

The shortest man ever to play baseball in the major leagues was Eddie Gaedel, who played in one game for a team called the St. Louis Browns back in 1951. Eddie, a midget, was only 43 inches tall.

Eddie had been hired by the team's owner, Bill Veeck. One day Veeck surprised the fans and the members of the opposing team, the Detroit Tigers. A seven-foot cake was rolled onto the field between games of a doubleheader. It was announced that the cake was a special birthday present for the Browns' manager, Zack Taylor. Out of the cake popped Eddie, all ready to play in the next game.

When Eddie stepped up to bat, everyone was amazed. The Detroit pitcher couldn't figure out how to pitch to Eddie. How could he find the strike zone when the batter was so small? The pitcher just couldn't throw a good one. All the pitches were over Eddie's head. So he walked to first base. This was the only game Eddie ever played. He didn't even save the Browns from losing that day. But he did make baseball history.

1. Eddie surprised everyone because he
 - (a) ate the whole birthday cake.
 - (b) owned the St. Louis Browns.
 - (c) hit a home run his first time.
 - (d) was such a small batter.

2. The teams in the doubleheader were
 - (a) the Yankees and the Mets.
 - (b) the Browns and the Angels.
 - (c) the Browns and the Tigers.
 - (d) both owned by Bill Veeck.

3. Eddie Gaedel was
 - (a) really a little league player.
 - (b) a midget 43 inches tall.
 - (c) a friend of the umpire.
 - (d) too small for a uniform.

4. Eddie came onto the field
 - (a) by running very quickly.
 - (b) from a giant baseball.
 - (c) out of a birthday cake.
 - (d) in a large car.

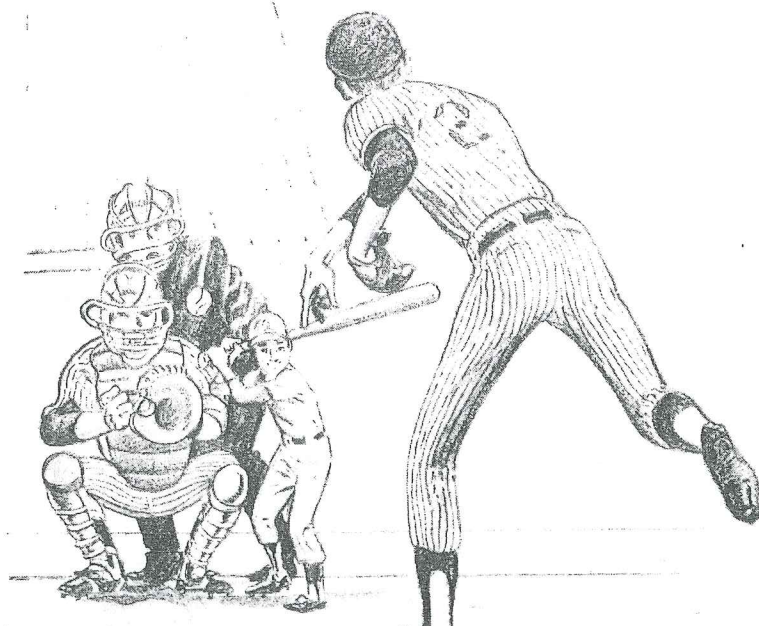
5. The Detroit pitcher couldn't
 - (a) throw Eddie a strike.
 - (b) strike out anyone.
 - (c) throw any pitches.
 - (d) find his baseball.

6. A midget is
 - (a) always a man.
 - (b) a very short person.
 - (c) a kind of giant.
 - (d) unable to walk.

7. Which came last? Eddie
 - (a) went up to bat.
 - (b) popped out of a cake.
 - (c) walked to first.
 - (d) was hired by Veeck.

8. Bill Veeck probably hired Eddie
 - (a) to give the man a job.
 - (b) as a favor to his wife.
 - (c) because he cost so little.
 - (d) to entertain the fans.

Time _____ # Correct _____



Anteaters, animals which live in Central and South America, are certainly among the world's oddest looking creatures. The giant anteater has a long, almost cylinder-shaped snout. The average body length is between three and four feet, with the tail adding another two to three feet.

Anteaters have very strange front legs, and the way they move adds to the unusual appearance. Anteaters walk on the knuckles of the front feet rather than on the bottoms of the paws. This awkward form of movement helps them keep their long, curved front claws sharp and unbroken. In contrast to an anteater's weird front feet, the hind feet have a shape that has been described as nearly human in appearance.

