



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

**GRADE 6**  
**Reading Language Arts**  
**Practice Assessment**



# READING LANGUAGE ARTS

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*India Wimple recently won a spelling bee and is now being honored by the mayor of her town.*

## ***from* The Most Marvelous International Spelling Bee**

*by Deborah Abela*

- 1            “India Wimple,” Mayor Bob said, “as a token of our tremendous admiration, I present you with a plastic replica of the town’s largest zucchini and . . . the Yungabilla Medallion.” He placed the ribbon and medal around India’s neck. “This medallion is awarded to our finest—like Mathilda Hide, who rescued a herd of cows from a muddy bog. You showed those city slickers the Yungabilla spirit and made us very proud.”
- 2            The crowd was on their feet again, this time led by the cries of Daryl and the Wimples.
- 3            India looked at the expectant faces of the townspeople, all of them smiling and eager to hear what she had to say.
- 4            She’d lived in Yungabilla all her life and knew nearly everyone. There was Gracie Hubbard from the café; Mrs. O’Donnell from the bakery, who made India’s favorite blueberry cheesecake; Joe Miller, the butcher; her teacher, Mrs. Wild; and all the kids from school. They were there just to see her.
- 5            *You can do this, India Wimple.*
- 6            This was the voice in India’s head. When it first started, it often warned her that her greatest fears were about to come true, but after winning the bee, it had become her devoted fan.
- 7            “Dear Mayor,” India read from her notes, “thank you for your kind words, and to everyone here for all the support you gave me during the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee. Without you and my family, I’d never have been able to—”

- 8           India didn't say another word, because at that precise moment, Farmer Austin's prizewinning cow, Bessie, pulled away from her owner's normally strong grip and stampeded through the crowd.
- 9           "Bessie!"
- 10          People dove out of the way, sending chairs flying as Bessie zigzagged toward the podium, straight toward India.
- 11          "Oh no," she breathed.
- 12          Dad leaped onto the stage and swept her out of the way just as the cow barreled past, knocking over the microphone stand and tearing through the school's specially made banner.
- 13          "Bessie!" Austin sprinted after his cow, who at that moment crashed into the refreshment stand, splashing juice onto everyone nearby. That's when Austin realized where she was headed.
- 14          "Watch out, Mrs. O'Donnell!"
- 15          For India's special ceremony, Mrs. O'Donnell had filled an entire table with her homemade scones, vanilla custard, and lamingtons—lamingtons which were now being flung into the air in a whirlwind of coconut and sponge cake as Bessie gleefully guzzled them down.
- 16          Austin finally managed to reach her. He offered her hay from his back pocket. "Sorry, everyone. She's normally very calm, but lamingtons drive her bananas."
- 17          India stared down Main Street from the safety of the podium. Bessie had left quite a trail of destruction: upturned tables and a carpet of squashed cakes and scones.
- 18          Dad muttered to India, "Your speech needs to be good to top that."
- 19          As the townsfolk of Yungabilla staggered to their feet and wiped cream and cake from their clothes and faces, another surprising thing happened.

20 “India!” Mrs. Rahim from the post office raced toward them. Her head scarf and dress fluttered behind her, and she was waving something above her head. “My darling,” she puffed. “There’s a special delivery for you. All the way from England.”

21 The crowd parted to let Mrs. Rahim through. When she reached the podium, she handed India a cream-colored envelope. It was addressed in swirling gold lettering and sealed with a red wax crest.

22 “I don’t know what it is,” Mrs. Rahim said as she tried to catch her breath, “but it seems important. I can feel it.”

23 The whole town watched as India carefully broke the seal and slipped out the letter. She read it again and again, unable to believe it was real.

24 “What does it say?” Dad asked.

25 Everyone gathered closer as India read it aloud, being careful not to miss a single word.

26 Dear India Wimple,

27 As the Australian champion of the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee, you are hereby invited to compete in the Most Marvelous International Spelling Bee in London, England. The top three spellers from each participating country will join us . . .

