

READING COMPREHENSION

NAME: _____ GRADE : _____

1 Read the article. Match the people, Victoria (V), Duncan (D) and John (J) to the ideas.

Are you the smartest person you know?

In job interviews, managers may ask 'Who is the smartest person you know?' Most people answer by talking about someone they think is special. By doing this, the managers find out who you would like to be. However, the boss of Oracle, a big computer technology company in California, started asking a different question: 'Are you the smartest person you know?' Only people who answered 'yes' got the job.

So, what about you? Imagine someone asks 'Are you the smartest person you know?' in an interview. How do you answer?

1 VICTORIA

Who says 'yes' to this question? I guess it's only people who think they're smart, but that doesn't mean they are the smartest. You might get someone who is really laid-back and confident saying 'yes', but really, they aren't good at anything except saying great things about themselves. Is that really the kind of person they want working for them?

2 DUNCAN

I don't want to say 'yes', but I am always the smartest person in the room. Sorry, but it's true. I realised I was smart when I was young. I won lots of prizes as a child – and all the teachers recognised that I was really intelligent. I believe it's important that smart people like me get all the best jobs, and it's good that people are starting to ask the right questions in interviews.

3 JOHN

Maybe I'm smart. But the smartest?! I think it's important to be positive and happy in interviews. Saying 'yes, I'm smart' and explaining why isn't a bad thing. But, what is 'smart'? Good at computers, maths, or art or music? People have different skills. I know lots of people who are talented at one thing, but not another. For example, I have a degree in Geography, but my 11-year-old brother is great with computers. So he has taught me lots about computers, and that's good. The more I learn from other people, the better I get.

This person ...

- 0 was good at school.
- 1 thinks smart people don't say 'yes' to questions like this.
- 2 believes that he should get a good job.
- 3 thinks it's important to be cheerful in interviews.
- 4 isn't sure what 'smart' means.
- 5 thinks 'Are you the smartest person you know?' is a good question.
- 6 says that people who think they're the smartest probably aren't.
- 7 thinks that different people are good at different things.

D

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false), or DS (the article doesn't say).

- 0 Some job interviewers want to find out who you admire.
- 1 The boss of Oracle only wanted people who thought they were the smartest.
- 2 Victoria thinks that people who say 'yes' to this question are always smart.
- 3 She knows a lot of people who are too laid-back and positive about themselves.
- 4 Duncan thinks he is the smartest person he knows.
- 5 He didn't think he was smart when he was young.
- 6 He has a great job.
- 7 John doesn't think that everyone can be good at everything.
- 8 His brother doesn't know anything about Geography.

T