The tongue of the giant anteater is quite extraordinary. This eight-to-ten-inch device traps insects with its sticky saliva. The anteater breaks open nests of ants or termites with its sharp front claws. Then the tongue cleans out the nest.

The anteater has an excellent and highly developed sense of smell. It spends most of its time with its nose to the ground hunting for food. Scientists who have studied anteaters report that the sense of smell of this animal is about 40 times sharper than that of an average human.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) the legs of an anteater.
 - (b) animals with sharp noses.
 - (c) the anteater, an odd animal.
 - (d) living in Central America.



2. Anteaters are animals that
 - (a) don't have good noses.
 - (b) have excellent vision.
 - (c) have a sharp sense of smell.
 - (d) eat mostly leaves and grass.
3. Another word for awkward is
 - (a) birdlike.
 - (b) clumsy.
 - (c) excellent.
 - (d) noisy.
4. An anteater that walked on its front paws might
 - (a) get there faster.
 - (b) break its claws.
 - (c) catch too many ants.
 - (d) make too much noise.
5. Which comes last? The anteater
 - (a) gets the ants with its tongue.
 - (b) sniffs with nose to the ground.
 - (c) breaks a nest with its claws.
 - (d) finds a nest of ants.
6. Anteaters can smell things that
 - (a) have no odor at all.
 - (b) human beings can't.
 - (c) are thousands of miles away.
 - (d) no other animal can.
7. Something extraordinary is
 - (a) easy to locate.
 - (b) quite common among animals.
 - (c) found in the mouth.
 - (d) unusual.
8. If you were a termite, you would
 - (a) play happily with anteaters.
 - (b) try to avoid anteaters.
 - (c) drink too much water.
 - (d) live in a brick house.

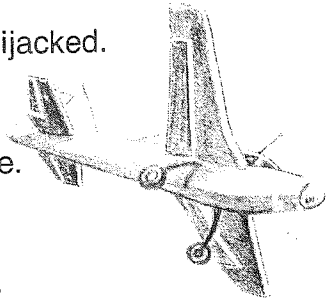
The hijacking of airliners is a serious crime which causes airlines quite a bit of trouble. It's illegal to carry a knife or a gun onto a plane, and passengers are checked carefully before boarding to make sure they comply with the law. Tight security efforts have greatly reduced the number of hijackings, although occasionally someone does manage to divert a plane to a place the pilot did not intend to go.

A few years ago, thieves in England engaged in the crime of hijacking on a very small scale. Instead of taking over jumbo jets, their targets were tiny model aircraft. A group of people who fly remote-controlled model planes for a hobby complained that their planes were going off course and then vanishing from sight. These planes, some costing several hundred dollars or more, respond to radio signals from the ground. Each plane has its own frequency of signals to which it responds.

The thieves seemed to have created a device which could send the same signals as those used by the planes' owners. They then commanded the planes to turn and leave the area. Few of the owners, however, were willing to send up new planes to test this explanation.

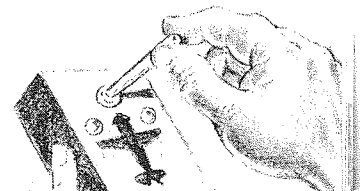
1. This story's main idea is that
 - (a) hijacking does not pay.
 - (b) flying alone is unsafe.
 - (c) remote control is silly.
 - (d) small planes can be hijacked.

2. The thieves in this story
 - (a) steal anything possible.
 - (b) pilot large jets.
 - (c) use very long strings.
 - (d) steal model airplanes.



3. To fly a model plane, the owner
 - (a) watches television.
 - (b) climbs a high tree.
 - (c) sits in the cockpit.
 - (d) stays on the ground.
4. Some model airplanes cost
 - (a) more than a new car.
 - (b) several hundred dollars.
 - (c) the same as a jet.
 - (d) less with a radio.
5. Remote-controlled means
 - (a) using an engine.
 - (b) controlled from a distance.
 - (c) controlled on the surface.
 - (d) never standing still.
6. The owners wouldn't send new planes because
 - (a) the remote control broke.
 - (b) they didn't want to lose them.
 - (c) the jets got in the way.
 - (d) they got tired of the hobby.
7. To prevent hijacking, passengers
 - (a) wear bulletproof vests.
 - (b) use remote control.
 - (c) fly model airplanes.
 - (d) are checked before flying.
8. Which happens last?
 - (a) Owners send up their planes.
 - (b) Planes disappear.
 - (c) Thieves send signals.
 - (d) People purchase planes.

