

You probably know that a person can rent a car if he or she needs one. But have you ever thought about renting an apple tree?

A farmer in upstate New York has an entire orchard of apple trees for rent. For an annual rent of \$21.95, you can have an apple tree just for you. In return for this fee, you can have the year's crop of apples from your tree. You can use the tree for a whole year. You can sit under the tree, look at it, or even climb it if you wish. Just about the only thing you can't do with your tree is cut it down.

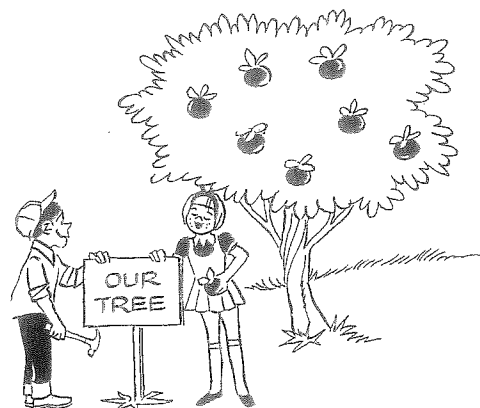
In a good year, the tree you rent might yield as many as twenty or thirty bushels of fruit. The market value of the apples could be more than double the rental price of the tree. All you have to do is pick them.

With all his trees rented, what would the farmer do to keep busy all summer? He wouldn't have to pick any apples. The people who rent the trees do that. His five thousand trees, if fully rented, would bring in more than \$100,000.00. Perhaps he should keep one tree for himself. He could sit under it and count his money.

- This selection is mainly about
 - how to rent a car.
 - renting an apple tree.
 - how to pick apples.
 - cutting down apple trees.
- A rental fee of \$21.95 will get you
 - an apple tree for a year.
 - a rental car for a day.
 - ten bushels of apples.
 - all of the above.
- One tree in a good year might
 - yield up to 30 bushels.
 - produce 20 little baskets.
 - give \$21.95 worth of pies.
 - fill up someone's car.

- Renting out apple trees would be a good idea for farmers who
 - don't like money.
 - prefer peaches.
 - don't want to work hard.
 - like to pick apples.
- The farmer in this true story
 - was a poor student.
 - seems to be quite clever.
 - wins ribbons at the fair.
 - has many rotten apples.
- An orchard is a place
 - with fruit trees.
 - to make applesauce.
 - between two hills.
 - near the beach.
- A rented tree can not be used for
 - shade.
 - climbing.
 - its fruit.
 - firewood.
- The farmer in this story had
 - many orchards.
 - 5,000 apples.
 - too much money.
 - 5,000 apple trees.

Time _____ # Correct _____

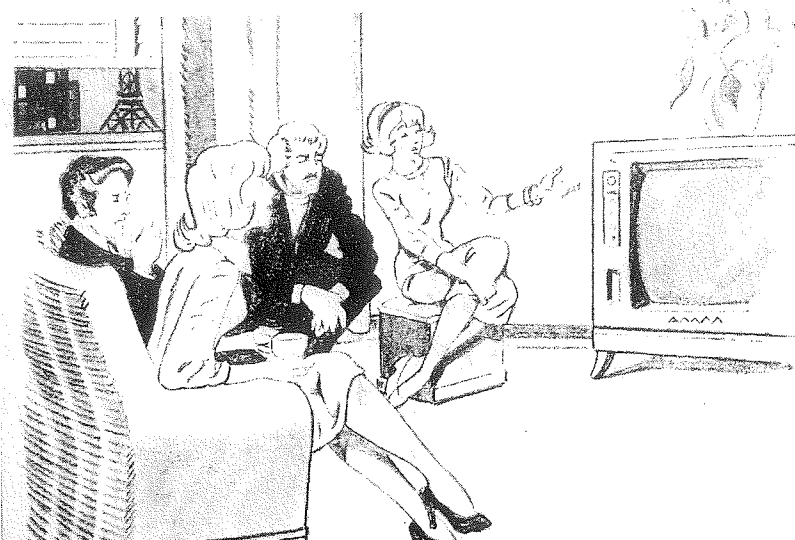


One Sunday night in France, all the television sets went off. All of a sudden, there was no picture on anyone's set. Everyone had to stop watching because there was nothing to see. Right in the middle of a movie, all the screens went blank.

As an excuse, people at the television station said that there had been some trouble with the equipment. They said that something had broken and caused the problem. But this was not true. Nothing had broken. Nothing at the station was in need of repair. What really did happen? What was the reason that four million people had to retire that night without seeing the end of the movie?