28 India couldn’t go on, mostly because the town burst into raucous cheers and Bessie let out a loud *moo*. Dad, Mom, Nanna Flo, and Daryl climbed onto the stage and smothered India in hugs. Boo caught her eye through the tangle of arms and gave her a look that said, *That’s my sister*.

Excerpt from *The Most Marvelous International Spelling Bee*, copyright 2018 by Deborah Abela. Used by permission of Sourcebooks.

- 1 Read this information about the origin of the word replica.

from Latin *replicare*, meaning “repeat”

This information helps the reader understand that a replica in paragraph 1 means a —

- (A) statue
  - (B) copy
  - (C) gift
  - (D) trophy
- 

- 2 Read this sentence from paragraph 21.

*It was addressed in swirling gold lettering and sealed with a red wax crest.*

Based on this sentence, what can the reader infer about the envelope?

- (A) It will be difficult to open.
- (B) It has traveled a great distance.
- (C) It was sent by a close friend.
- (D) It contains something important.

- 3** What is the most likely reason the author uses a third-person limited point of view in the story?
- (A) To help the reader understand what India is thinking
  - (B) To create a clear order of events in the story
  - (C) To help the reader understand how Dad and others feel
  - (D) To include the narrator in the action of the story
- 

- 4** Read this summary of the story.

India Wimple receives an award in front of her town and must give a speech to her excited friends and neighbors. She feels nervous, and as she begins her speech, Bessie, the cow, creates a disturbance while trying to get to the refreshments.

Which sentence should be added to complete the summary?

- (A) Because they brought special treats for India, the townspeople are angry at the cow.
- (B) Although she can be rowdy, Farmer Austin's cow Bessie has also won awards.
- (C) Before she can continue her speech, an invitation to an international spelling bee arrives.
- (D) After the farmer calms his cow, India's dad tells her he wants her speech to be good.

- 5** In paragraph 4, the details about the crowd provide support for which key idea in the story?
- (A) The spelling bee is a very challenging competition.
  - (B) India is the smartest person in the town.
  - (C) A family's encouragement helps a person succeed.
  - (D) India's accomplishment is important to the community.
- 

- 6** What characteristic of realistic fiction does the author include in the story?
- (A) Characters with whom readers can relate
  - (B) A common problem experienced by many people
  - (C) Events that lead to a dangerous situation
  - (D) A setting that readers are likely to be familiar with
- 

- 7** What is the most likely reason the author uses italics at the end of paragraph 28?
- (A) To show what India is thinking
  - (B) To explain why India is unable to continue
  - (C) To show what Boo is thinking
  - (D) To explain why Boo comes onstage

**8** Which event does the author use to introduce a humorous mood in the story?

- (A) India is nervous about speaking in front of the crowd.
  - (B) The mayor gives India a plastic zucchini as an award.
  - (C) India receives an invitation to an international spelling bee.
  - (D) India and her family have a group hug on the stage.
- 

**9** How does the setting of the story contribute to the plot?

- (A) The diversity of the characters results in a wide variety of refreshments.
- (B) Animals are part of peoples' daily life, leading to the conflict in the story.
- (C) The remote location of the village makes communication more difficult.
- (D) Ranching is the town's main business, providing inspiration for India's award.

- 10** Read the story from *The Most Marvelous International Spelling Bee*. Based on the details in the story, write a response to the following:

Explain how India’s reactions to a series of surprises help develop her character.

Write a well-organized essay that uses specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

Remember to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use evidence from the selection in your response
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can —

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

Record your answer in the box provided.

A large rectangular box containing 20 horizontal lines, intended for writing or drawing.

A large rectangular box containing 20 horizontal lines, intended for writing or drawing.



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

## The Battle

The conditions did seem just right  
To win this soccer game.  
So I was ready to go in  
When Coach called out my name.

