

READING 1:

Hurricanes generally occur in the North Atlantic from May through November, with the peak of the hurricane season in September; only rarely will they occur from December through April in that part of the ocean. The main reason for the occurrence of hurricanes during this period is that the temperature on the water's surface is at its warmest and the humidity of air is at its highest. Of the tropical storms that occur each year in the North Atlantic, only about five, on the average, are powerful enough to be called hurricanes. To be classified as a hurricane, a tropical storm must have winds reaching speeds of at least 117 kilometers per hour, but the winds are often much stronger than that; the winds of intense hurricanes can easily surpass 240 kilometers per hour.

The passage mainly discusses _____

- A. how many hurricanes occur each year
- B. the strength of hurricanes
- C. the weather in the North Atlantic
- D. hurricanes in one part of the world

READING 2:

Sometimes too much of a good thing can become a very bad thing indeed. In an earnest attempt to consume a healthy diet, dietary supplement enthusiasts have been known to overdose. Vitamin C, for example, long thought to help people ward off cold viruses, is currently being studied for its possible role in warding off cancer and other diseases that cause tissue degeneration. Unfortunately, an overdose of vitamin C – more than 10,000 mg. – on a daily basis can cause nausea and diarrhea. Calcium supplements, commonly taken by women, are helpful in warding off osteoporosis. More than just a few grams a day, however, can lead to stomach upset and even kidney or bladder stones. Niacin, proven useful in reducing cholesterol levels, can be dangerous in large doses to those who suffer from heart problems, asthma, or ulcers.

The main idea expressed in this paragraph is _____

- A. supplements taken in excess can be a bad thing indeed.
- B. dietary supplement enthusiasts have been known to overdose.
- C. vitamins can cause nausea, diarrhea, and kidney or bladder stones.
- D. people who take supplements are preoccupied with their health.

READING 3:

Most children have an interest in learning to play a musical instrument at one point or another during their growing-up years. Parents need to take advantage of that urge to play when it appears. Some very small children become intrigued with music because they see their parents or their older siblings play. The Suzuki method of instruction capitalizes on that early willingness to learn by involving the parent and the child in the child's instructions. Elementary-aged youngsters often are exposed to stringed instruments or band instruments in their school music classes. Because kids like to do what other kids do, parents who are not musicians themselves can take advantage of both instruction and enthusiasm. It is at the middle school level, however, that peer pressure can really work to the benefit of parents who want to hear the sound of music around the house.

The most accurate expression of the central or controlling idea of this paragraph is _____

- A. most children have an interest in learning to play a musical instrument during their growing-up years.
- B. some very small children become intrigued with music because they see their parents or siblings play.
- C. at various points, parents can take advantage of their children's desire to play a musical instrument.
- D. middle-school children take delight at selecting and learning to play an instrument along with their friends