Amazing New
Program Ready.
Just click
anywhere.

Ask Me a Question

"I installed a new program on the computer in your room," Rachel, my elder sister, announced. She's in high school, but because she is a real computer whiz, local businesses sometimes pay her to help them with their computers.

"Riva, you have to try this program," Rachel added, "because it's totally bliss." Rachel always uses the expression *totally bliss* to describe something she adores.

"Okay, I'll try it," I replied. When I entered my room, I noticed that the computer displayed a new screen saver flashing a message: *Amazing New Program Ready. Just Click Anywhere.*

"Enjoy it," Rachel said, waving from my doorway. I heard the door to her room close as I sat down, moved the cursor, and clicked the mouse.

Ask me a question. I know everything! scrolled across the screen.

I typed swiftly, "What's my name?"
Your name is Riva Borofsky.

I decided that my question was too simple since Rachel could have programmed in some obvious questions and answers. So I came up with something that would not be so easily recognized, and typed, "What color is my shirt?"

The shirt you are currently wearing is red.

I glanced down at my shirt and gasped. How could the computer possibly know? I hurriedly came up with another question: "What are the birthdays of my parents, my sister, and me?"

Father, June 12. Mother, April 5. Rachel, March 10. You, September 22.

"That's absolutely right!" I shrieked.

Before I could type a new question, another message appeared. *March 10 is almost here, what do you contemplate giving your sister?*

I studied the question for a while, then typed, "I'm thinking of giving her some personal services."

Such as?

This was just like having a conversation with a human! I typed hurriedly, "I might do her chores for a couple of weeks."

Totally bliss!

My fingers froze above the keyboard as I stared at the screen. I got up quietly, opened the door to Rachel's room, and saw she was sitting at her computer with a big smile on her face. "I see my 'amazing new program' really works!" she said.
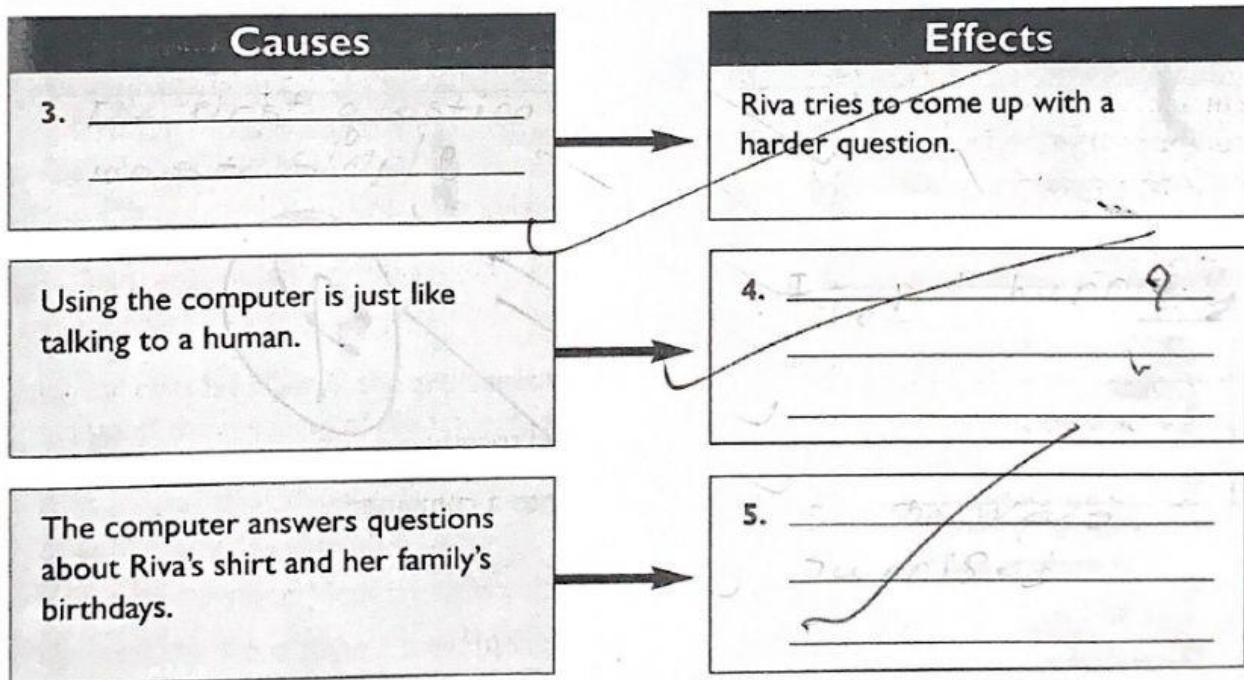
Checking Comprehension

1. What does the narrator discover by the end of the story?

   _____

   _____

2. Why might the author have mentioned at the start that Rachel is a computer whiz?

   _____

   _____

Practicing Comprehension Skills

Complete the chart with causes or effects from the story.

Causes	Effects
3. _____ _____	Riva tries to come up with a harder question.
Using the computer is just like talking to a human.	4. _____ _____
The computer answers questions about Riva's shirt and her family's birthdays.	5. _____ _____

Complete each sentence with a cause or an effect from the story.

6. Rachel is employed by local businesses because

_____

7. Riva's fingers freeze above the keyboard because

_____

_____

8. Riva is thinking of giving Rachel some personal services because

_____

Practicing Vocabulary

Choose the word from the box that best matches each clue. Write the word on the line.

conversation expression installed local personal replied studied

_____	9.	private or individual
_____	10.	answered
_____	11.	chat or talk
_____	12.	learned about
_____	13.	nearby or in the area
_____	14.	words often used together
_____	15.	put a program into a computer