

READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE

I am on the telephone to the emergency room of the local hospital. My elder son is getting stitches in his palm, and I have called to make myself feel better, because I am at home, waiting, and my husband is there, holding him. I am 34 years old, and I am crying like a child, making a slippery mess of my face. "Mrs. Krovatin?" says the nurse, and for the first time in my life I answer "Yes."

This is a story about a name. The name is mine. I was given it at birth, and I have never changed it, although I married. I could come up with lots of reasons why. It was a political decision, a simple statement that I was somebody and not an adjunct of anybody, especially a husband. As a friend of mine told her horrified mother, "He didn't adopt me, he married me."

It was a professional and a personal decision, too. I grew up with an ugly dog of a name, one I came to love because I thought it was weird and unlovable. Amid the Debbies and Kathys of my childhood, I had a first name only my grandmothers had and a last name that began with a strange letter. "Sorry, the letters, I, O, Q, U, V, X, Y and Z are not available," the catalogues said about monogrammed key rings and cocktail napkins. Seeing my name in black on white at the top of a good story, suddenly it wasn't an ugly dog anymore.

But neither of these are honest reasons, because they assume rational consideration, and it so happens that when it came to changing my name, there was no consideration, rational or otherwise. It was mine. It belonged to me. I don't even share a checking account with my husband. Damned if I was going to be hidden beneath the umbrella of his identity.

It seemed like a simple decision. But nowadays I think the only simple decisions are whether to have grilled cheese or tuna fish for lunch. Last week, my older child wanted an explanation of why he, his dad and his brother have one name, and I have another .

My answer was long, philosophical and rambling-that is to say, unsatisfactory. What's in a name? I could have said disingenuously. But I was talking to a person who had just spent three torturous, exhilarating years learning names for things, and I wanted to communicate to him that mine meant something quite special to me, had seemed as form-fitting as my skin, and as painful to remove. Personal identity and independence, however, were not what he was looking for; he just wanted to make sure I was one of them. And I am, and then again, I am not. When I made this decision, I was part of a couple. Now, there are two me's, the me who is the individual and the me who is part of a family of four, in which, in a small way, I am left out.

A wise friend who finds herself in the same fix says she never wants to change her name, only to have a slightly different identity as a family member, an identity for pediatricians' offices and parent- teacher conferences. She also says that the entire situation reminds her of the women's movement as a whole. We did these things as individuals, made these decisions about ourselves and what we wanted to be and do. And they were good decisions, the right decisions. But we based them on individual choice, not on group dynamics. We thought in terms of our sense of ourselves, not our relationships with others.

Some people found alternative solutions: hyphenated names, merged names, matriarchal names for the girls and patriarchal ones for the boys, one name at work and another at home. I did not like those choices; I thought they were middle grounds, and I didn't live much in the middle ground at the time. I was once slightly disdainful of women who went all the way and changed their names. But I now know too many smart, independent, terrific women who have the same last names as their husbands to be disdainful anymore. Besides, if I made this decision as part of a feminist world view, it seems dishonest to turn around and trash other women for deciding as they did.

I made my choice. I haven't changed my mind. I've just changed my life. Sometimes I feel like one of those worms I used to hear about in biology, the ones that, chopped in half, walked off in different directions. My name works fine for one half, not quite as well for the other. I would never give it up. Except for that one morning when I talked to the nurse at the hospital, I always answer the question "Mrs. Krovatin?" with "No, this is Mr. Krovatin's wife." It's just that I understand the down side now.

When I decided not to disappear beneath my husband's umbrella, it did not occur to me that I would be the only one left outside. It did not occur to me that I would ever care-not enough to change, just enough to think about the things we do on our own and what they mean

when we aren't on our own anymore.

1. All of the following are true with respect to the passage, except that :

- A. there was no consideration when it came to changing the author's name.
- B. change of name was on account of having a slightly different identity at home and elsewhere.
- C. retention of the maiden name indicated that the person was somebody separate and not an adjunct of anybody.
- D. None of the above.

2. Which of the following would best concur with the author's contention, as brought out in the passage ?

- A. Retention of individual identity is not a simple decision.
- B. Women's movements and feminism made the women individualistic.
- C. Smartness, independence and terrific personality of a person has nothing to do with retention of maiden names or changing them.
- D. All of the above.

3. According to the passage, the steps taken by the author to keep the name unchanged was :

- A. a right and a good decision.
- B. based on an individual choice, not on group dynamics.
- C. based more on thoughts of self than on the relationship with others.
- D. All of the above.