The true story is that the man working at the television station fell asleep. When he woke up, he thought that the movie was over. So he turned off all the equipment for the night. He carefully locked up the television station and went home to bed. He had no idea that people all over the country—four million people—were still waiting for the end of the movie.

- The television went off with
 - very few watching.
 - an audience of four million.
 - damage from a storm.
 - repairs needed.



- In this story, retire means
 - stop working.
 - put wheels on a car.
 - watch a movie.
 - go to bed.
- The main idea of this story is that
 - France has broken TV sets.
 - some old movies never end.
 - one nap caused blank TV screens.
 - sleeping on the job is fun.
- The people at the TV station
 - showed the movie again.
 - didn't tell the whole truth.
 - were nice to the tired man.
 - enjoyed the blank screens.
- The screens went blank because
 - the equipment failed.
 - the man turned things off.
 - there was no more film left.
 - no one wanted to watch.
- The movie was probably
 - not worth seeing again.
 - one that nobody wanted.
 - quite a popular film.
 - broken beyond repair.
- Saying the equipment was broken
 - was just an excuse.
 - got it fixed very fast.
 - cost a man his job.
 - was the entire truth.
- A blank screen
 - requires repair.
 - has several colors.
 - can't be seen.
 - has nothing on it.

Louis Morton, age 16, seems to have a special interest in snakes. Louis, who lives in Washington, D.C., was carrying two snakes in a plastic bag. He boarded a bus and rode for a while. None of the other passengers knew what his sack contained.

It was probably just as well that no one on the bus knew what Louis was carrying. The snakes were Gaboon vipers, which are extremely dangerous. The poison from a viper bite is deadly. It can kill a person very quickly. One Gaboon viper in a zoo is known to have died after giving itself a little nip by mistake. Deadly snakes of this kind are not for carrying in plastic bags.

As Louis was getting off the bus, he felt a bite on his shoulder. He told the bus driver what had happened and the driver radioed for help. Louis was rushed to a hospital where he nearly died. Luckily, several zoos were able to supply the medicine necessary to save the youth's life.

Louis wasn't the only one with a special interest in those snakes. Several Washington police officers were interested too. They were assigned to find out just how the creatures managed to leave their cages in the National Zoo and end up in Louis Morton's plastic bag.

1. Louis Morton is interested in
 - (a) hospital life.
 - (b) travel by bus.
 - (c) snakes.
 - (d) being a police officer.
2. A viper bite
 - (a) can kill quickly.
 - (b) causes no pain.
 - (c) isn't serious.
 - (d) is interesting.
3. Something deadly
 - (a) provides food.
 - (b) works in court.
 - (c) can kill.
 - (d) enjoys snakes.
4. Gaboon vipers can
 - (a) make interesting pets.
 - (b) travel safely in bags.
 - (c) kill each other by biting.
 - (d) easily escape from zoos.
5. If passengers had known what Louis was carrying,
 - (a) they would have been pleased.
 - (b) someone might have taken it.
 - (c) there might have been trouble.
 - (d) no one would have cared.
6. This story is mainly about
 - (a) the National Zoo.
 - (b) riding on a bus.
 - (c) Louis and his snake bite.
 - (d) being a police officer.
7. It's quite likely that Louis
 - (a) sold the snakes.
 - (b) kept the snakes as pets.
 - (c) never went on a bus again.
 - (d) had stolen the snakes.
8. Which happened first?
 - (a) The snake bit Louis.
 - (b) Louis nearly died.
 - (c) The snakes left the zoo.
 - (d) The driver got help.

Dionisia Perez had an unusual birthday party at Concourse Nursing Home, in the Bronx, N.Y. The guests at the party all sang "Happy Birthday" in both English and Spanish. Mrs. Perez, a native of Puerto Rico, is bilingual. But that's not what was so unusual about this party. What made it a rare event was that Mrs. Perez was celebrating her 116th birthday. Very few people live to be that old.

Five generations of the Perez family were there for the big celebration. Her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren attended the party. There were more than 200 guests at the party, many of them fellow residents of the nursing home.

Mrs. Perez is a very popular woman. Her many friends think she is a beautiful person. She inspires them and gives them courage. She sets a wonderful example for the other old people at the home. Four others are more than 100 years old, but there is no one quite like Mrs. Perez.

1. Mrs. Perez is
 - (a) unable to sing.
 - (b) a Puerto Rican dancer.
 - (c) a very old woman.
 - (d) not much of a party goer.

