

Pathways Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking 2e: Level 2 Unit 1 Test

VOCABULARY 1:

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the box.

access	equal	financial	freedom
poverty	provide	secure	socialize

1. The camping company will _____ tents and sleeping bags to the visitors.
2. We cut the cake into _____ pieces for each guest.
3. The rules state that only members can have _____ to the club gym.
4. A locker with a key is a _____ place to store your wallet.
5. The country of Djibouti won _____ from France in 1977.
6. Tim experienced _____ as a child, but now he's a wealthy man.
7. Penny is very friendly and loves to _____ at parties.
8. The first step in getting your _____ matters organized is making a budget for how to spend your money.

VOCABULARY 2:

Match a vocabulary word to an item that best illustrates its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a. community | e. mood |
| b. factor | f. support |
| c. grateful | g. volunteer |
| d. long-term | |

- _____ 9. to do a job that is not paid but that you enjoy
- _____ 10. a job that lasts for several years
- _____ 11. the neighborhood you live in
- _____ 12. to encourage a friend to succeed
- _____ 13. a reason or cause
- _____ 14. how you feel, e.g., happy, sad etc.
- _____ 15. thankful

READING PRACTICE:

Read the passage. Then read each question and choose the correct answer.

Is Laughter the Best Medicine?

A For years, people have believed that laughter improves people's health. Famous comedian Charlie Chaplin thought that laughing relieved pain. Recent research suggests that Chaplin may have been right, and that laughter can also remove stress, increase the function of your heart, and improve your immune system so that you can fight disease better. Of course, laughing can change your mood so you feel happier.

B Laughing changes the levels of hormones in the body so that a stressed person feels more relaxed. Under stress, the hormone cortisol increases and has a negative effect on the body. Laughing reduces the cortisol level, stimulates blood circulation, and helps the muscles relax. A hearty laugh brings in fresh air loaded with oxygen so the heart and lungs work better. Finding something funny also helps people put their problems in perspective and makes their problems seem more manageable.

C The body's immune system benefits from laughter in several ways. A good guffaw, or strong laugh, can increase the number of antibodies and immune cells that fight infection. Antibodies in the blood attack harmful bacteria that cause disease. In addition, some scientists believe that negative thoughts are connected to disease. Laughter results in more positive thoughts that help the body respond better to infection.

D When a person laughs, natural pain-killers called endorphins are released from the brain. The endorphins create many changes in the body that help a person cope better with pain. A recent study tested people who had their arms in painful frozen ice packs. Laughter made a big difference in how long the research subjects could cope with the discomfort. In his writing, Norman Cousins, a 20th century American journalist, popularized the idea that laughter could help people cope with pain. In 1964, Cousins developed a serious muscle disease and was told he had only a short time to live. He used comic films to laugh frequently to control his pain and lived until 1990.

E Not all scientists are satisfied with the type of research that has been done on laughter and its health benefits. Some critics say that the research has depended on subjective responses - personal opinions of people involved in the studies. Participants simply described their personal reactions or feelings. There is a need for more laboratory research which tests the actual physical effects of laughter on the human body.

F Many research questions remain unanswered. For example, is there a difference in the body's response when a person laughs in a social group that is experiencing a humorous moment together as contrasted to laughing alone? There is also the matter of basic personality differences. Some individuals simply have a greater sense of humor than others do. Will these people benefit more from laughing than more serious individuals? Clearly, there's a need for more research, but in the meantime, it seems that we can all benefit from laughing loud and often.

- _____ 23. What is the passage mostly about?
- a. The most popular Charlie Chaplin films
 - b. Ways in which laughing benefits your body
 - c. How people deal with pain and disease

- ____ 24. Which of these is true about people suffering from stress?
- a. They laugh much more than other people.
 - b. They produce a lot of pain-killing endorphins.
 - c. They have a high level of the hormone cortisol.
- ____ 25. Which of these describes a *guffaw*?
- a. A very noisy laugh
 - b. A quiet private laugh
 - c. An almost silent laugh
- ____ 26. How does laughter make the heart and lungs work better?
- a. It gives the body oxygen-rich fresh air.
 - b. It increases the antibodies in the blood.
 - c. It improves a person's mood and happiness.
- ____ 27. What was Norman Cousins's job?
- a. Acting as a comedian in funny films
 - b. Scientific research on muscle diseases
 - c. Writing for newspapers and magazines
- ____ 28. Look at the word *subjective* in Paragraph E. Which is an example of a subjective response?
- a. Lab tests show a 5% improvement in heart function.
 - b. According to the computer scan, his brain is normal.
 - c. I think I feel a lot better after drinking that healthy tea.
- ____ 29. What conclusion can be made from the last paragraph?
- a. Some people have more fun than other people.
 - b. There is a need for more research on laughter.
 - c. Scientists fully understand the benefits of laughter.

