

# Making Inferences

R7

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ENGLISH  
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# Inferences R7

## TOEFL

### EXERCISE 7C: Practice Making Inferences and Understanding Implied Information

Read the following passage. Circle the correct answer to each question.

Only two spiders found in the continental United States are deadly to humans: the black widow and the brown recluse. The black widow is found in all the 48 contiguous states, more commonly in the South and West than in the North. Crabill describes it as "a shy and retiring spider that doesn't go looking for trouble." The black widow's bite is excruciatingly painful. (5) "Sometimes even morphine won't knock out the pain." Crabill says.

But at least a black widow's bite can be treated; there is no effective treatment for a brown recluse's bite. This spider, sometimes called the violin spider because of a violin-like marking on its upper body, is found (10) predominantly in the South, especially in the Gulf States, and in the West. They are far more to be feared than the U.S. tarantula. Crabill explains:

"All tarantulas native to the United States are not known to be hazardous to life, although they will bite. As you get down into the New World tropics, some are extremely dangerous, and here is where you get (15) into trouble with tarantulas as pets. The only safe rule is: If you don't know where it came from, don't handle it."

1. All of the following could be inferred from the passage about the brown recluse EXCEPT
  - (A) it is more deadly than the black widow
  - (B) it can be handled easily
  - (C) it is more common in the southern states
  - (D) it is distinctively marked
2. It can be inferred from the passage that morphine is
  - (A) good for killing black widow spiders
  - (B) a painkiller
  - (C) a total cure for a spider bite
  - (D) sold mostly in the South and West
3. The author implies in the passage that tarantulas
  - (A) are found only in the New World tropics
  - (B) make good pets
  - (C) are a kind of spider
  - (D) should never be handled by humans
4. It can be inferred from the passage that Crabill
  - (A) has never seen a tarantula
  - (B) is an expert on spiders
  - (C) probably has a New World tarantula as a pet
  - (D) would not use morphine for a spider bite





# Inferences R7

## TOEFL

### EXERCISE 7D: More Practice Making Inferences and Understanding Implied Information

Read the passage. Circle the correct answer to each question.

Elements may be the basic building blocks of matter, but what—if anything—makes up the elements? In other words, what would be the result of taking an element, a piece of gold, for example, and cutting it in half, and in half again, ad infinitum. We would soon reach the point of  
*Line* (5) having such a small piece of gold that it would be beyond our ability to cut it. It is at times like these when scientists must use their knowledge about how elements react to continue the experiment in their minds. Scientists have done just that and have agreed that if they continue to cut a piece of gold in half, they would eventually reach a particle called the atom (in this  
(10) case, an atom of gold). The atom is the smallest part of an element that retains the chemical properties of the element. One gold atom is so small that billions of them are required to make a tiny speck of gold that can be seen with a microscope. The atom, therefore, is the basic particle which constitutes the elements. Gold is composed of gold atoms, iron of iron  
(15) atoms, and oxygen of oxygen atoms.

1. What did the paragraph preceding this one most probably discuss?  
(A) Elements as they are essential to matter  
(B) Minerals other than gold  
(C) The scientific method of inquiry  
(D) Scientific experiments
2. All of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT  
(A) matter is made up of atoms  
(B) each element is composed of its own type of atoms  
(C) the gold atom is the smallest particle known to science  
(D) one atom of gold cannot be seen with a regular microscope
3. The author implies in the passage that scientists  
(A) apply their knowledge through abstract thinking  
(B) are more concerned with atoms than with elements  
(C) had difficulty cutting the gold in half  
(D) don't often agree with each other
4. This passage would most likely appear in which of the following course books?  
(A) A history book  
(B) A biography of a scientist  
(C) An introductory chemistry book  
(D) A book on mineralogy





# Inferences R7

## TOEFL

### EXERCISE 7E: More Practice Making Inferences and Understanding Implied Information

Read the passage. Circle the correct answer.

- Trucks rank high in meeting the transportation needs of most manufacturers. They are the most frequently used form of transportation, for two reasons: (1) they offer door-to-door delivery from the manufacturer to the customer without intermediate unloading, and (2) they operate on public highways that do not require an expensive terminal or right-of-way as airlines and railroads do. The main drawback of trucks is that they cannot carry all types of cargo. Federal regulations limit weight loads and truck dimensions, so trucks cannot cost-effectively haul heavy, bulky commodities like steel or coal.
- (10) Trucks can now carry larger loads on interstate highways, thanks to a 1983 law permitting the use of tandem trailers—two trailers hooked together and pulled by a single cab. Even with this change in federal rules, however, certain types of cargoes, such as gases, are difficult to handle by truck. Other types of transportation are more suited to these cargoes.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that truck transportation would be LEAST effective for which of the following commodities?  
(A) Computers  
(B) Iron ore  
(C) Canned food  
(D) Paper products
2. It can be inferred from the passage that trucks meet all of the following criteria for transportation EXCEPT  
(A) direct delivery of product  
(B) low expenses for handling product  
(C) low overhead for storage of product  
(D) diversified cargoes
3. The author implies in the passage that federal regulation of trucks  
(A) is stricter today than ever  
(B) is paid for by the manufacturers  
(C) has been more lenient since 1983  
(D) forbids trucks to handle gases
4. The passage following this one will most likely discuss  
(A) more specific federal regulations on trucks  
(B) other transportation systems  
(C) interstate truck routes most commonly used  
(D) cargoes shipped by tandem trailers