2. A person who is bilingual
 - (a) speaks only English.
 - (b) must be Puerto Rican.
 - (c) usually can't speak English.
 - (d) speaks two languages.
3. Someone who inspires others
 - (a) discourages them.
 - (b) makes them feel sick.
 - (c) makes them want to do well.
 - (d) helps them breathe deeply.
4. Which happened last? Mrs. Perez
 - (a) learned to speak Spanish.
 - (b) became a grandmother.
 - (c) had her 116th birthday.
 - (d) moved to a nursing home.
5. The people sang "Happy Birthday"
 - (a) three times.
 - (b) to four people.
 - (c) in Spanish and English.
 - (d) for all the nurses.
6. Mrs. Perez will probably
 - (a) go back to Puerto Rico.
 - (b) go back to school some day.
 - (c) stay at the nursing home.
 - (d) give up her children.
7. Most people
 - (a) don't like Mrs. Perez.
 - (b) can't sing "Happy Birthday."
 - (c) have a gap of five generations.
 - (d) die before reaching 100 years.
8. Mrs. Perez inspires others by
 - (a) knitting better sweaters.
 - (b) living so well for so long.
 - (c) having too many children.
 - (d) blowing out all the candles.



In a horse race, it's time and speed that count. The first horse to the finish line wins, and it's usually a fast horse that gets there first. Once in a while, however, things don't work out as expected.

A horse named Never Mind was not very fast, but he won a race anyway. Here's how he did it. The race was a steeplechase. A steeplechase is a special kind of race in which the horses have to jump huge fences as they gallop. The horse with the fastest time around the course is the winner.

Never Mind began well in the steeplechase. He did fine until the fourth fence, which was very large. It was such an enormous fence that the horse refused to try it. His rider gave up, and the two of them went to the side of the track to watch the others. Much to everyone's amazement, no other horse finished the race. They all fell and couldn't go on.

So, the rider of Never Mind took the horse back onto the track. They managed to get over the high fence they had quit at before. They went over all the rest of the fences. They went very slowly, but they made it. Only one horse completed the course. That was Never Mind, the winner.

1. The winner of a race is usually
 - (a) a very slow horse.
 - (b) the more careful.
 - (c) the fastest horse.
 - (d) an excellent jumper.
2. Which happened last?
 - (a) Never Mind went back to race.
 - (b) Never Mind stopped at a fence.
 - (c) All the horses fell.
 - (d) Never Mind won the race.
3. Another word for amazement is
 - (a) entertainment.
 - (b) surprise.
 - (c) upset.
 - (d) understanding.
4. A steeplechase is a
 - (a) top of a church.
 - (b) race for slow horses.
 - (c) horse race with jumps.
 - (d) race no one wins.
5. At first, Never Mind quit because
 - (a) it was time to eat.
 - (b) the day was very hot.
 - (c) the rider fell off.
 - (d) the fourth jump was hard.
6. Never Mind's rider was
 - (a) too scared to try.
 - (b) clever to try again.
 - (c) not very good.
 - (d) afraid of jumping.
7. Which happened first?
 - (a) Never Mind won.
 - (b) Never Mind quit at a fence.
 - (c) The other horses fell.
 - (d) Never Mind tried again.
8. Never Mind won the race because
 - (a) the rider wanted to win.
 - (b) no other horses made it.
 - (c) he was the fastest horse.
 - (d) he loved to jump.

Time _____ # Correct _____

In 1978, the first official "up the stairs" running race was held in New York City's famous Empire State Building. The track for this race went up 1,575 steps to the building's 86th floor. The first runner, a retired fire fighter, made the climb in about 12½ minutes. The oldest runner that year was 55 years old, and he finished the race right behind a woman who told reporters her main job was being the mother of five children. One runner didn't make it past 26 floors and decided that the elevator was a better way.

In 1981, Peter Squires set a new record for speed in the stair-climbing race by going up the 1,575 steps in 10 minutes 59 seconds. Mary Beth Evans set the woman's record a year later with a climb in 13 minutes 34 seconds. Every year, people try to break these records.

Bill Stevenson doesn't race up stairs, but he does have to climb a lot of them as part of his daily job. From 1968 to 1982, he climbed 334 steps in the London building where he works a total of 3,756 times. He holds the world record for number of steps climbed.

1. Racing up stairs

- has been done for 1,000 years.
- is a fairly new sport.
- has killed many people.
- is easy to do quickly.