Time _____ # Correct _____



When John was a small boy he enjoyed digging in the sandbox in the backyard. He had his own little shovel and other tools that he used for his efforts.

John's sister Anne Marie was ten years older than her little brother. She believed herself to be very much wiser. She warned John not to dig too far. She told him that he could dig right through to the center of the earth and then on to China. She told him he might fall into the crater he made and disappear. She was only teasing, but John believed her.

Now John is grown up and he teaches children. Many of them like to dig as John did years ago. The children in John's class learn about ancient civilizations. They learn about other children who lived, and worked, and dug, and played hundreds and thousands of years ago.

Children aren't the only ones who like to dig. Adult men and women called archaeologists spend a lot of their time digging in the ground to locate ancient cities and towns. They dig hoping to find artifacts from earlier days. The objects archaeologists find tell many interesting stories about the people who made and used them.

In the state of Missouri, in 1983, an archaeologist was out digging and found some tools, toys, and bowls which he believes belonged to Native Americans who lived in that area about 800 years ago. In the future, when we are gone, do you think people will still be digging? What artifacts do you think they will find?

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) building castles.
 - (b) sisters who tease.
 - (c) people who dig.
 - (d) ancient Greeks.
2. Archaeologists dig to find out
 - (a) where China is located.
 - (b) things from ancient peoples.
 - (c) why the earth is round.
 - (d) how to build sand cakes.
3. Which happened last?
 - (a) John made sand castles.
 - (b) John became a teacher.
 - (c) Anne Marie warned about China.
 - (d) John used a little shovel.
4. Artifacts are
 - (a) objects made by people.
 - (b) details that can be read.
 - (c) small oil paintings.
 - (d) prices of art objects.
5. Without the work of archaeologists,
 - (a) our cities would be ruined.
 - (b) schools would do nothing.
 - (c) no children would dig.
 - (d) we'd know less about people.
6. Artifacts recently found in Missouri
 - (a) show many tools of war.
 - (b) include toys and dishes.
 - (c) are only 75 years old.
 - (d) were placed by the Japanese.
7. The author suggests that
 - (a) people will always dig.
 - (b) digging is a waste of time.
 - (c) digging is only for children.
 - (d) shovels are expensive.
8. Future generations will learn
 - (a) nothing from our people.
 - (b) from the artifacts we leave.
 - (c) that digging didn't count.
 - (d) only what we want them to.

Most people know that the hula is a famous Hawaiian dance. When they think of the hula they think of pretty young women dancing in the warm breeze of the Hawaiian islands. The hula dancer is pictured with a grass skirt and a flower chain around her neck. Her dance is accompanied by the movement of her hands, which tell the story of the dance.

What most people don't know is that the hula dance was originally performed by men. In ancient Hawaii, women were forbidden to dance the hula and it was performed only by men at religious ceremonies.

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in the hula among young men in Hawaii. They are interested in studying the dance as part of the new interest in the ancient customs and culture of the islands.

While the hula in modern times may be a dance for both males and females, one thing is certain. The hula, which requires abundant energy, is definitely a dance for the young.

- The hula dance's story is told by
 - the swaying of the body.
 - the hands.
 - a young man.
 - a grass skirt.
- This selection is mainly about
 - men who dance.
 - dancing girls.
 - Hawaii.
 - the hula dance.
- This selection suggests that
 - hula hoops are fun.
 - only the old can dance.
 - few hula dancers are elderly.
 - to dance one must sing.
- Ceremonies are
 - quiet little dinners.
 - formal occasions or rites.
 - only held at night.
 - times to dress warmly.
- Hawaiian men
 - first danced the hula.
 - hate the hula.
 - are more religious than women.
 - were forbidden to dance.
- To have abundant energy is to
 - dance for one hour.
 - have enough of it.
 - eat more than needed.
 - grow up very quickly.
- Dancing the hula could make you
 - quite tired.
 - have an argument.
 - wear a long dress.
 - lose interest.
- The hula was first used at
 - small Hawaiian discos.
 - school dancing classes.
 - religious ceremonies.
 - beachfront picnics.

