

BELT Practice

Reading Comprehension

1. For many years people believed that the cleverest animals after man were chimpanzees. Now, however, there is proof that dolphins may be even cleverer than these big apes.

Although a dolphin lives in the sea it is not a fish. It is a mammal. It is in many ways, therefore, like a human being.

Dolphins have a simple language. They are able to talk to one another. It may be possible for man to learn how to talk to dolphins. But this will not be easy because dolphins cannot hear the kind of sounds man can make. If man wants to talk to dolphins, therefore, he will have to make a third language which both he and the dolphins can understand.

Dolphins are also very friendly towards man. They often follow ships. There are many stories of dolphins guiding ships through difficult and dangerous waters.

Which animals do people think may be the cleverest?

- A. Chimpanzees
- B. Dolphins
- C. Big apes
- D. Mammals

What other beings are dolphins like in many ways?

- A. Fish
- B. Animals
- C. Reptiles
- D. Men

What have scientists discovered about dolphins?

- A. They understand simple language.
- B. They can speak to one another.
- C. Men can now talk to them.
- D. They can teach men their languages.

Why is a third language necessary if man wants to talk to dolphins?

- A. Most men do not speak English.
- B. The dolphins language is hard to learn.
- C. Dolphins cannot hear men speaking.
- D. Men want to talk to dolphins in secret.

In what way are dolphins friendly to man?

- A. They like interesting things about man.
- B. They often follow ships.
- C. They often jump on to ships.
- D. They seem to like stories.

2. Elizabeth Blackwell was born in England in 1821, and emigrated to New York City when she was ten years old. One day she decided that she wanted "to become a doctor". That was nearly impossible for a woman in the middle of the nineteenth century. After writing many letters seeking admission to the medical schools, she was finally accepted by a doctor in Philadelphia. So determined was she that she taught school and gave music lessons to earn money for her tuition.

In 1849, after graduation from medical school, she decided to further her education in Paris. She wanted to be a surgeon, but a serious eye infection forced her to abandon the idea. Upon returning to the United States, she found it difficult to start her own practice because she was a woman. By 1857 Elizabeth and her sister, also a doctor along with another female doctor, managed to open a new hospital, first for women and children. Besides being the first female physician and founding her own hospital, she also established the first medical school for women.

Why couldn't Elizabeth realize her dream of becoming a surgeon?

- A. She couldn't get admitted to medical school.
- B. She decided to further her education in Paris.
- C. A serious eye infection prevented.

- D. It was difficult for her to start practice in the U.S.

What main reason almost destroyed Elizabeth's chances for becoming a doctor?

- A. She was a woman.
- B. She wrote too many letters.
- C. She couldn't graduate from medical school.
- D. She couldn't establish her hospital.

How many years passed between her graduation from medical school and the opening of her hospital?

- A. 8
- B. 10
- C. 19
- D. 36

When Elizabeth became a doctor, she was

- A. 21 years old
- B. 49 years old
- C. 28 years old
- D. 31 years old

All of the following are: "first" in the life of Elizabeth Blackwell, except:

- A. She became the first female physician.
- B. She was the first woman surgeon.
- C. She and several other women founded the first hospital for women and children.
- D. She established the first medical school for women.

3. John liked chocolates very much, but his mother never gave him any, because they were bad for his teeth, she thought. But John had a very nice grandfather. The old man loved his grandson very much, and sometimes he brought John chocolates when he came to visit him. Then his mother let him eat them, because she wanted to make the old man happy. One evening, a few days before John's seventh birthday, he was saying his prayers in his bedroom before he went to bed. "Please, God" he shouted, "make them give me a big box of chocolates for my birthday on Saturday". His mother was in the kitchen and she heard the small boy shouting and went into his bedroom quickly. "Why are you shouting, John?" she asked her son, "God can hear you when you talk quietly" "I know" answer the clever boy with a smile, "but Grandfather's in the next room, and he can't".

Why did his grandfather sometimes give him chocolate?

- A. Because his grandfather loved candy.
- B. Because John was a good boy.
- C. Because it was good for his health.
- D. Because his grandfather loved him.

Why did his mother let John eat the chocolate he got from his grandfather?

- A. To please the old man.
- B. To make John happy.
- C. Because she didn't have to pay for it.
- D. Because John liked it a lot.

What did he pray to God before his seventh birthday?

- A. He asked for good luck.
- B. He wanted his grandfather to give him chocolate.
- C. He begged God to make him a big box of chocolate.
- D. He wished for some money to buy chocolate.