- The 1978 up-the-stairs winner
 - was a woman with five kids.
 - used to be a fire fighter.
 - couldn't finish the race.
 - is still the world's fastest.
- Bill Stevenson climbs stairs because
 - he's scared of elevators.
 - he wins climbing races.
 - it's part of his job.
 - he enjoys seeing people.
- Mary Beth Evans is a woman who
 - has five children.
 - once was a fire fighter.
 - climbs steps very quickly.
 - can't be understood.
- People would use an elevator to
 - get upstairs without walking.
 - find an open window.
 - fight a small fire.
 - win a stair-climbing race.
- In the 1978 race, which was first?
 - Someone dropped out.
 - A fire fighter won.
 - A 55-year-old man finished.
 - A mother of five finished.
- The race in this story took place
 - at the World Trade Center.
 - in a London office building.
 - on a large outdoor track.
 - in the Empire State Building.
- The 1978 stair-climbing race was
 - the last one of its kind.
 - open only to men.
 - the first of an annual event.
 - held over many weeks.

Many families leave home on vacation and go camping in the woods or mountains. It's not unusual to stay out for a week or longer. It's not unusual to eat apples and berries. It's not unusual to sleep on the ground while camping. Many campers get a scratch or two while walking through the woods. Insect bites during a summer holiday are quite common, too. Michael Reel did all of these things on his summer vacation in North Carolina. But Michael's story is unusual.

Michael was only eight years old during the summer of 1983. What makes his story unusual is that he did all of the above things by himself. He spent a week walking through the mountains alone. He ate berries and apples. He got insect bites and scratches. He slept on the ground all by himself.

Michael's family began their vacation with the boy. They had all planned to spend it together. But Michael wandered away from their campsite and he couldn't find his way back. His family and a large team of rescuers searched the woods for Michael. They didn't find him until a week later.

Michael was very hungry when the searchers found him. The boy was taken to the hospital for a checkup. On the way, he ate six candy bars, some apples, and drank two sodas. He was glad to be with people again.

Michael was a little bit confused when he was found. He had begun to imagine things. A good meal and some sleep made him fine again.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) playing in the mountains.
 - (b) a child who was lost.
 - (c) eating too many berries.
 - (d) going camping all alone.
2. Eating berries and fruit
 - (a) was a silly thing to do.
 - (b) often makes people sick.
 - (c) helped keep Michael alive.
 - (d) took a long time.
3. Michael spent time alone because
 - (a) he didn't like his family.
 - (b) no one would play with him.
 - (c) the animals ran away.
 - (d) he got lost in the woods.
4. Michael's family probably
 - (a) enjoyed their week without him.
 - (b) will never camp again.
 - (c) worried until he was found.
 - (d) ate too many berries.
5. Rescuers are people who
 - (a) go camping alone.
 - (b) save someone.
 - (c) pick wild berries.
 - (d) dislike being outside.
6. Michael got confused because
 - (a) he was hungry and tired.
 - (b) no one wanted to help him.
 - (c) the bears upset him.
 - (d) he wanted to watch television.
7. Michael was hungry because
 - (a) he didn't have water.
 - (b) candy bars aren't good food.
 - (c) he didn't eat much in the woods.
 - (d) his parents wouldn't feed him.
8. Which happened first?
 - (a) Michael went camping.
 - (b) He ate some berries.
 - (c) Rescuers found him.
 - (d) The boy imagined things.

One day, more than one hundred years ago, workers found a ten-foot stone man. At least they said that's what they found. These workers had been digging behind the barn of a farm in Cardiff, New York. At first people believed that the discovery was a real person who had turned to stone. They thought the stone man had been some sort of a giant when he had lived.

People came from miles around to see the giant, who became known as the Cardiff Giant because he had been found in Cardiff. The owner of the farm charged visitors fifty cents each to see the great stone giant.

It wasn't long before people found out that the Cardiff Giant was really a fake. He had not been a real giant person who turned to stone. The giant had been made out of stone by two people. The owner of the farm was in on the trick, and he made money from fooling people.

Even after people knew that the Cardiff Giant was a fake, many still came to see it. If you want to see the Cardiff Giant, you still can. It's on display at the Farmers' Museum, in Cooperstown, New York.

1. The Cardiff Giant was found
 - (a) one week ago.
 - (b) a long time ago.
 - (c) exactly 100 years ago.
 - (d) in two months.

