

Read the next two stories. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Do-It-Yourself Dinner

A new family moved in next door. Mom asked them to come to dinner on Friday. Rico was happy because he was eager to meet the new neighbors.

Mom was busy all week. Now it was Friday morning. "I have no idea what to cook," she said.

"We can have a do-it-yourself dinner," Rico said. "We can have tacos. We can make our own."

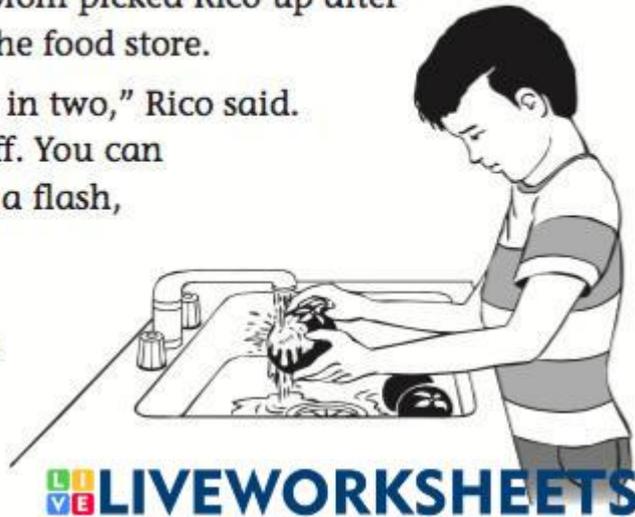
"That is a good idea, but it will still take work. We will have to figure out what to get from the store."

Rico grabbed a pencil and paper. He made a list: taco shells, lettuce, cheese, meat.

Mom added, "Do not forget tomatoes."

That afternoon, Mom picked Rico up after school. They went to the food store.

"Let's tear the list in two," Rico said. "I can get half the stuff. You can get the other half." In a flash, Mom and Rico were driving home. A bag full of groceries sat on the back seat.



**LIVEWORKSHEETS**

At home Rico said, "I can wash tomatoes. I can shred the cheese."

Rico and Mom worked fast. They helped each other. They were almost done when Mom said, "Oh, no! We still have to set the kitchen table!"

"I can do it," said Rico. He put out plates and glasses. He put a bright red napkin by every place. Then he heard the doorbell. Rico opened the door. He said, "*Hola!* We're having a special dinner."

The new neighbors and their daughter, Ella, came in. Everyone sat at the table. They each took a taco shell. They passed plates of lettuce, onions, and tomatoes. They passed bowls of meat, beans, and cheese. They passed a jar of hot sauce. They all took what they wanted. Each built a perfect taco. Ella did not want meat. She piled extra beans on her taco. Rico loves spicy food. He dribbled lots of hot sauce on his taco.

There was nonstop talking and laughing as Mom and Rico learned about their friendly neighbors. At last, everyone was full.

Ella said, "We all built our own tacos. Now, we can all wash and dry the dishes." Everyone agreed.

"This has been so much fun," the neighbors said. "We will have a do-it-yourself dinner next week. Come to our house. We'll make little pizzas. Everyone can make a perfect pizza."

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## Jam Day

It is early in the morning. Tim has been up for a long time. He is very excited. For Tim, this is just about the best day of the year. His family is going to a farm in the country. They are going to pick blackberries. Tim loves to pick berries and make jam. His mother and father call it Jam Day.

Tim's family has Jam Day every year. First, everyone picks blackberries. Then Mother makes enough jam to last all year. Tim helps her make it.

The jam tastes great. Tim and his parents eat it on bread. They eat it on toast. Sometimes Tim dips a spoon into the jam jar. Then he eats the jam by itself.

Tim's friends like to eat the jam, too. They like to come over after school. Tim's mom always has jam. The boys and girls eat bread and jam. The friend who likes the jam best is Ray.

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This year Ray is picking blackberries, too. Ray will come with Tim's family. It will be Ray's first Jam Day.

They drive to the farm. Tim's parents bring a lot of pails. They will fill all of them.

The day is sunny and warm. The bushes are full of blackberries. Tim and Ray start picking right away. Each boy has a pail. Tim shows Ray which are the best berries to pick. He shows him how to get berries without getting stuck by thorns. When they fill their pails, they put them by the car. Then they get empty pails. They pick and pick.

Ray picks blackberries very fast. Tim is surprised. He remembers that it took him a long time to learn.

