaker than us, but it's so much fun playing with them."

Joshua and Jack visited the hospital with the other volunteers after the fundraiser. They did face painting and watched a magic show with the children at the hospital. On the way home, Joshua thought to himself, "Today has been the best day ever! I never knew helping others could be this much fun!"

Question 1: What did Joshua originally want to do?

- A. Bake some cookies
- B. Play basketball
- C. Do his homework

Question 2: Who was the fundraiser for?

- A. Children in an orphanage
- B. Children in Africa
- C. Children in a hospital

Question 3: What was Jack's job at the fundraiser?

- A. Selling books
- B. Selling cookies
- C. Serving coffee

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Question 4: What did they do at the hospital?

- A. They invited someone to open a magic show.
- B. They used paints to decorate faces.
- C. They sold cookies.

Question 5: How did Joshua feel about helping others?

- A. He didn't like it.
- B. He thought it was too hard.
- C. He enjoyed it very much.

READING 2: Read the text to know how Nam has improved his English and answer the questions.

In the first year of lower secondary school I had some difficulties in learning English. My English pronunciation was really bad and my English grammar was worse.

I did not know how to improve them. I didn't want my father and mother to know about this. One afternoon after the lesson, my teacher of English told me to wait for her outside the classroom. She took me to the school library and showed me tapes of pronunciation drills kept in a glass bookcase. She also told me how to use an English-English dictionary to improve my English grammar. "Now I think you know what you should do," she said. I made much progress and only one year later, I won the first prize in the English Speaking Contest held for secondary school students in my hometown.

Question 1: What difficulties did Nam have in learning English in the first year?

- A. The pronunciation
- B. The grammar
- C. Both pronunciation and grammar
- D. The way of improving his pronunciation

Question 2: Who wanted to meet him one afternoon after the lesson?

- A. His teacher
- B. One of his friends
- C. His father
- D. His mother

Question 3: Where did Nam and his teacher go after that?

- A. to the town library
- B. to the school library
- C. to the teachers' room
- D. to his house

Question 4: What did the teacher show him then?

- A. A glass bookcase
- B. An English-English dictionary
- C. An English Grammar book
- D. Cassettes of pronunciation drills

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Question 5: What did he win in the English Speaking Contest one year later?

- A. The first prize
- B. The second prize
- C. The third prize
- D. The fourth prize

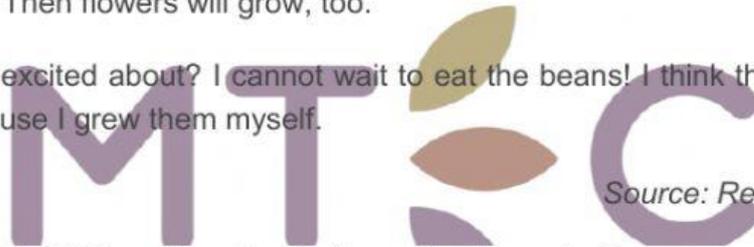
READING 3: Read the story and answer the questions.

My grandfather loves to grow plants. He raises vegetables and fruits, and he takes great care of all of them. Last week, Grandpa gave me some green bean seeds. Now I can grow my own green bean plant.

I brought my seeds home and showed my mom. She helped me get my green bean project ready. First, we put some soil in a pot. Then we planted a few seeds. I remembered that Grandpa told me that plants **depend on** water and sunlight to grow. So I put the pot in a sunny spot by the window, and I added some water.

I checked on my plant every day. When the soil felt dry, I added more water. Today, I saw a tiny stem. The plant is growing! Over the next few weeks, more stems and leaves will grow. Then flowers will grow, too.

What am I most excited about? I cannot wait to eat the beans! I think they will taste even better because I grew them myself.



Question 1: What did Grandpa give to the main character?

- A. some green beans
- B. green bean seeds
- C. a fully-grown bean plant

Question 2: The main character planted the seeds, put the pot in a sunny spot, and added water. What was the effect of these actions?

- A. The soil got dry right away.
- B. A tiny stem grew after some time.
- C. The seeds quickly turned into green beans.

Question 3: Why might the main character think the beans will taste even better because he or she grew them?

- A. Because the main character normally hates the taste of green beans.
- B. Because the main character is way better at growing plants than Grandpa.
- C. Because the main character put work into taking care of the beans.

Question 4: What is the main idea of this story?

- A. The main character takes care of a green bean seed and helps it start growing into a plant.
- B. The main character's grandfather loves to grow vegetables, and he takes great care of all his plants.
- C. The main character is excited to eat green beans because they are a tasty vegetable.

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Question 5: What does the phrase “depend on” most closely mean?

- A. need
- B. like
- C. change

READING 4: Read the following passage and choose the correct answer.

It was five o'clock in the evening when Rene Wagner came home from work. She walked into the living room and looked at her three children. They are 14,13 and 9 years old. They were watching TV. The living room was a mess. There were dirty socks on the floor and cookies on the sofa. Games and toys were everywhere. Rene was angry, “This place is a mess,” she tells her children, “I can't work all day and then do housework all evening. I'm not going to do housework!” Rene didn't do housework. She didn't clean or wash dishes. She didn't wash clothes, either. Every evening she sat on the sofa and watched TV.

After two weeks, every plate, fork, and glass in the house was dirty. All children's clothes were dirty. Every garbage basket was full. The house was a mess. Then, one day Rene came home from work and got a big surprise. The kitchen was clean. The children cleaned the kitchen! The next day, the living room was clean, and the children were washing their clothes. Rene told the children “OK, I'll do the housework again. But you have to help me.” Now Rene and her three children do the housework together. Then they all sit on the sofa and watch TV!

Question 1: When Rene came home from work, she found the house _____.

- A. clean and dirty
- B. dirty and tidy
- C. dirty and untidy
- D. clean but untidy

Question 2: Rene told her children _____.

- A. to do the housework
- B. she couldn't do housework
- C. not to do housework
- D. she wouldn't do housework

Question 3: Some days later, the house was clean again because _____.

- A. she couldn't let it that way
- B. her children did housework.
- C. her children didn't do housework.
- D. she did housework again.

Question 4: Now Rene does housework again because _____.

- A. her children help her.

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- B. they can watch TV together.
- C. her children wash their clothes.
- D. her children don't do it.