READING SKILL REVIEW - IDENTIFYING THE MAIN IDEA:

Choose the main idea for each paragraph from *Is Laughter the Best Medicine?*

- _____ 30. A For years, people have believed that laughter improves people's health. Famous comedian Charlie Chaplin thought that laughing relieved pain. Recent research suggests that Chaplin may have been right, but that laughter can also remove stress, increase the function of your heart, and improve your immune system so that you can fight disease better. Of course, laughing can change your mood so you feel happier.

Which of these is the main idea for Paragraph A?

- a. There are many ways that laughter can improve health.
- b. Charlie Chaplin believed laughter leads to good health.

- _____ 31. B Laughing changes the levels of hormones in the body so that a stressed person feels more relaxed. Under stress, the hormone cortisol increases and has a negative effect on the body. Laughing reduces the cortisol level, stimulates blood circulation, and helps the muscles relax. A hearty laugh brings in fresh air loaded with oxygen so the heart and lungs work better. Finding something funny also helps people put their problems in perspective and makes their problems seem more manageable.

Which of these is the main idea for Paragraph B?

- a. There are several ways in which laughter reduces stress.
- b. The hormone cortisol has a negative effect on the body.

- _____ 32. C The body's immune system benefits from laughter in several ways. A good guffaw, or strong laugh, can increase the number of antibodies and immune cells that fight infection. Antibodies in the blood attack harmful bacteria that cause disease. In addition, some scientists believe that negative thoughts are connected to disease. Laughter results in more positive thoughts that help the body respond better to infection.

Which of these is the main idea for Paragraph C?

- a. People who think negative thoughts are sick more often.
- b. Laughter helps people's immune systems fight off disease.

- _____ 33. D When a person laughs, natural pain-killers called endorphins are released from the brain. The endorphins create many changes in the body that help a person cope better with pain. A recent study tested people who had their arms in painful frozen ice packs. Laughter made a big difference in how long the research subjects could cope with the discomfort. In his writing, Norman Cousins, a 20th century American journalist, popularized the idea that laughter could help people cope with pain. In 1964, Cousins developed a serious muscle disease and was told he had only a short time to live. He used comic films to laugh frequently to control his pain and lived until 1990.

Which of these is the main idea for Paragraph D?

- a. The endorphins from laughter help people manage pain.
- b. Norman Cousins lived much longer than doctors expected.

- ____ 34. E Not all scientists are satisfied with the type of research that has been done on laughter and its health benefits. Some critics say that the research has depended on subjective responses - personal opinions of people involved in the studies. Participants simply described their personal reactions or feelings. There is a need for more laboratory research which tests the actual physical effects of laughter on the human body.

Which of these is the main idea for Paragraph E?

- a. Scientists have not studied the physical effects of laughter on people at all.
- b. Some scientists think there should be more laboratory research on laughter.

- ____ 35. F Many research questions remain unanswered. For example, is there a difference in the body's response when a person laughs in a social group that is experiencing a humorous moment together as contrasted to laughing alone? There is also the matter of basic personality differences. Some individuals simply have a greater sense of humor than others do. Will these people benefit more from laughing than more serious individuals? Clearly, there's a need for more research, but in the meantime, it seems that we can all benefit from laughing loud and often.

Which of these is the main idea for Paragraph F?

- a. New research should focus on people who laugh more often than others.
- b. There should be more research on laughter, but we know it is healthy.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING REVIEW - REVIEW OF THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE:

Complete the sentences by writing the simple present form of the verb in parentheses.

- 36. People in Iceland _____ (have) a life expectancy of 82.1 years.
- 37. Oman _____ (be) the happiest country in the Middle East.
- 38. We usually _____ (not have) snow in September.
- 39. Mary _____ (not take) her work home every night.
- 40. Marek always _____ (support) his friends when they need something from him.