2. Ten feet was the
 - (a) size of the giant's belt.
 - (b) height of the Cardiff Giant.
 - (c) number of shoes he had.
 - (d) way the giant was buried.
3. A discovery is something
 - (a) very old.
 - (b) just found.
 - (c) used in farming.
 - (d) buried very deep.
4. To see the Cardiff Giant,
 - (a) people waited for days.
 - (b) tickets cost \$5.00.
 - (c) people paid fifty cents.
 - (d) farmers gave free trips.
5. The farm's owner seemed to
 - (a) like money.
 - (b) dig quite often.
 - (c) raise nice cows.
 - (d) be afraid of giants.
6. Which came first?
 - (a) The giant was in the museum.
 - (b) Someone made a stone giant.
 - (c) People paid to see the giant.
 - (d) The giant was dug up.
7. This story is mainly about
 - (a) Cardiff, New York.
 - (b) the Farmers' Museum.
 - (c) tricks that make money.
 - (d) the Cardiff Giant.
8. People will go to see the giant
 - (a) in case he's real.
 - (b) because it's fun to go.
 - (c) because it's free.
 - (d) to waste their time.



Sea otters are funny little animals that live in the salty water along the California coast. Most of the time, they just float on their backs on clumps of seaweed in the water. They don't appear to be very hard workers.

Sea otters like to eat three meals a day—one in the morning, one at noon, and one at night. In other words, breakfast, lunch, and dinner just like many people do. They almost never eat between meals.

Sea otters eat clams and other shellfish which they get by diving down to the water's sandy bottom. When bringing up clams, they bring up big rocks too. This permits the sea otters to open a clam dinner without even getting up from their watery beds. An otter lies in the water with some rocks on its tummy or chest. Then it pounds the clams on the rocks until the shell breaks and the soft meat can be eaten. The sea otter doesn't even have to roll over to have breakfast in bed.

- This selection is mainly about
 - three meals a day.
 - the habits of sea otters.
 - swimming near California.
 - how otters open clams.
- Sea otters seem lazy because
 - the water is very calm.
 - they just float around.
 - other otters feed them.
 - they swim for fun.
- Breakfast in bed for a sea otter
 - means eating in the water.
 - requires pillows of grass.
 - involves climbing on rocks.
 - almost never happens.
- In this story, pounds means
 - places to keep animals.
 - how much someone weighs.
 - kinds of breakfast cake.
 - hits very hard.
- Sea otters like to eat
 - clams.
 - grass.
 - seaweed.
 - other otters.
- Sea otters use rocks
 - to hit each other.
 - as playthings.
 - for floating.
 - to open shellfish.
- Which happens last? The sea otter
 - brings up rocks.
 - eats the clam meat.
 - breaks the shell.
 - dives into the water.
- Otters eat
 - between meals.
 - breakfast and dinner.
 - lunch and dinner.
 - three meals a day.

Time _____ # Correct _____



Long ago, before television, many children looked forward to Saturday as the day to go to the movies. The movies were often very different than they are today. Some Saturday movies were shown in several sections. Each week everyone saw just one part of the film. The story always stopped at a very exciting or scary part. That way the theater owners were sure that everyone would pay to come back the next week to see the rest of the movie.

Most children went to the movies on Saturdays with a large group of friends. They would all sit together. Because they often stayed at the theater all afternoon, many kids brought their lunch or some snacks in a brown paper bag. The movie theater usually sold the best hot, buttered popcorn in the neighborhood.

In the early days, if you go back far enough, it only cost five cents to go to the movies for the entire afternoon. A child who didn't have a nickel often went with a friend. Two kids were allowed to sit in the same seat without paying twice. Sharing a seat was a good way to save money if you were a skinny kid.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) sharing the same chair.
 - (b) making scary movies.
 - (c) Saturday afternoon movies.
 - (d) eating buttered popcorn.



2. Children shared seats to
 - (a) get very thin.
 - (b) save money.
 - (c) eat more popcorn.
 - (d) see extra movies.
3. Movie theaters often sold
 - (a) lunch in brown bags.
 - (b) hot, buttered popcorn.
 - (c) small television sets.
 - (d) books about the movies.
4. This story tells about movies
 - (a) better shown on television.
 - (b) made recently in large cities.
 - (c) shown in several parts.
 - (d) made into good books.
5. A movie that stopped at a scary part
 - (a) would keep people away.
 - (b) made people want to come back.
 - (c) made the popcorn get cold.
 - (d) would never be finished.
6. Children long ago spent Saturdays
 - (a) reading good books.
 - (b) playing videogames.
 - (c) doing nothing much.
 - (d) at the movies.
7. Which happened first?
 - (a) Videogames were invented.
 - (b) Two kids paid a nickel.
 - (c) Two kids shared one seat.
 - (d) The movie stopped.
8. A very fat child probably
 - (a) disliked most movies.
 - (b) never ate any popcorn.
 - (c) had trouble sharing a seat.
 - (d) went to movies on Friday.