Reading
Babysitting Like a Pro (Almost)



Read the text below, choose the correct answers (A, B, C, D) .

Alicia was in her early 20s, a university student who cherished sleeping till noon on weekends and binge-watching her favorite shows with snacks. When her older sister Camille asked her to babysit for a weekend, Alicia thought, *How hard could it be?* After all, she'd always been the "fun aunt" to Camille's two kids, 4-year-old Emma and 7-year-old Leo. Being adored for showing up with cupcakes and letting them play on her phone during family dinners had given her confidence. This would be a breeze.

The moment Camille and her husband left for their weekend getaway to celebrate their 10-year wedding anniversary, however, Alicia learned that being the fun aunt didn't prepare her for being the only adult in the room. It started with breakfast. Camille had left a color-coded list of instructions so precise it looked like she'd consulted a project manager. "Make pancakes," it read, a task that seemed straightforward. Alicia confidently mixed the batter, flipped her first pancake—and watched it flop half on the counter and half on the floor in what looked like a gravity experiment gone wrong."Why does this pancake look like a spaceship?" Leo giggled. "Because it's… creative," Alicia said, scraping the mess off the floor before Emma could step in it. The final product looked more like abstract art than food, but the kids loved it, laughing and munching away. Alicia thought she'd nailed it.

Alicia decided they needed fresh air to burn off some energy, so she took them to the park. What sounded like a peaceful outing turned into a series of escalating crises. Leo, who claimed he was "basically a ninja," climbed a tree and refused to come down, insisting he could see the neighbor's dog from up there. Meanwhile, Emma sprinted in circles, screaming, "Catch me if you can!" at the top of her lungs. Alicia tried to coax Leo down while keeping one eye on Emma, who was now attempting to climb a slide the wrong way. She finally bribed Leo with an idea of ice cream and managed to scoop Emma off the grass. By the time they got home, all three of them were covered in dirt, Alicia's hair was a mess, and she muttered to herself, "Next time, I'm bringing a leash."

By evening, Alicia was convinced the hardest part was over. She followed Camille's list, which suggested bedtime should involve reading a story. Simple. But Emma wanted a princess story, Leo demanded a pirate story, and they refused to compromise. Exhausted and desperate, Alicia made up a story about a pirate princess who sailed the seas in search of treasure. Her tale was surprisingly engaging, and Emma fell asleep clutching a stuffed unicorn. Leo, however, was wide awake, peppering Alicia with questions like, "How do pirate ships not sink?" and "Can I be a pirate when I grow up?" until she almost nodded off mid-sentence.

The next morning, Alicia woke up to Emma poking her cheek. "Auntie Alicia, are you alive?" "Barely," she groaned, dragging herself out of bed. Determined to maintain control, she organized an arts-and-crafts session. It started well enough—until Emma decided glitter would look "better" in Alicia's hair. Leo joined in by tossing handfuls of it like confetti, laughing so hard he fell off his chair. Alicia spent the next twenty minutes with her head in the sink, trying to rinse out what felt like an entire art store. She eventually gave up, resigned to looking like a human disco ball for the rest of the day.

By this point, Camille's list started to feel more like a mockery. Alicia stared at it, mentally crossing off tasks she'd decided weren't happening. "Bake cookies together" was the first to go—there was no way she was letting Emma and Leo near the oven after the pancake fiasco. "Visit the library for storytime" was next. Alicia couldn't imagine wrangling these two into behaving in a quiet place. "Organize the playroom" made her laugh out loud. Instead, she sat the kids down with popcorn and cartoons, hoping for a moment of peace.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading

In the afternoon, there was a rare calm when they built a blanket fort together. They crawled inside, surrounded by pillows and snacks, and pretended they were hiding from a dragon. Leo declared himself the dragon slayer, Emma demanded to be a princess again, and Alicia decided she was the wise wizard. For a few blissful hours, they laughed and snuggled in the fort, forgetting the chaos outside. But the day wasn't without its secrets. During snack time, Alicia let them have the ice cream she'd promised Leo the day before, though Camille's list strictly forbade it before dinner. "This is *our* secret," Alicia whispered as the kids giggled over their bowls of forbidden ice cream. They solemnly promised not to tell, though Alicia doubted Emma's ability to keep her tiny mouth shut for long.

When Camille and her husband finally returned, they walked into what looked like the aftermath of a glitter factory explosion. Alicia was on the couch, her hair sparkling and her clothes streaked with paint. The kids ran to their parents, babbling about spaceships, pirate princesses, and "the secret ice cream." Alicia shot them a look, but it was too late.

Camille surveyed the wreckage and burst out laughing. "So, how was it?" she asked.

"Piece of cake," Alicia said, deadpan, then added with a grin, "Okay, maybe not, but your kids are hilarious. And loud. Very loud."

Camille hugged her sister. "Thank you, Alicia. You're amazing."

As they waved goodbye, Alicia collapsed onto the couch. Babysitting hadn't been what she'd expected. It was chaotic, messy, and exhausting, but it also gave her a newfound appreciation for Camille and the sheer magic of parenting. Patience, flexibility, and a sense of humor had gotten her through. Later, she told her friends, "Babysitting is like glitter—it gets everywhere, and it's impossible to control, but somehow it's still kind of magical."

Would she do it again? Absolutely. But first, she needed a week of uninterrupted sleep—and maybe a glitter-proof house.

1. What is true according to the text?

a) Alicia is a teenager.

b) Alicia is a younger sibling.

c) Alicia has two kids.

d) Alicia loves her aunt.

2. What was the kids' reaction to the unusual pancakes?

a) They enjoyed eating them.

b) They were upset and refused to eat them.

c) They complained about the poor quality of the pancakes.

d) They did not comment on the appearance of the pancakes.

3. How did Alicia manage to get Leo to come down from the tree?

a) She called the fire department to rescue him.

b) She waited until he got tired and came down on his own.

c) She threatened to leave him in the tree.

d) She promised him a treat if he came down.

4. What was the main problem Alicia faced with the arts-and-crafts session?

a) The supplies were not organized.

b) Emma and Leo made a mess.

c) The kids didn't want to participate.

d) Alicia couldn't find any crafts for them to do.

5. What was Alicia's attitude towards babysitting in the future?

a) She refused to do it ever again.

b) She would only do it if she had help.

c) She would do it again, but after a lot of rest.

d) She didn't think about it at all.