4. According to the passage, the decision of the author to retain her maiden name was :

- A. bold and unconventional.
- B. one which gave rise to second thoughts about retention of maiden names and called for a compromising attitude.
- C. a hasty and an unthoughtful one.
- D. reflected the independence and self-support of women.

5. According to the passage, the prime reason for the author to retain her birth name was due to :

- A. feeling of possessiveness.
- B. the influence of peerthinking.
- C. personal, bitter experiences which made her hardened.
- D. her personality becoming reflected better.

6. The concluding lines of the passage show the author's :

- A. support of women's individualism in a social set up.
- B. disillusionment of women's individual identity.
- C. grief on account of her son's ailment.
- D. skills and strength in handling a critical situation.

7. The central idea of the passage is that :

- A. what matters is not one's role but name.
- B. a person's identity is best reflected in the name chosen.

- C. empowerment of women is best reflected in feminist activities.
- D. individualism is short lived.

8. The manner in which the passage is handled is :

- A. philosophical
- B. narrative
- C. hypothetical
- D. questioning

9. A conclusion that can be drawn from the passage is that :

- A. self-identity and individualism pays in today's competitive times.
- B. an name is an index of a person's intelligence and personality.
- C. women's movements and feminism cannot be isolated from the role women have to play in home and society.
- D. it is not wrong to be possessive of one's name, it is not for nothing that a child is given a name by the parents.

10. The passage could be an adaptation from :

- A. an article on feminism and women's movements.
- B. the musings of an individual.
- C. a write up on the importance of names.
- D. a heart rending account of the mother's pathos on her son's condition.

Answer Keys

1.(D) 2.(D) 3.(D) 4.(B) 5.(A) 6.(B) 7.(D) 8.(B) 9.(C) 10.(B)

FILL IN THE BLANKS

11. Severe steps will be taken against those responsible _____ their rank.

- A) in spite of B) including
- C) irrespective of D) in favor of

12. We walked along _____ silence.

- A) in B) in spite of C) without D) for the sake of

13. They are taught to respect everyone _____ race.

- A) regardless of B) regarding C) pending D) owing to

14. Mike's completely cured _____ smoking now.

- A) from B) of C) with D) without

ANSWERS

11-C 12-A 13-A 14-B

15. The worse for wear.

- A. Worn out
- B. Improbable
- C. Far off
- D. Frightening

Ans: A

16. For good.

- A. For a good cause
- B. Temporarily
- C. Permanently

D. Seriously

Ans: C

17. Caught up with.

- A. Conversed
- B. Tackled
- C. Arrested
- D. Overlook

Ans: C

18. In the clear.

- A. Without any money
- B. Without any knowledge of traditions
- C. Very friendly
- D. No longer in danger

Ans: D

CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE

Directions : Each set of the following sentences comprises four alternatives labelled as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. Candidate is required to select the most suitable alternative which conveys the exact meaning in accordance with the correct grammatical rules.

19. A. Both my brother and my sister love me but I should say that she loves me more than he.
B. Both my brother and my sister love me but I should say that she loves more than him.
C. Both my brother and my sister love me but I should say that she loves me more than him.
D. Both my brother and my sister love me but I should say that she loves I more than he.

20. A. I am an optimist and therefore I generally differ with you.
B. I am an optimist and therefore I generally differ from you.
C. I am an optimist and therefore I generally differ in you.
D. I am an optimist and therefore I generally differ you.

21. A. Neena can do it alone and no body else can do it.
B. Neena alone can do it and nobody else can do it.
C. Neena can alone do it and nobody else can do it.
D. Alone Neena can do it and no body else can do it.

22. A. Due to want of rain the wells have gone dry
B. Because of want of rain the wells have gone dry.
C. For want of rain the wells have gone dry.
D. Owing to want of rain the wells have gone dry.

23. A. As the train which was my usual was missing I had to travel.
B. Having missed the train which I usually catch and had to travel.
C. I missed the train which I usually catch and had to travel by the next.
D. I missed not only the train which I usually catch but had to travel on the next.

24. A. He may be poor now but he appears to have been rich in his youth.
B. He may be poor now but he appears to be rich in his youth.
C. He may be poor now but he appears being rich in his youth.
D. He may be poor now but he appears to rich in his youth.

25. A. By June next year Ajay will be twenty years working in the office.
B. Till June next year Ajay will work in the office for twenty years.
C. Till June next year Ajay will work in the office for twenty years.
D. By June next year Ajay will have been working in the office for twenty years.

26. A. He went to the wholesale market and bought the cheap rations.
B. He went to the wholesale market and bought the rations cheap.
C. He went to the wholesale market and bought rations cheaply.
D. He went to the wholesale market and cheaply bought rations.

