

TOEFL READING COMPREHENSION

Questions - are about the following story.

"Did you see that?" Joe said to his friend Bill. "You're a great shooter!"

Bill caught the basketball and bounced it before throwing it again. The ball flew into the net.

Line "Bill, you never miss!" Joe said admiringly.

5 "Unless I'm in a real game," Bill complained. "Then I miss all the time."

Joe knew that Bill was right. Bill performed much better when he was having fun with Joe in the school yard than he did when he was playing for the school team in front of a large crowd.

"Maybe you just need to practice more," Joe suggested.

10 "But I practice all the time with you!" Bill objected. He shook his head. "I just can't play well when people are watching me."

"You play well when I'm watching," Joe pointed out.

"That's because I've known you since we were five years old," Bill said with a smile.

"I'm just not comfortable playing when other people are around."

15 Joe nodded and understood, but he also had an idea.

The next day Joe and Bill met in the school yard again to practice. After a few minutes, Joe excused himself.

"Practice without me," Joe said to his friend. "I'll be back in a minute."

20 Joe hurried through the school building, gathering together whomever he could find—two students, a math teacher, two secretaries, and a janitor.

When Joe explained why he needed them, everyone was happy to help.

Joe reminded the group to stay quiet as they all went toward the school's basketball court. As Joe had hoped, Bill was still practicing basketball. He made five baskets in a row without noticing the silent people standing behind him.

"Hey, Bill!" Joe called out finally.

30 Bill turned. A look of surprise came over his face.

"I just wanted to show you that you could play well with people watching you," Joe said. "Now you'll have

35 nothing to worry about for the next game!"



5. What would be the best title for the story?

- (A) Joe Joins the Team
- (B) Practice Makes Perfect
- (C) Bill Wins the Big Game
- (D) Bill's Basketball Problem

6. In line 6, the word performed is closest in meaning to _____.

- (A) acted
- (B) played
- (C) moved
- (D) changed

7. Why is Bill upset?

- (A) He plays better in practice than he does during games.
- (B) The school yard is not a good place to practice.
- (C) Joe watches him too closely when he plays.
- (D) His team loses too many games.

8. Why does Bill play well when Joe is watching him?

- (A) He is comfortable with Joe.
- (B) Joe tells him how to play better.
- (C) He does not know that Joe is there.
- (D) He wants to prove to Joe that he is a good player.

9. Why does Joe decide to gather a group of people?

- (A) Because he wants more players for his team
- (B) Because he wants to help Bill feel less nervous
- (C) Because he wants to show them his talent
- (D) Because he wants more people to see the next game

10. At the end of the story, all of the following people watch Bill practice EXCEPT _____.

- (A) Joe
- (B) a janitor
- (C) a math teacher
- (D) the basketball coach

11. Why does the group have to be quiet when they go to the basketball court?

- (A) Because Joe is telling Bill what to do
- (B) Because they do not want Bill to know they are there
- (C) Because Bill likes to practice alone
- (D) Because the group needs to listen to Joe's instructions