

READING COMPREHENSION

Types of questions asked in reading comprehension:

Referential

In this type of comprehension, the understanding of information like the meaning of words, the context of writing, the sequence of events, characters in the story, and factual data are clearly stated. Readers can easily find the information and ideas which are explicitly stated in the text. If the answer to the question is directly spotted in the passage then it is a referential question.

Example

Autumn is the season that falls between summer and winter. There are many changes that occur at the beginning of the season. Days become shorter, leaves turn red, yellow, and orange. Sunlight is very essential for trees to keep their leaves green. Animals start storing their food to last through the long winter months.

Question Autumn occurs between summer and which another season? Here, the answer is directly given in the passage.

POLL QUESTION

Economic contact between Native Americans and Europeans can be traced back to the English and French fishermen off the coast of Canada in the 1500s. **They** traded guns and other weapons for beaver fur. The first explorers to trade with the Native Americans were Giovanni da Verrazano and Jacques Cartier in the 1520s and 1530s. In Verrazano's book he notes, "If we wanted to trade with them for some of their things, they would come to the seashore on some rocks where the breakers were most violent while we remained on the little boat, and they sent us what they wanted to give on a rope, continually shouting to us not to approach the land."

The word 'They' in paragraph 3 refers to?

English and French fishermen

Beavers

Europeans

Traits and characteristics

ANSWER

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The word 'They' in paragraph 3 refers to?

- A. English and French fishermen
- B. Beavers
- C. Europeans
- D. Traits and characteristics

C is the correct answer. It is referring to who traded guns and other weapons for beaver fur. A and B are in the passage but do not trade for beaver fur.

Inferential

In this type of comprehension, the reader has to determine the actual meaning of the text written. In inferential comprehension, readers require to combine ideas, interpret and evaluate information, identify tone and voice, and draw conclusions. If the answer is not directly spotted in the passage then it is an inferential question.

Example

Autumn is the season that falls between summer and winter. There are many changes that occur at the beginning of the season. Days become shorter, leaves turn red, yellow, and orange. Sunlight is very essential for trees to keep their leaves green. Animals start storing their food to last through the long winter months.

Question

What is the main purpose of the passage? Here, the reader has to draw a conclusion according to his understanding.

There are some **repeated questions** asked in almost every reading comprehension passage such as:

- ❖ What is the author's purpose for writing the passage?
- ❖ Summarize the main idea of the passage.
- ❖ Draw a conclusion

Therefore, readers should develop a habit of understanding these repeated questions thoroughly which will help them in understanding the entire passage quickly.

VOCABULARY QUESTIONS:

- ❑ **vocabulary-based questions.** Such questions are frequently asked in RC section.
- ❑ **Strategy for vocabulary questions:** The only good way to ace vocabulary questions is to build up a strong vocabulary base. An important thing to keep in mind is to pay special attention to the contextual meaning of the given words. Apart from the words, you may be asked the meaning of phrases that feature in the RC.
- ❑ In case the questions seem too complex, try the '*elimination*' *strategy* with the least likely options.

POLL QUESTION

“The relationship of the vampire and his assistant seemed to have been reversed, and Igor, now in his early twenties, was the authoritative one; since boyhood he had been taking on one responsibility after another, until he had left the vampire with nothing to perplex him but how to while away the hours when the servants were busy and Igor was out searching for brains.”

In this sentence, “perplex” most nearly means...

- (A) trouble
- (B) bewilder
- (C) astonish
- (D) entangle
- (E) embarrass

ANSWER

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Tips for Very Long Passages

- ❑ The reader should develop a habit of reading different types of articles which will help them to understand the tone, attitude, and style of writing of several writers.
- ❑ Use the “bottom-up” approach which means, read the questions first, so that the reader has an idea of what to look for, in the passage. It will save the reader’s time.
- ❑ While reading the long passage make sure not to read the complete passage, try reading only the part that is related to the questions that are asked.
- ❑ While reading the passage don’t try to memorize every part of the passage instead understanding the essence of the point being conveyed by the author.

- ❑ Increase the reading speed by solving different exam papers or online mock tests.
- ❑ Try to engage with the passage from the starting, do not read the passage similar to reading an article in the newspaper because, by the time the reader reaches the end of the passage, she/he has forgotten what was at the beginning of the passage. Therefore, try and actively engage with the contents of the passage.

Tips for Short Passages

- ❑ The short reading comprehension passages are either one or two paragraphs long. Therefore, they can be read easily and quickly.
- ❑ The readers are advised to read the passage slowly but simultaneously look for the important details.
- ❑ Then, from the questions, retrace the lines that correspond to the questions.

POLL QUESTION

Genealogy is fun. Just as a piece of furniture or a picture takes on much more interest if you know its history, so does an individual become more real once the ancestral elements that shaped him are known. An in-depth family history is a tapestry of all those to whom we owe our existence.

Which statement best conveys the theme of this paragraph?

- A: Finding out about our ancestors is more interesting than researching the history of objects.
- B: Genealogy is a study of people and their belongings in the past.
- C: Genealogy is a study of family history.
- D: Genealogical research can bring meaning and life to a family's history
- E. Most genealogies are a waste of effort.

ANSWER

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C: Genealogy is a study of family history.

D: Genealogical research can bring meaning and life to a family's history

E. Most genealogies are a waste of effort.

Tips for Medium Length Passages

The tips given for long passages are also applicable for medium passages.

- ❑ The reader should first try to read two to three lines of each paragraph given. It will allow the reader to find the conclusion and essence of the paragraph quickly.
- ❑ Along with reading try to memorize some information given in the passage by recollecting the important words.
- ❑ Further, eliminating the words, phrases, and sentences from the passage that is not useful will help in answering questions which have almost similar options.
- ❑ Along with all these tips the reader should also improve vocabulary, read and solve comprehensions from different fields of knowledge, like Science, Arts, Literature, Politics, Economics, and Current Affairs, etc.

POLL QUESTION

A fact that draws our attention is that, according to his position in life, an extravagant man is either admired or loathed. A successful business man does nothing to increase his popularity by being prudent with his money. A person who is wealthy is expected to lead a luxurious life and to be lavish with his hospitality. If he is not so, he is considered mean, and his reputation in business may even suffer in consequence. The paradox remains that he had not been careful with his money in the first place; he would never have achieved his present wealth.

Among the low income group, a different set of values exists. The young clerk, who makes his wife a present of a new dress when he has not paid his house rent, is condemned as extravagant. Carefulness with money to the point of meanness is applauded as a virtue. Nothing in his life is considered more worthy than paying his bills. The ideal wife for such a man separates her housekeeping money into joyless little piles – so much for rent, for food, for the children's shoes, she is able to face the milkman with equanimity every month satisfied with her economizing ways, and never knows the guilt of buying something she can't really afford.

As for myself, I fall neither of these categories. If I have money to spare I can be extravagant, but when, as is usually the case, I am hard up and then I am the meanest man imaginable.

Question 1:

Choose an appropriate title for the above passage:

Profligacy plays its part in the lives of both rich and poor

Miserable lives of the poor

Profligacy – A cause for poverty

Profligacy is appreciated

ANSWER

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It is the most appropriate title as the passage highlights the life of both rich and lower class people in the first and second paragraphs respectively.

**The only remedy to reach at the level of
perfection**

**Develop habit of doing practice on a
regular interval**