Time _____ # Correct _____



A wonderful American success story is that of José Feliciano, a blind singer, composer, and guitarist. He was born on the island of Puerto Rico and raised on the island of Manhattan. His family was not wealthy.

The story of José's life is really one of rags to riches. Although he was born blind, José began his musical involvement at an early age. He started learning chords on a second-hand accordion that his mother bought for him with her hard-saved money. At the age of nine, José acquired an old guitar which he played along with the tunes he heard on the radio.

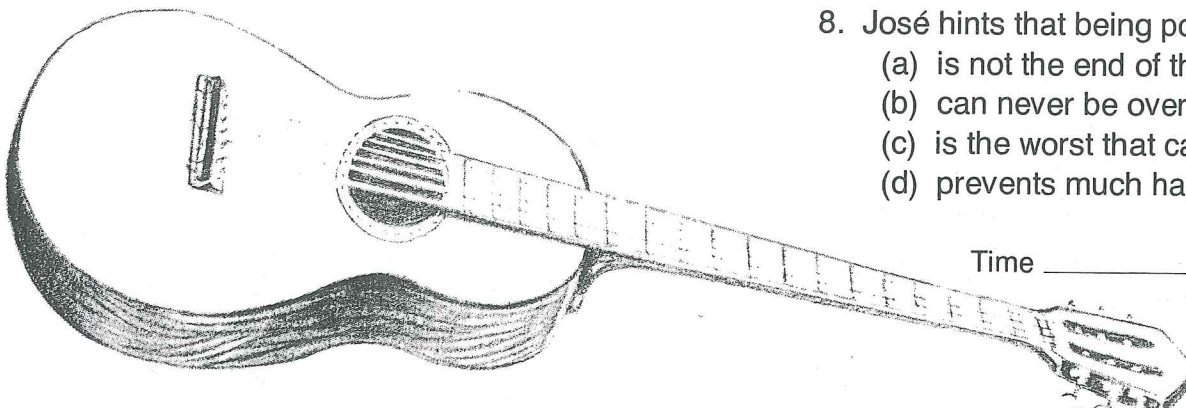
Today José lives in a beautiful home in California with his wife, Janna. Their property includes a variety of birds, animals of all shapes and sizes, and a greenhouse full of lush tropical plants.

Despite his wealth and property now, José has fond memories of his childhood. He has said, "I often think about the good times I had on East 103rd Street in New York City. The people on the streets used to make their own fun and music using empty cans and garbage cans for their instruments."

Poor or rich, José Feliciano seems to have been able to make the most of his life.

1. José now lives in
 - (a) Puerto Rico.
 - (b) California.
 - (c) New York.
 - (d) Hong Kong.

2. José first played the guitar at nine
 - (a) miles per hour.
 - (b) in the morning.
 - (c) years of age.
 - (d) months old.
3. Tropical plants require
 - (a) warm, moist conditions.
 - (b) extra trees for shade.
 - (c) cold New York winters.
 - (d) too much growing space.
4. This story suggests that José
 - (a) loves gardening.
 - (b) flies his own plane.
 - (c) enjoys reading out loud.
 - (d) dislikes his family.
5. This story is mainly about
 - (a) life in New York City.
 - (b) Mrs. Feliciano.
 - (c) José's achievements.
 - (d) playing a Spanish guitar.
6. Which happened first?
 - (a) José grew up in New York.
 - (b) Janna married José.
 - (c) José left Puerto Rico.
 - (d) José moved to California.
7. No matter what happens, José will
 - (a) probably make the best of it.
 - (b) send flowers to his mother.
 - (c) spend more cash than he has.
 - (d) practice playing the piano.
8. José hints that being poor
 - (a) is not the end of the world.
 - (b) can never be overcome.
 - (c) is the worst that can happen.
 - (d) prevents much happiness.



Have you ever wondered why some people have dark skin and others have light skin? Believe it or not, differences in skin pigmentation were originally due to the kind and intensity of sunlight under which people lived. Sunlight reacts with the skin to produce vitamin D, which is necessary for good health. However, too much vitamin D can be harmful.

Before the development of rapid forms of transportation, people did not travel very far from the place in which they were born. People near the equator, the sunniest place in the world, developed the darkest skins. This happened over many generations and a long period of time. It was a good thing that these people developed dark skin, because it protected them from sunburn and prevented the production of excessive amounts of vitamin D.

