

Nonfiction Reading Test

Reading

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Did you know that some people don't do their reading assignments? It's shocking, but it's true. Some students don't even read short texts that they are assigned in class. There are many reasons for this. They may be distracted or bored. They may be unwilling to focus. They may be unconfident readers. Whatever the reason, it has to stop today. Here's why.



Reading stimulates your mind. It is like a workout for your brain. When people get old, their muscles begin to deteriorate. They get weaker and their strength leaves them. Exercise can prevent this loss. The same thing happens to people's brains when they get older. Brain power and speed decline with age. Reading strengthens your brain and prevents these declines.

You can benefit from reading in the near-term too. Reading provides knowledge. Knowledge is power. Therefore, reading can make you a more powerful person. You can learn to do new things by reading. Do you want to make video games? Do you want to design clothing? Reading can teach you all this and more. But you have to get good at reading, and the only way to get good at something is to practice.

Read everything that you can at school, regardless of whether you find it interesting. Reading expands your vocabulary. Even a "boring" text can teach you new words. Having a larger vocabulary will help you better express yourself. You will be able to speak, write, and think more intelligently. What's boring about that?

Do not just discount a text because it is unfamiliar to you. Each time you read, you are exposed to new ideas and perspectives. Reading can change the way that you understand the world. It can give you a broader perspective on things. It can make you worldlier. You can learn how people live in far away places. You can learn about cultures different from your own.

Reading is good for your state of mind. It has a calming effect. It can lower your stress levels and help you relax. You can escape from your troubles for a moment when you read, and it's a positive escape. The benefits of reading far outweigh those of acting like a doofus. So do yourself a favor: the next time you get a reading assignment, take as much as you can from it. Squeeze it for every drop of knowledge that it contains. Then move on to the next one.

1. Which best expresses the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Reading is exciting.
 - b. Reading strengthens your mind.
 - c. Age affects the body in many ways.
 - d. Working out keeps your body in shape.
2. Why does the author think that you should read books that are boring?
 - a. You will eventually grow to love them if you read them enough.
 - b. You will get better grades in reading class.
 - c. You will make your teacher very happy.
 - d. You will learn new words.
3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. Reading can benefit you.
 - b. You can learn to program video games or design clothing by reading.
 - c. You can learn amazing things and become a better person by reading.
 - d. Knowledge is power.
4. Which is **not** a reason given by the author why students fail to complete reading assignments?
 - a. Students may be bored.
 - b. Students may be distracted.
 - c. Students may be unwilling to focus.
 - d. Students may be tired.
5. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
 - a. He is trying to persuade students to do their reading work.
 - b. He is teaching people how to become better readers.
 - c. He is explaining why people don't do their reading work.
 - d. He is entertaining readers with facts about the mind and body.
6. Which best describes the author's tone in the first three sentences?
 - a. Surprised
 - b. Sarcastic
 - c. Informative
 - d. Irrate
7. Which of the following is **not** one of the author's main points?
 - a. Reading broadens your perspective and makes you a better person.
 - b. Reading is a relaxing activity with positive mental side effects.
 - c. Reading helps you perform on tests and get into selective schools.
 - d. Reading keeps your mind in shape and prevents losses due to age.
8. Which is **not** one of the author's arguments in the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Reading gives you a broader perspective on the world.
 - b. Reading changes the way that you understand the world.
 - c. Reading helps prepare you for your job in the real world.
 - d. Reading teaches you about distant lands and cultures.
9. Why does the author believe that reading is good for your mind state?
 - a. It has a calming effect.
 - b. It can lower your stress levels.
 - c. It can help you relax.
 - d. All of these
10. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
 - a. *Reading: Good for the Mind in Many Ways*
 - b. *Reading: The Key to a Successful Academic Future*
 - c. *Reading: Improve Your Vocabulary While Being Entertained*
 - d. *Reading: The Best Way to Improve Your Writing Skills*

1. Does the author argue his point well? Analyze one of his arguments and explain whether or not it is an effective argument.

2. Why does the author believe that reading boring or unfamiliar books can be helpful for readers? Use the text in your response.

3. Why does the author describe reading as a "positive escape"? In what ways is reading positive? Use evidence from the text to support your response.