- 5 But just before I took my shot,  
Mighty wind began to blow.  
It caught the ball, which flew too high,  
Though I had struck it low.

- I kicked it well, but we still lost,  
10 I thought angrily,  
Defeated by an enemy  
No one can even see.

- When winter came, my friend Jake  
And I relished in the snow,  
15 Engaged in bold adventures  
Two boys just can't outgrow.

- We tugged our sleds up Prospect Peak,  
Preparing to race down,  
When that antagonist, the wind  
20 Began to swirl around.

Blinded by the squall, I crashed.  
I gave up, arms upraised.  
While Jake shot by me, laughing,  
Apparently unfazed.

- 25 The day entirely spoiled,  
I thought angrily,  
Ruined by an enemy  
No one can even see.

“Change the way you think of things,”  
30 Counseled my smart dad.  
“Try to make the wind your friend;  
Things may not seem so bad.”

So flying kites in a spring contest,  
I called upon a gust  
35 To lift my entry so high that it  
Left Jake’s kite in the dust.

Now that I’ve come to value  
What the wind can be,  
I’ve made a blowing, breezy friend  
40 No one can even see.

**11** In line 19, the word antagonist means something that causes a —

- (A) problem
  - (B) win
  - (C) change
  - (D) discussion
- 

**12** Based on information throughout the poem, how is the speaker likely to react the next time he plays soccer on a windy day?

- (A) By wearing warmer clothes to protect himself from the wind
  - (B) By finding ways to use the wind to his team's advantage
  - (C) By kicking the ball harder when trying to score in gusts of wind
  - (D) By asking his coach's opinion about how the wind can be used
- 

**13** What is the most likely reason the poet uses personification in lines 39 and 40?

- (A) To emphasize the change in relationship between the wind and the speaker
- (B) To explain that some relationships are hard for people to understand
- (C) To prove that building understanding is more important than competition
- (D) To highlight how the wind changed to meet the needs of the speaker

**14** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

What is a theme of the poem?

- Ⓐ A new attitude can make a difference.
- Ⓑ Competition among friends should be avoided whenever possible.
- Ⓒ How a person plays is more important than whether that person wins.
- Ⓓ Careful planning can lead to unexpected opportunity.

**Part B**

Which line from the poem supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ Engaged in bold adventures (line 15)
- Ⓑ I gave up, arms upraised. (line 22)
- Ⓒ No one can even see. (line 28)
- Ⓓ Now that I've come to value (line 37)

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**15** Which detail belongs in a summary of the poem?

- Ⓐ A boy laughs at his friend as he passes him.
- Ⓑ The soccer ball flies too high and misses the goal.
- Ⓒ The wind blows the snow during a winter sled race.
- Ⓓ A boy is upset with the wind because it causes him to lose.

**16** How does the poet's use of language in line 25 contribute to the mood of the poem?

- Ⓐ By creating a humorous mood that emphasizes how playful the speaker is
  - Ⓑ By creating a gloomy mood that contrasts with the poem's happy conclusion
  - Ⓒ By creating a hopeful mood that shows how important good advice is
  - Ⓓ By creating a mysterious mood that hints at what will happen next
- 

**17** What is the most likely reason the poet includes the details in the first stanza (lines 1–4) of the poem?

- Ⓐ To emphasize that the game was important
- Ⓑ To highlight the speaker's anger
- Ⓒ To suggest that a victory was likely
- Ⓓ To show the coach's emotions

**18** How does the speaker resolve the conflict at the end of the poem?

- Ⓐ The speaker chooses an opponent with less kite flying experience who he knows he can easily defeat.
  - Ⓑ The speaker decides to wait for the season to change so that the wind will be less likely to damage his kite.
  - Ⓒ The speaker changes his attitude about the wind and uses it to fly his kite higher than his opponent.
  - Ⓓ The speaker makes a decision to stop competing against others after losing the sledding race.
- 