Just the opposite occurred in less sunny areas. People in less sunny areas developed lighter skins. Lighter skins allowed the production of enough vitamin D for a healthy life. Sunburn in these less sunny areas was not a serious problem. Even though the lack of color in the skin leaves people more sensitive to sunburn, the people living far from the equator had less chance of exposure to too much sun.

Now with modern transportation and greater opportunity to travel, people no longer stay in one place. People of different colors live in many different places.

1. Dark skin helps protect people from
 - (a) vitamin E.
 - (b) the sun.
 - (c) the equator.
 - (d) excessive travel.
2. The word pigmentation refers to
 - (a) the breeding of hogs.
 - (b) warm sunlight.
 - (c) the color of something.
 - (d) life at the equator.
3. Too much vitamin D can be
 - (a) damaging.
 - (b) delicious.
 - (c) helpful.
 - (d) informative.
4. The sunniest place on the earth is
 - (a) Southern California.
 - (b) near the equator.
 - (c) north of the equator.
 - (d) the South Pole.
5. Light-skinned people most likely have ancestors from
 - (a) cold climates.
 - (b) the North Pole.
 - (c) Chicago.
 - (d) near the equator.
6. In modern times, people move around
 - (a) to avoid pigmentation.
 - (b) because transportation is easy.
 - (c) to find more vitamin D.
 - (d) as a cure for sunburn pain.
7. An excessive amount is
 - (a) better than none.
 - (b) too much.
 - (c) entertaining.
 - (d) delicious.
8. This selection is mainly about
 - (a) new chances to travel.
 - (b) how to avoid sunburn.
 - (c) the need for vitamin D.
 - (d) reasons for skin color.

In the early days of the United States, most of the treaties the settlers made with the Native Americans were not worth the paper they were printed on. But there is one treaty made recently between whites and reds that is being honored. And the honoring of this treaty is fulfilling a very old prophecy, or prediction.

Long ago, the Onondaga nation of New York State lost its lands and way of life to the white settlers. The Onondaga people also lost the bear, the wolf, the eagle, and the bison to white hunters. But tribal elders predicted that the bison, or buffalo, would come back some day.

Today, the Onondaga people have a small but growing herd of buffalo on their reservation south of Syracuse, N.Y. They got the buffalo through a treaty made with a rancher, Brad Tiffany, in 1975. Tiffany had brought the animals to New York from the National Bison Range in Montana, five years earlier.

The Onondaga people would have nothing to do with a paper treaty. The treaty they have with Tiffany is on deerskin painted to show the chiefs, the buffalo, the Tiffanys, and six winter scenes.

Eventually, the Onondagas plan to use the buffalo herd as an extra source of food for their people. They also hope to regain a bit of the way of life they lost so long ago.

1. A treaty not worth the paper it's printed on probably
 - (a) involves friendly people.
 - (b) is followed by all.
 - (c) was not honored or kept.
 - (d) was unknown to people.
2. A prophecy is a
 - (a) construction.
 - (b) buffalo herd.
 - (c) wise person.
 - (d) prediction.
3. In this story, reservation means
 - (a) special land set apart.
 - (b) feelings of doubt.
 - (c) table set for dinner.
 - (d) ticket on an airplane.
4. The treaty was put on deerskin
 - (a) because deer are like buffalo.
 - (b) so the Onondaga people would trust it.
 - (c) because it cost less than paper.
 - (d) to make it harder to break.
5. The Onondaga people value the buffalo
 - (a) as objects for paintings.
 - (b) for tradition and food.
 - (c) as a means of transportation.
 - (d) to use for shopping carts.
6. Which happened first?
 - (a) The Onondaga nation lost land.
 - (b) Tiffany got animals in Montana.
 - (c) The Onondaga people received 20 buffalo.
 - (d) The Onondaga nation signed a treaty with Tiffany.
7. The new herd of buffalo will
 - (a) probably continue to grow.
 - (b) all be eaten in the next year.
 - (c) eat all the trees in New York.
 - (d) trample the hunting grounds.
8. This story suggests that America's white settlers
 - (a) raised the best buffalo herds.
 - (b) treated Native Americans badly.
 - (c) always kept their word.
 - (d) deserved all that they got.