ANSWERS

19	A
20	A

21	B
22	C
23	C
24	A
25	D
26	B

SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

27. In contrast to large steel plants that take iron ore through all the steps needed to produce several different kinds of steel, processing steel scrap into a specialized group of products has enabled small mills to put capital into new technology and remain economically viable.

- (A) processing steel scrap into a specialized group of products has enabled small mills to put capital into new technology and remain
- (B) processing steel scrap into a specialized group of products has enabled small mills to put capital into new technology, remaining
- (C) the processing of steel scrap into a specialized group of products has enabled small mills to put capital into new technology, remaining
- (D) small mills, by processing steel scrap into a specialized group of products, have been able to put capital into new technology and remain
- (E) small mills, by processing steel scrap into a specialized group of products, have been able to put capital into new technology and remained

The correct answer is D.

28. Government officials announced that restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river resulted from the intermittent showers that had fallen throughout the area the day before.

- (A) restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river
- (B) restricting the use of water would continue because there had not been any appreciative increase in the river's level that
- (C) the use of water would continue to be restricted because not any appreciable increase in the river's level had
- (D) restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciable increase in the level of the river had
- (E) using water would continue being restricted because not any appreciable increase in the level of the river

The correct answer is D.

29. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer fibers and is less likely to leave an unsightly scar.

- (A) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer
- (B) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut having been made along these so-called Langer's lines severs less
- (C) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines severs fewer
- (D) With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever less
- (E) With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer

The correct answer is C.

30. In A.D. 391, resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria, later generations lost all but the Iliad and Odyssey among Greek epics, most of the poetry of Pindar and Sappho, and dozens of plays by Aeschylus and Euripides.

- (A) resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria,
- (B) the destroying of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria resulted and
- (C) because of the result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,
- (D) as a result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,
- (E) Alexandria's largest library of the ancient world was destroyed, and the result was

The correct answer is D.

31. The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.

- (A) The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (B) To the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote two letters, being the only eyewitness accounts of the great eruption of Vesuvius.
- (C) The only eyewitness account is in two letters by the nephew of Pliny the Elder writing to the historian Tacitus an account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.
- (D) Writing the only eyewitness account, Pliny the Elder's nephew accounted for the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (E) In two letters to the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.

The correct answer is E.

32. Nearly two tons of nuclear-reactor fuel have already been put into orbit around the Earth, and the chances of a collision involving such material increase greatly as the amount of both space debris and satellites continue to rise.

- (A) as the amount of both space debris and satellites continue to rise
- (B) as the rise continues in both the amount of satellites and space debris
- (C) as the amount of space debris and the number of satellites continue to rise
- (D) with the continually increasing amount of space debris and the number of satellites
- (E) with the amount of space debris continuing to increase along with the number of satellites

The correct answer is C.

33. Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.

- (A) Though being tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish lessens their vulnerability with thickened bones and armor plates on their sides.
- (B) Though tiny, blind, and translucent, a recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen its vulnerability.
- (C) A recently discovered species of catfish has thickened bones and armor plates on its sides that lessen their vulnerability, though tiny, blind, and translucent.
- (D) Thickened bones and armor plates on their sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish that is tiny, blind, and translucent.
- (E) Tiny, blind, and translucent, thickened bones and armor plates on its sides lessen the vulnerability of a recently discovered species of catfish.

The correct answer is B.

34. A recent court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling that workers cannot be laid off if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will be safe, provided that their performance remains satisfactory.

- (A) if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will
- (B) if they are given reason for believing that their jobs would still
- (C) having been given reason for believing that their jobs would
- (D) having been given reason to believe their jobs to
- (E) given reason to believe that their jobs will still

The correct answer is A.

CRITICAL REASONING

35. Which of the following most logically completes the passage? It is generally believed that people receiving frequent medical checkups are likely to need hospitalization less frequently than they would otherwise; after all, many things can be done following a checkup to prevent problems that, if ignored, might become acute and then require hospitalization. But for people with chronic illnesses, frequent medical checkups are likely to lead to more frequent hospitalization since

- (A) the recommended treatments for complications of many chronic illnesses involve hospitalization even if those complications are detected while barely noticeable
- (B) medical checkups sometimes do not reveal early symptoms of those chronic illnesses that are best treated in a hospital
- (C) the average length of a hospital stay is the same for those who receive frequent checkups as for those who do not
- (D) people with chronic illnesses generally receive medical checkups more frequently than people who are not chronically ill
- (E) the average length of a hospital stay for people with a chronic illness tends to increase as the illness progresses

The correct answer is A.