**19** The poet organizes the poem chronologically most likely to —

- Ⓐ highlight the importance of friendship
- Ⓑ contrast the attitudes of Jake and the speaker
- Ⓒ develop Jake as an important character
- Ⓓ show how the speaker develops a new understanding

**Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.**

## **U.S. Currency Has a Rich History**

*by Dara Elasar*

- 1 Before 1792, most Americans had money troubles. Goods and services could be exchanged for pieces of gold or silver if people had them. Some would use British or Spanish coins. Tobacco leaves, shells and pieces of land were other options. Colonies issued their own type of paper currency, but it wasn't reliable to use when trading and traveling. But on April 2, 1792, Congress established what is now one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world: the dollar.
- 2 "In America, they used whatever they could get their hands on," said Frank Noll, a historical consultant for the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. "But the Coinage Act established the dollar as a unit of currency for the United States."



National Numismatic Collection, National Museum of American History

A \$1 coin from 1794

- 3 The Coinage Act of 1792 created the U.S. Mint, an institution dedicated to producing coins and controlling their movement around the world. The first official American currency was a silver dollar. People had to bring their own silver to the Mint to be coined.

4 “The coins had to have a portrayal of ‘Liberty’ on them. And so you have these busts or portraits of female Liberty on all coins,” Noll said.

5 While the act was meant to simplify purchases, buying things was still complicated. It was rare for people to find these silver coins, because not many were produced. So local banks made their own currency that could be exchanged for gold or silver.

6 In 1861, Congress needed to find a practical way—a currency that didn’t rely on gold or silver—to pay for the Civil War and its soldiers. So the United States was introduced to the first government-regulated paper bills, also called “demand notes.”

7 Many would think the \$1 would be the first paper bill, but the first bills were the \$5, \$10 and \$20.

8 The bills were also called “greenbacks,” a name Civil War soldiers came up with. The color—used to print the back of the bill—had a purpose. To prevent people from counterfeiting, or printing fake money, the government turned to science.

9 “What chemists were looking for was a way to create an ink that could not be erased,” Noll said. “And so one chemist in the 1840s came up with this ink that couldn’t be removed and has a special chemical layer. It happened to be green.”



National Numismatic Collection,  
National Museum of American  
History

The \$1 bill with George Washington's face on it first appeared in 1869.

- 10 In 1862, the \$1 bill was created, and the Treasury Department was in charge of designing it. Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase used that opportunity to put his face on the first dollar. Chase left the Treasury Department in 1864, and officials replaced his face with George Washington's five years later.
- 11 Throughout history, paper bills have been redesigned primarily to protect them. The last redesign was the \$100 bill in 2013. A 3-D ribbon was added. If you tilt the bill back and forth you can see bells change to 100s. The next expected change is the \$10 bill in 2026.
- 12 Because our currency was such a complicated system, there is plenty of history behind it. Next time you get your hands on a \$1 bill, look at the Great Seal of the United States on the back. The two images, featuring an eagle and a pyramid, first appeared on the dollar bill in 1935. An early design had the images reversed, with the eagle looking away from the pyramid. The decision to flip it came from the highest level of government.

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## Coins and Change

- 1 From the humble penny to the heftier quarter, over the centuries many changes were made to how coins look and to the materials used.

### Early Production

- 2 The United States first began minting its own money in 1793. Some of the nation's first minted coins intended for circulation were copper cents. They took a long time to make using machines powered by horses and people. Silver and gold coins worth higher amounts were also created. The U.S. Mint could not produce enough coins, so Congress allowed foreign coins to be used in the United States.

### **The Penny over Time**

- 3        The metals used in different coins have changed over time. For example, when pennies were first minted, they were made of copper. But copper is an expensive metal, so gradually pennies were minted from various mixtures of metals. During one year of World War II, pennies were made of steel with a zinc covering due to a copper shortage. Today, pennies are made of the more affordable zinc with copper plating.