Later, there are many pails of blackberries. All the pails are full. Tim goes over to his father. "Look at all the blackberries Ray picked, Dad. This is his first Jam Day. But he has just as many buckets as you have."

Dad is silent for a minute. "You are right, Tim. Ray has done a great job. How did you learn to pick blackberries so fast, Ray?"

Ray replied, "I worked very hard. I tried to make up for all the jam I have eaten at your house."

Use “Do-It-Yourself Dinner” on pages 1 and 2 to answer Numbers 1 through 10.

1 Read this sentence from the story.

**Rico was happy because he was eager to meet the new neighbors.**

What does *eager* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ wanting to eat
- Ⓑ wanting to help
- Ⓒ wanting to go first
- Ⓓ wanting to do something

2 Read this sentence from the story.

**She added, “Do not forget tomatoes.”**

Which word has an ending that means something happened in the past?

- Ⓕ added
- Ⓖ do
- Ⓗ forget
- Ⓘ tomatoes

3 Look at the picture. Where is Rico working?

- Ⓐ at a table
- Ⓑ at the sink
- Ⓒ beside the stove
- Ⓓ on a cutting board

4 Look at the picture. What is Rico doing?

- Ⓕ cooking meat
- Ⓖ peeling onions
- Ⓗ washing a tomato
- Ⓘ putting beans in a bowl

5 Read this sentence from the story.

**In a flash, Mom and Rico were driving home.**

Which word has the SAME root word as *driving*?

- Ⓐ dings
- Ⓑ diving
- Ⓒ drives
- Ⓓ riding

6 Read this sentence from the story.

**There was nonstop talking and laughing as Mom and Rico learned about their friendly neighbors.**

Which word has an ending that means “more than one”?

- Ⓕ friendly
- Ⓖ laughing
- Ⓗ learned
- Ⓘ neighbors

**7** Where does the story **MOSTLY** take place?

**A** the new neighbors' house

**B** Rico and Mom's house

**C** Rico's school

**D** Mom's job

**8** How was Rico's dinner a "do-it-yourself" dinner?

Write at least two details from the story.

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- 9 What is Rico's good idea?
- A to go to the food store
  - B to have a do-it-yourself dinner
  - C to invite the neighbors for dinner
  - D to wash and dry the dishes together
- 10 How is Rico helpful? Write two details from the story to support your answer.

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Use "Jam Day" on pages 3 and 4 to answer Numbers 11 through 19.

11 Read this sentence from the story.

**Then Mother makes enough jam to last all year.**

In the sentence above, the word *last* means

- Ⓐ be enough.
  - Ⓑ most unlikely.
  - Ⓒ after all others.
  - Ⓓ the only one left.
- 12 What surprises Tim on Jam Day?
- Ⓕ Mother makes jam.
  - Ⓖ The jam lasts all year.
  - Ⓗ Dad is silent for a minute.
  - Ⓘ Ray can pick blackberries fast.
- 13 Look at the picture. What can you tell about Tim and Ray from the picture?
- Ⓐ They both love jam.
  - Ⓑ Ray is much taller than Tim.
  - Ⓒ Tim picks more berries than Ray.
  - Ⓓ They share things with each other.

- 14 Read this sentence from the story.

**This year Ray is picking blackberries, too.**

Which word shows more than one thing?

- Ⓕ blackberries
  - Ⓖ is
  - Ⓗ This
  - Ⓘ year
- 15 What sentence from the story BEST shows that Tim is helpful?
- Ⓐ Tim shows Ray which are the best berries to pick.
  - Ⓑ Tim and Ray start picking right away.
  - Ⓒ Ray picks berries very fast.
  - Ⓓ Tim loves to pick berries and make jam.
- 16 Which sentence from the story BEST tells why Tim thinks this is the best day of the year?
- Ⓕ The day is sunny and warm.
  - Ⓖ His mother and father call it Jam Day.
  - Ⓗ The friend who likes the jam best is Ray.
  - Ⓘ Tim loves to pick berries and make jam.

- 17** How can you tell that Ray likes to eat jam? Use two details from the story to support your answer.

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- 18** What is the root word for the word *excited*?

- F cite                       H exit  
 G excite                     I it

- 19** Why does Ray work hard to pick blackberries so fast?

- A It is Ray's first Jam Day.  
 B There are a lot of pails to fill.  
 C He wants to make up for eating so much jam.  
 D Tim shows Ray which are the best berries to pick.