36. Two decades after the Emerald River Dam was built, none of the eight fish species native to the Emerald River was still reproducing adequately in the river below the dam. Since the dam reduced the annual range of water temperature in the river below the dam from 50 degrees to 6 degrees, scientists have hypothesized that sharply rising water temperatures must be involved in signaling the native species to begin the reproductive cycle.

Which of the following statements, if true, would most strengthen the scientists' hypothesis?

- (A) The native fish species were still able to reproduce only in side streams of the river below the dam where the annual temperature range remains approximately 50 degrees.
- (B) Before the dam was built, the Emerald River annually overflowed its banks, creating backwaters that were critical breeding areas for the native species of fish.
- (C) The lowest recorded temperature of the Emerald River before the dam was built was 34 degrees, whereas the lowest recorded temperature of the river after the dam was built has been 43 degrees.
- (D) Nonnative species of fish, introduced into the Emerald River after the dam was built, have begun competing with the declining native fish species for food and space.
- (E) Five of the fish species native to the Emerald River are not native to any other river in North America.

The correct answer is A.

37. Dental researchers recently discovered that toothbrushes can become contaminated with bacteria that cause pneumonia and strep throat. They found that contamination usually occurs after toothbrushes have been used for four weeks. For that reason, people should replace their toothbrushes at least once a month.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the conclusion above?

- (A) The dental researchers could not discover why toothbrush contamination usually occurred only after toothbrushes had been used for four weeks.
- (B) The dental researchers failed to investigate contamination of toothbrushes by viruses, yeasts, and other pathogenic microorganisms.
- (C) The dental researchers found that among people who used toothbrushes contaminated with bacteria that cause pneumonia and strep throat, the incidence of these diseases was no higher than among people who used uncontaminated toothbrushes.
- (D) The dental researchers found that people who rinsed their toothbrushes thoroughly in hot water after each use were as likely to have contaminated toothbrushes as were people who only rinsed their toothbrushes hurriedly in cold water after each use.
- (E) The dental researchers found that, after six weeks of use, greater length of use of a toothbrush did not correlate with a higher number of bacteria being present.

The correct answer is C.

38. Meat from chickens contaminated with salmonella bacteria can cause serious food poisoning. Capsaicin, the chemical that gives chili peppers their hot flavor, has antibacterial properties. Chickens do not have taste receptors for capsaicin and will readily eat feed laced with capsaicin. When chickens were fed such feed and then exposed to salmonella bacteria, relatively few of them became contaminated with salmonella. In deciding whether the feed would be useful in raising salmonella-free chicken for retail sale, it would be most helpful to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether feeding capsaicin to chickens affects the taste of their meat
- (B) Whether eating capsaicin reduces the risk of salmonella poisoning for humans
- (C) Whether chicken is more prone to salmonella contamination than other kinds of meat
- (D) Whether appropriate cooking of chicken contaminated with salmonella can always prevent food poisoning
- (E) Whether capsaicin can be obtained only from chili peppers

The correct answer is A.

39. Laws requiring the use of headlights during daylight hours can prevent automobile collisions. However, since daylight visibility is worse in countries farther from the equator, any such laws would obviously be more effective in preventing collisions in those countries. In fact, the only countries that actually have such laws are farther from the equator than is the continental United States. Which of the following conclusions could be most properly drawn from the information given above?

- (A) Drivers in the continental United States who used their headlights during the day would be just as likely to become involved in a collision as would drivers who did not use their headlights.
- (B) In many countries that are farther from the equator than is the continental United States, poor daylight visibility is the single most important factor in automobile collisions.
- (C) The proportion of automobile collisions that occur in the daytime is greater in the continental United States than in the countries that have daytime headlight laws.
- (D) Fewer automobile collisions probably occur each year in countries that have daytime headlight laws than occur within the continental United States.
- (E) Daytime headlight laws would probably do less to prevent automobile collisions in the continental United States than they do in the countries that have the laws.

The correct answer is E.

40. In the past most airline companies minimized aircraft weight to minimize fuel costs. The safest airline seats were heavy, and airlines equipped their planes with few of these seats. This year the seat that has sold best to airlines has been the safest one—a clear indication that airlines are assigning a higher priority to safe seating than to minimizing fuel costs. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?

- (A) Last year's best-selling airline seat was not the safest airline seat on the market.
- (B) No airline company has announced that it would be making safe seating a higher priority this year.
- (C) The price of fuel was higher this year than it had been in most of the years when the safest airline seats sold poorly.
- (D) Because of increases in the cost of materials, all airline seats were more expensive to manufacture this year than in any previous year.
- (E) Because of technological innovations, the safest airline seat on the market this year weighed less than most other airline seats on the market.

The correct answer is E.