### **The End of Silver and Gold**

- 4        Some coins, such as the dime and the quarter, are silver in color. However, they no longer contain any actual silver. The cost of silver is too high for using in coins. Instead, these coins are made of a metal mixture, or alloy, consisting mostly of copper with some nickel, which is very resistant to corrosion. In 1866, a coin worth five cents was made and named after the metal from which it was made—the nickel. The one-dollar coin used to be a silver dollar. Currently, it looks golden, but it is mostly made of copper. Gold stopped being used in coins during the Great Depression to stabilize gold prices.
- 5        Despite the use of less-expensive metals and alloys, it still costs more to make pennies and nickels than they are worth. Although there are periodic campaigns to discontinue some coins due to their production costs, coins continue to be made, circulated, and collected.

**20** In paragraph 4 of the article "U.S. Currency Has a Rich History," the word portrayal means —

- (A) the freedom to choose
  - (B) the first instance of something
  - (C) a wise saying
  - (D) an artistic likeness
- 

**21** In the article "Coins and Change," the author most likely organizes the section titled "The End of Silver and Gold" by —

- (A) presenting details about the coins from most to least important
  - (B) using cause and effect to discuss the conditions that damage coins
  - (C) listing a series of scientific facts about the benefits of certain metals
  - (D) using contrast to show differences among the coins over time
- 

**22** Based on the information in the article "U.S. Currency Has a Rich History," the Coinage Act of 1792 was significant because it —

- (A) created a national system of money, along with ways to produce and regulate it
- (B) made it very easy to buy and sell items anywhere in the United States
- (C) made it illegal to use foreign money within the United States
- (D) allowed banks to produce a special ink, protecting currency from counterfeiters

**23** In the article "U.S. Currency Has a Rich History," which statement best explains the organizational pattern used in paragraphs 8 and 9?

- Ⓐ The problem of preventing counterfeiters was solved by using a special ink which has influenced the appearance of American currency ever since.
  - Ⓑ The color of the original American bills is compared to the color of modern currency to emphasize their similarities and differences over time.
  - Ⓒ The process followed to design and publish American currency is explained along with a description of how that process changed.
  - Ⓓ The classification of ink properties is used to show how changing needs for American currency resulted in differences in appearance.
- 

**24** Which sentence from the article "U.S. Currency Has a Rich History" supports the idea that only certain people have the authority to make changes to money?

- Ⓐ *The bills were also called "greenbacks," a name Civil War soldiers came up with. (paragraph 8)*
- Ⓑ *Throughout history, paper bills have been redesigned primarily to protect them. (paragraph 11)*
- Ⓒ *Because our currency was such a complicated system, there is plenty of history behind it. (paragraph 12)*
- Ⓓ *The decision to flip it came from the highest level of government. (paragraph 12)*

**25** What is the controlling idea of the article "Coins and Change"?

- (A) The first pennies produced in the United States were made of copper.
  - (B) Some people feel that the United States should stop making pennies.
  - (C) Coins have been made from different types of metals over the years.
  - (D) Silver is too precious and expensive to use when making common coins.
- 

**26** Read paragraph 9 of the article "U.S. Currency Has a Rich History."

*"What chemists were looking for was a way to create an ink that could not be erased," Noll said. "And so one chemist in the 1840s came up with this ink that couldn't be removed and has a special chemical layer. It happened to be green."*

In the paragraph, which choice does the author of the article "U.S. Currency Has a Rich History" make that the author of the article "Coins and Change" does **NOT** make?

- (A) The choice to state the fact that currency had specific colors based on the materials used to make it
- (B) The choice to cite historical information about when certain changes were made to currency
- (C) The choice to quote an expert to help explain why currency was made in a certain way
- (D) The choice to include information about why different materials were used to make currency

**27** What is **SIMILAR** about the organizational structures in the articles “U.S. Currency Has a Rich History” and “Coins and Change”?