Why did he shout when he was praying?

- A. So that God can hear him.

- B. So that his mother could hear him.
- C. So that his grandfather could hear him.
- D. Because his grandfather was deaf.

Which sentence is not true according to the passage?

- A. John was fond of chocolate.
- B. He wanted a big box of chocolate for his birthday.
- C. His mother was too poor to give him a big box of chocolate.
- D. While he was praying that day his grandfather was in the next room.

4. The diseases connected to smoking are a big problem. Doctors think that the annual medical cost for lung cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses connected to smoking is between 12 and 35 million pounds.

And smoking costs society money in other ways. Between 27 and 61 billion pounds are spent each year on sick days when people don't go to work, on wages that you don't get when you don't go to work, and on work lost at the company when you are sick.

This money counts the wages from people who die of cancer at young age and stop paying taxes. This does not count fires started by cigarettes, which kill fifteen hundred people yearly and injure another four thousand. Smoking costs every man, woman and child in the UK from one hundred and ten to two hundred and fifty pounds each year in the lost work and wages. When you add another fifty to one hundred and fifty pounds yearly in insurance cost, that comes to one hundred and sixty to four hundred and ten pounds. If everyone stopped smoking, a family of four could have up to one thousand six hundred and forty pounds a year more.

Smoking will also cause other problems. People who don't smoke will live longer, and so they will take money from the government when they are old. But they will also work for more years and pay more taxes.

In the end, the value of a non-smoking nation is not in pounds. The good health of the people is the true value for us all.

If everyone stopped smoking, all the United Kingdom

- A. would have more money
- B. would live longer
- C. would have less money
- D. would have no more problems

Every year companies lose _____ because of the disease.

- A. money
- B. work
- C. wages
- D. time

If everyone stopped smoking, a family of four could have _____ more each year.

- A. from 110 pounds to 260 pounds
- B. from 1,340 to 1,430 pounds
- C. from 160 pounds to 410 pounds
- D. 1,640 pounds

The true value for the UK of not smoking is _____.

- A. more working
- B. more taxes
- C. good health
- D. more money

This text is about _____.

- A. taxes which are not paid by smokers
- B. diseases that smokers get

C. how much smoking costs the UK

D. how much the UK get if everyone stopped smoking

5. The elephants left the shade, crossed an open piece of grass between bushes, and came towards the mud-pool where my truck was parked. One by one, they arrived on the shore, but, just as they seemed to be about to bathe in the inviting muddy liquid, they became aware of the silent truck with its tell-tale smell of man. The leading elephant merely spread her ears and cautiously backed away taking the young elephants with her.

A smaller mother elephant continued to stand next to the pool, however, swinging her long trunk and swaying her head from side to side always keeping an eye on the truck. The baby elephant behind her held up his head, waving his trunk to sample the suspicious smell in the wind. The mother elephant seemed to be uncertain about whether to come on and investigate the truck or to back away with the others. Finally she made up her mind and slowly advanced on the truck. Her ears were half out, and her trunk moved inquisitively towards the vehicle and then back under her stomach in a rhythmic swing.

I was fascinated by this close approach. Never before had I been able to see the hairiness around the jaw, nor smell the warm scent of elephant which now reached me in concentrated waves. The mother elephant's steps were slow but determined, and brought her to within a couple of metres of me.

She gave the impression of being intensely curious about this metal object which had appeared in her world and behaved as if it were itself an animal. I wondered how far she would accept the situation and, if after all the centuries of men killing elephants, she would ever allow me to approach her on foot. To be able to move freely among the elephants without their minding was an exciting thought, but I certainly did not expect it would ever be possible.

It had been the elephants' intention to _____.

A. feed on the grass

B. swim in the pool

C. lie in the sunshine

D. avoid the mud

The presence of the writer and his vehicle_____.

- A. was not noticed by the elephants
- B. made the leading elephant suspicious
- C. made the adult elephants curious
- D. frightened all the elephants away

How did the smaller elephant react the truck?

- A. She showed more curiosity than the other elephants.
- B. She kept her baby away from it.
- C. After some hesitation she moved away with the other elephants.
- D. She rushed up to it excitedly.

While he watched the mother elephant approaching, the author_.

- A. was worried that the elephants were too close
- B. found the smell very unpleasant
- C. was impressed by the elephant's size
- D. saw details he had not noticed before

The author did not expect he would ever be able to_____.

- A. shoot the elephants
- B. touch the elephants
- C. walk about freely near the elephants
- D. drive his truck close to the elephants