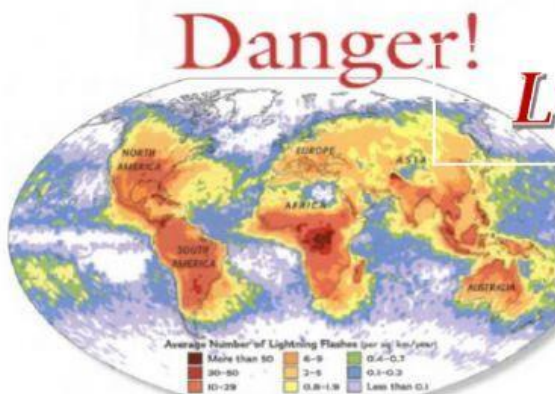




Lightning!

What do you know about lightning?

Answer this quiz about lightning, the picture can help to answer.

Click the correct answer. (a or b?)

- 1.- Lightning flashes happen most often **a) over land** **b) over water**.
- 2.- Europe has the **a) least** **b) most** lightning flashes of any continent.
- 3.- Central Africa has **a) fewer** **b) more** lightning flashes than Central Asia.
- 4.- Most of South America gets **a) more** **b) less** than 10 lightning flashes per km per year.

So, what is a lightning? I bet you are afraid of it, do you?

Read the following introduction of what lightning is and then follow the steps to practice your reading skills.



Lightning

Lightning is a common natural event—one that scientists are still learning about.

You're most likely to see lightning in summer, when it breaks the peace and quiet of a hot day.

Around the world, lightning happens 50 to 100 times a second. Lightning happens most often in Central Africa, the Himalayas, and South America.

We can often see lightning flashing between storm clouds and the earth.

Lightning is electricity. Scientists don't fully agree about why the lightning escapes from the cloud. But they generally agree that lightning occurs because of electricity moving up and down inside the cloud. Some particles move to the top of the cloud and get a positive charge. Other particles move down and get a negative charge. The positive and negative charges get stronger, and this creates electricity—lightning—between the two parts of the cloud.

Lightning mainly stays inside the cloud, but sometimes it reaches the earth. The energy of the

lightning is very strong, but it is finished after less than a second. Lightning looks like one flash coming down, but it's really a series of return flashes reaching back into the cloud.

Inside the lightning, the temperature is more than 28,000 degrees Celsius. This high temperature changes the pressure inside the lightning, and that makes the sound of thunder.

In the United States, you're most likely to see lightning in Florida. The hot, wet weather conditions there create thunder clouds, and these clouds produce lightning.

Lightning is nature at its most dangerous. Every year, it causes about 100 deaths in the United States—more than hurricanes or tornadoes. If you're in a lightning storm, you should go inside a building, or get in a car, and wait for the storm to end. As a rule, it's best to stay away from high places and tall trees.

Lightning is a natural and common event, but one that can be deadly.

Step 1.- Listen to the twice (if necessary, you can listen to it a third time, but do not listen to it more than three times), and answer the following questions.

The story is about a boy who was struck by lightning.

1._ What's the name of boy? _____

2.- When did it happen? _____

3.- Where did it happen? _____

4.- What was he doing? _____

5.- How old was he? _____

Step 2- Now Read the story which is on the next page and answer **exercises A and B**



1 On a sunny afternoon in 2004, nine-year-old Geoff Banninger was walking to a park in Colorado to see his sister play softball. But before he got to the park, Geoff was struck¹ by lightning.

5 The lightning stopped Geoff's **heart** and his breathing. It burned his hair and left a burn line from his head to his foot. It blew his glasses off his face and melted² them. It even made a hole in the bottom of his shoe. "I woke up about a minute later," says Geoff, "and my mom told me I had been struck by lightning."

10 What is lightning? A lightning strike is the **result** of a buildup of electrical charges³ inside a cloud. We usually see lightning during stormy weather. But, as Geoff discovered, it can **happen** even on a sunny day.

15 Geoff's legs felt strange after he was hit, but he hasn't had any **further** problems since then. "I'm a lucky guy," he says. But being lucky is not the only way to **ensure** your safety during a thunderstorm. You can also follow the **30/30 rule**: if you see lightning, and then hear thunder less than 30 seconds later, go inside a building. Then **wait** 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before you go back outside.

20 So how **likely** is it you will be hit by lightning? Fortunately⁴, it's not a **common** problem. According to the U.S. National Weather Service, your **chance** of being struck in your lifetime is only 1 in 5,000.

"I woke up about a minute later and my mom told me I had been struck by lightning."

—Geoff Banninger



¹ If you are **struck** by something, it means you have been hit by it.

² When something **melts**, it changes from solid to liquid, usually because it has been heated.

³ An electrical **charge** is an amount of electricity that is held in or carried by something.

⁴ If someone or something is **fortunate**, they are lucky.

□ Reading Comprehension

A. Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

- Detail 1. Which sentence about Geoff Banninger is NOT true?
a. The lightning stopped his breathing.
b. The lightning burned his hair.
c. The lightning left a line around his shoe.
d. The lightning stopped his heart.
- Inference 2. Which of the following is probably true?
a. Geoff remembers being struck by lightning.
b. When Geoff was struck by lightning, his mother was nearby.
c. Geoff's sister saw him get hit.
d. Geoff believes he has a very unlucky life.
- Reference 3. In line 14, the word *it* refers to _____.
a. stormy weather
b. cloudy weather
c. a lightning strike
d. a sunny day
- Detail 4. According to the 30/30 rule, you should go inside a building _____.
a. when thunder and lightning are less than 30 seconds apart
b. at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning
c. when you see lightning, but don't hear thunder
d. any time you hear thunder and see lightning
- Main Idea 5. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
a. Most people are never struck by lightning.
b. It's common to be struck by lightning.
c. It's fortunate if you are struck by lightning.
d. Lightning usually strikes in the afternoon or early evening.

B. Matching. What is the main idea of each paragraph in the reading?
Match each heading (a–e) with the correct paragraph.

Paragraph	Heading
1. (from line 1) _____	a. How to Stay Safe During a Thunderstorm
2. (from line 5) _____	b. Will You Be Struck by Lightning?
3. (from line 11) _____	c. The Day Geoff Banninger Was Struck by Lightning
4. (from line 15) _____	d. Why Do We Have Lightning?
5. (from line 23) _____	e. What Happened When Geoff Was Struck?