- (A) They both have problem-and-solution structures describing how the Treasury Department made the currency system less complicated.
  - (B) They both have cause-and-effect structures explaining what prompted Congress to come up with paper bill currency.
  - (C) They both have compare-and-contrast structures showing the differences between minting coins and printing paper bills.
  - (D) They both have chronological structures documenting events relating to changes made to United States currency over time.
- 

**28** Which statements express ideas found in **BOTH** the article “U.S. Currency Has a Rich History” and the article “Coins and Change”?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- The process of making the first coins presented some challenges.
- Permanent ink was used to make dollar bills more secure.
- The Civil War motivated the government to start producing paper money.
- Silver and gold were replaced by less expensive materials for creating money.
- Pennies are a bad choice of money because they are too costly to mint.

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**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Michael wrote this paper about a recent event in ocean exploration. Read Michael's paper and look for revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **The Deepest Depth**

(1) You probably already know that Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. (2) But do you know what the deepest place on Earth is? (3) An enormous, crescent-shaped trench is what it is in the Pacific Ocean. (4) At its maximum depth, it is deeper than Mount Everest is tall. (5) The Mariana Trench is massive, but it is polluted just like Mount Everest is.

(6) If you could swim to the bottom of the Mariana Trench, the weight of the water on top of you would make you feel like you were being crushed under 50 jumbo jets. (7) That's why it takes a very special vehicle and professional equipment to explore this part of the ocean. (8) Only three human expeditions have traveled into the deepest parts of the trench.

(9) An undersea explorer, Victor Vescovo, made the deepest trip ever into the Mariana Trench in May 2019. (10) His vehicle was called *Limiting Factor*. (11) Its walls were more than 3.5 inches thick. (12) They were made of titanium, a very strong metal. (13) This made it possible for Vescovo to actually see the bottom of the Mariana Trench without being crushed to death.

(14) There is no light at the bottom of the Mariana Trench. (15) The surface is simply too far away. (16) Food is also very scarce, and the water is extremely cold. (17) In addition, that doesn't mean that there is no life in this part of the ocean. (18) Simple creatures, including amoebas, little shellfish, and sea cucumbers, live in the Mariana Trench. (19) These soft creatures have no bones or shells that can be harmed by the high pressure in the deepest parts of the ocean. (20) This allows them to live and thrive in the Mariana Trench.

(21) Vescovo's expedition took samples of some bacteria found on the rock formations at the bottom of the trench. (22) The expedition also discovered several new species. (23) Vescovo collected specimens so that scientists could study them and learn more about where they live.

(24) Unfortunately, the expedition also made an unwelcome discovery. (25) It was quite unfortunate that they found this. (26) There were signs of human pollution in the Mariana Trench. (27) Some sorts of plastic waste had made their way to the very deepest part of our ocean.

(28) The Mariana Trench has been described as being a bit like another planet. (29) People are just beginning to learn more about its features. (30) As additional facts are discovered, they may teach us about other unique places where life can be found—perhaps even on another planet yet to be explored.

**29** What is the **MOST** effective way to revise sentence 3?

- (A) It is an enormous, crescent-shaped trench in the Pacific Ocean.
  - (B) In the Pacific Ocean it is an enormous, crescent-shaped trench.
  - (C) A crescent-shaped trench is in the Pacific Ocean that is enormous.
  - (D) It is in the Pacific Ocean, being an enormous, crescent-shaped trench.
- 

**30** Michael needs a more effective controlling idea for his paper. Which sentence should replace sentence 5 to **BEST** accomplish this goal?

- (A) Referred to as the Mariana Trench, it has been explored for signs of life just like some planets have been.
- (B) Very few humans have actually seen this huge depression in the ocean floor that is called the Mariana Trench.
- (C) This steep depression in the ocean floor is a unique environment known as the Mariana Trench.
- (D) Deep in the ocean, the Mariana Trench supports some life even though it is cold, dark, and under very high pressure.