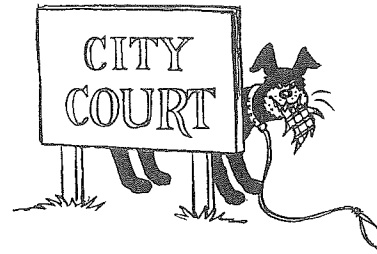
An Arizona Justice of the Peace was faced with the difficult task of deciding whether or not a local canine was an acceptable member of a residential neighborhood. The owners of the dog had been brought to court by some of their neighbors who claimed that the dog was vicious and should be destroyed. Other neighbors appeared to speak on the dog's behalf.

People had complained about the dog. The Justice spoke to many people who knew the dog. Some people said that the animal in question was mean and bit people for no apparent reason at all. Others told the court that the dog was harmless.

The Justice needed time to consider what everyone had said, so she called a recess of the court. She used this time the court was closed to consider the many stories. She needed time to decide which witnesses were the most accurate.

While the Justice was trying to decide the case on the basis of whether or not the animal was really dangerous, the dog owner took the pet outside for a stroll.

A few minutes later it was reported that the dog had just bitten a stranger. This bit of information helped the Justice to decide the case quickly. What decision do you think she made?



1. The dog owners were in court
 - (a) to sell their animal.
 - (b) because neighbors complained.
 - (c) after school let out.
 - (d) to sue their friends.
2. A Justice of the Peace is
 - (a) like a dogcatcher.
 - (b) someone who tells stories.
 - (c) a judge.
 - (d) always a witness.
3. Witnesses are people who
 - (a) don't like dogs.
 - (b) have dogs of their own.
 - (c) have seen or heard something.
 - (d) work for the court.
4. During a court recess,
 - (a) the judge eats lunch.
 - (b) people must walk dogs.
 - (c) the court remains open.
 - (d) the court is closed.
5. The case would have been harder to decide if
 - (a) the Justice had liked dogs.
 - (b) no one had complained.
 - (c) the dog had strolled.
 - (d) the dog hadn't bitten.
6. The Justice probably decided that
 - (a) the people were dangerous.
 - (b) everyone in the court lied.
 - (c) the sky was falling.
 - (d) the dog was dangerous.
7. The dog owners probably were
 - (a) happy about their animal.
 - (b) nice to all the neighbors.
 - (c) unhappy about the case.
 - (d) difficult to find.
8. Which happened last?
 - (a) The owners came to court.
 - (b) The Justice called a recess.
 - (c) The dog bit someone.
 - (d) The Justice decided the case.

Time _____ # Correct _____

There once was a telephone in a cow pasture in Texas. When it rang, there were no people around to answer it. The only creatures occupying the pasture were seven cows, two sheep, and a horse.

Ridiculous as this story may seem, it's true.

How did a cow pasture get its own direct dial telephone, and who paid the bill? In this case, the phone belonged to a family who lived in a mobile home. The people decided to move their home to a new site about a quarter of a mile away. Before they moved, they asked the phone company to move the telephone. The company scheduled a date for the move, but no one showed up to do the job. So, the people took their trailer and themselves as they had planned, and left the phone sitting there in the field.

Unfortunately for a few of the neighbors, the phone was on a four-party line. When the cows knocked the receiver off the hook, as they often did, the entire line was out of order. Other parties on the line complained about the poor service, and the phone company sent someone to find out what was wrong. This worker found the situation hard to believe, and made a full report to the company. Even so, it took a while longer for the matter to be remedied.

For several months, the field still had its phone, and the mobile home had none. However, the bill was sent promptly each month to the people, while the calls went to the cows.

- This story is mainly about
 - a phone off the hook.
 - life in a cow pasture.
 - a silly situation.
 - using a party line.
- The people in this story
 - didn't really want a phone.
 - were victims of a mistake.
 - liked talking to cows.
 - rarely paid their bills.
- Something ridiculous is
 - expensive.
 - loud and clear.
 - worth enjoying.
 - silly.
- The people left the phone because
 - the cows needed it.
 - they were a careless bunch.
 - that was all they could do.
 - the company told them to.
- At first, the phone was
 - in a mobile home.
 - under a tree.
 - lost in the field.
 - inside a cow barn.
- People complained because
 - they didn't like cows.
 - the phone kept ringing.
 - their friends had moved.
 - their phones didn't work.
- Something that's out of order
 - is difficult to find.
 - isn't working properly.
 - needs new paint.
 - must be seen or heard.
- The animals kicked the phone because
 - no one told them not to.
 - they didn't like it to ring.
 - they didn't know any better.
 - it looked good to eat.

Time _____ # Correct _____