**31** What is the **MOST** effective way to combine sentences 11 and 12?

- (A) It had thick titanium walls from a very strong metal and were more than 3.5 inches thick.
  - (B) It had thick walls made of titanium, more than 3.5 inches thick while from a very strong metal.
  - (C) Its walls were more than 3.5 inches thick, they were made of titanium, a very strong metal.
  - (D) Its walls, which were more than 3.5 inches thick, were made of titanium, a very strong metal.
- 

**32** Michael wants to use a better transition at the beginning of sentence 17. Select the **ONE** correct word or phrase that should replace ***In addition*** in this sentence.

- |                  |
|------------------|
| (A) Therefore    |
| (B) For example, |
| (C) In fact      |
| (D) However      |

that doesn't mean that there is no life in this part of  
the ocean.

**33** The sixth paragraph (sentences 24–27) contains a sentence that repeats ideas. Which sentence should be removed from this paragraph?

- Ⓐ Sentence 24
- Ⓑ Sentence 25
- Ⓒ Sentence 26
- Ⓓ Sentence 27

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Anthony wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. Read Anthony's paper and look for revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Get Moving**

(1) Most people know that physical activity is important. (2) It can lower and reduce stress and help people sleep well. (3) Scientists say it is one of the keys to a healthy life. (4) Yet few people get all the exercise they need. (5) There are many benefits to an active lifestyle, so people should commit to some sort of physical activity every day.

(6) All exercise increases energy and boosts mood. (7) Some studies show that exercise can also help with memory and other mental tasks. (8) Clearly there are plenty of good reasons to exercise, and there are dozens of fun ways to do so. (9) Playing basketball, cycling, and dancing are just a few of the options. (10) All that really matters is that a person moves.

(11) Different kinds of exercise bring different benefits. (12) Aerobic exercise, like running or swimming, causes the heart to beat faster. (13) This increases blood flow, flooding the muscles with oxygen; it is also good for maintaining a healthy weight. (14) Strength training, which involves lifting weights, strengthens bones and muscles. (15) And flexibility exercises, like yoga, improve balance. (16) This makes people more graceful and less likely to injure themselves.

(17) Experts recommend that adults get about 30 minutes of physical activity every day. (18) Young people, according to most guidelines, need even more. (19) In fact, they should be moving for at least an hour a day. (20) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that "only one in three children are physically active every day," and it reports that "only one in three adults receive the recommended amount of physical activity each week." (21) Why is this so?

(22) There are a variety of reasons that people give for not exercising. (23) People who are not used to exercise may find it boring or exhausting. (24) Some become frustrated if they do not see immediate results. (25) The most common excuse that people give is that they simply don't have the time. (26) However, a 2019

study revealed that the average American is spending more than five hours a day online! (27) People can find just a few minutes a day to do something that will extend their lives and make them feel better. (28) Obviously, it will take time to see results.

(29) Many adults and students cannot avoid sitting for long periods of time at work or at school. (30) They have busy, stressful jobs and schedules. (31) But they should still find time to participate in some physical activity.



**36** Anthony wants to provide some additional support for the ideas in the fifth paragraph (sentences 22–28). Which sentence can **BEST** follow sentence 28 and help accomplish this goal?

- Ⓐ But after just a few weeks, most people who exercise will notice that they feel a little stronger and a little more physically fit.
  - Ⓑ For some people it takes too much time, and they will give up on physical fitness even if they started with good intentions.
  - Ⓒ Obviously, most people are already aware that any project that is worth their energy will take some amount of time.
  - Ⓓ Some people say that when beginning a new exercise program, you should start with something easier than aerobic exercise.
- 

**37** Which sentence can be added after sentence 31 to sum up the ideas in this paper and bring it to a more effective conclusion?

- Ⓐ Work and school are certainly important aspects of life, but exercise can actually be fun.
- Ⓑ Experts make their recommendations for activity and exercise based on extensive research.
- Ⓒ Committing to daily exercise is one of the most important things people can do for themselves.
- Ⓓ Exercise can refer to many activities, including sports, yoga, swimming, and strength training.

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**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Laila is writing an essay about her attempt to bake a cake. Read these paragraphs from Laila's essay and look for corrections she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Making a Cake**

(1) I excitedly put the beaters on the highest setting. (2) After a few minutes, I was pleased, I saw fluffy whipped cream. (3) Now all I needed was the cake. (4) When the timer finally dinged, I shot across the kitchen and opened the oven. (5) I expected to see perfection; otherwise I saw a large, flat hockey puck.

(6) "Mom!" I screeched loudly.

(7) She immediately asked, "did you forget the baking powder?"

(8) I wasn't sure, but I knew that I had promised my dad a special dessert that I wasn't going to be able to deliver. (9) As usual, Mom came up with a plan to save the day. (10) After looking thoughtfully at my whipped cream, she went to the refrigerator and pulled out a big container of fresh berries.

**38** What is the correct way to write sentence 2?

- (A) After a few minutes, I was pleased to see fluffy whipped cream.
  - (B) After a few minutes, I was pleased. To see fluffy whipped cream.
  - (C) After a few minutes. I was pleased and saw fluffy whipped cream.
  - (D) After a few minutes, I was pleased to see it, it was fluffy whipped cream.
- 

**39** What change should be made in sentence 5?

- (A) Change ***expected*** to **accepted**
  - (B) Change ***otherwise*** to **instead**
  - (C) Change ***saw*** to **seen**
  - (D) Change ***hockey*** to **Hockey**
- 

**40** What change should be made in sentence 7?

- (A) Delete the comma after ***asked***
- (B) Change ***did*** to **Did**
- (C) Change ***forget*** to **forgot**
- (D) Change ***baking*** to **bakeing**

**41** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?

- Ⓐ Change *usual* to **usually**
- Ⓑ Change *came* to **comes**
- Ⓒ Insert a comma after *plan*
- Ⓓ No change is needed.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.**

*Caroline is writing a paper about a fun American tradition. Read this paragraph from Caroline's paper and look for corrections she needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

## **Eggs at the White House**

(1) On the first Monday after Easter, the president and First Lady usually hold a traditional event. (2) It takes place on the lawn of the more famous house in our country. (3) The event began in the 1800s and started out very simply. (4) Children come to the White House to roll eggs down the lawn. (5) Today's White House Easter Egg Roll has become a much more festive affair. (6) There are numerous egg activities, these include the original egg roll and an egg hunt. (7) There's also a music stage, where bands perform live. (8) While some attendees decorate cookies others make thank-you cards to send to servicemen and women. (9) Children can even listen to the president and First Lady read stories in a special reading area.

**42** What change should be made in sentence 2?

- (A) Change ***It*** to **He**
  - (B) Change ***takes*** to **took**
  - (C) Change ***more famous*** to **most famous**
  - (D) Change ***country*** to **Country**
- 

**43** What change should be made in sentence 4?

- (A) Change ***come*** to **came**
  - (B) Change ***to roll*** to **they rolled**
  - (C) Insert a comma after ***eggs***
  - (D) Change ***down*** to **from**
- 

**44** What is the correct way to write sentence 6?

- (A) There are numerous egg activities like the original egg roll there is also an egg hunt.
- (B) There are numerous egg activities, and these include. The original egg roll and an egg hunt.
- (C) There are numerous egg activities, including the original egg roll and an egg hunt.
- (D) There are numerous egg activities. Which include the original egg roll and an egg hunt.

**45** What change should be made in sentence 8?

- Ⓐ Change ***decorate*** to **decerate**
- Ⓑ Insert a comma after ***cookies***
- Ⓒ Change ***make*** to **making**
- Ⓓ Change ***send*** to **sent**



**STAAR GRADE 6**  
**Reading Language Arts**  
**PRACTICE**

