



EssentialSkills

Worksheet Set - Reading Comprehension Level 5

SKILLS COVERED:

Reading Comprehension
Word Meanings

KEYWORDS:

Adverbs Reading Comprehension
Adjectives and Adverbs Reading Comprehension
Reading Comprehension with Adverbs
Adjectives Reading Comprehension

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1.800.753.3727

STORY 1

Have you ever spent any time watching what goes on around an anthill? If not, you really should. Even though ants are tiny insects, they are truly amazing little creatures.

Ants are kind of like humans, because they live in big "ant cities" that are called "colonies." In the colonies, thousands of ants work together to build shelter, find food and protect their young. Ants live in a system of underground tunnels that they work hard to dig out. In these tunnels, there are special rooms for storing food and nurseries for baby ants. Some ants are in charge of keeping the colony clean. These ants have to pick up all the garbage from the colony and bring it to a garbage pile outside the colony. Do you think all that lifting might be too much for a little ant? Think again. Even though they are so small, ants can lift up to 20 times their own weight. That's about as much as a 10 year-old boy lifting a small car.

The entrance to their underground world is what we call an "anthill." The anthill is a small pile of sand and dirt that thousands of ants work together to build. In the middle is a little hole through which the ants can climb down into their underground city. Imagine trying to organize such a task! You'd think that ants must be very good communicators.

The tricky part about ants is that they can't talk. But this doesn't stop these little creatures. Ants communicate by releasing different chemicals from their bodies for other ants to smell. For instance, if an ant finds a piece of food, it will send out a chemical signal that says "there is food here." The other ants will follow their noses toward the pile of food until it is all gone. On the other hand, if there is something dangerous around, ants will send a chemical signal that says "stay away." Each colony of ants has its own special smell. This way ants can tell if there are intruders among them.

The most important job for ants is to protect the Queen. Each ant colony has a Queen, the ant who lays on the eggs. Queen ants can live up to fifteen years!

Besides bothering us on picnics, ants pose a few other problems for humans. Some ants like to build their nests in wood, which can then cause our holes or porches to rot. But on the other hand, ants help to keep our soil healthy because the holes that they dig allow air and water to get down into the earth.

So next time you see a trail of ants or the top of an anthill, stop and think about how amazing these little creatures are and what their lives must be like.

Read each sentence then circle TRUE or FALSE.

Ants dig tunnels and special rooms.
TRUE / FALSE

Ants have nurseries for baby ants.
TRUE / FALSE

Ants communicate by making sounds.
TRUE / FALSE

Ants live in colonies.
TRUE / FALSE

Ants help to keep soil healthy.
TRUE / FALSE

Ants are large insects.
TRUE / FALSE

All ants smell the same.
TRUE / FALSE

Ants can lift cars.
TRUE / FALSE

Each ant colony has fifteen queens.
TRUE / FALSE

1. Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. What would happen if the ants in a colony noticed that one ant did not smell the same as they did?

- a) They would follow that ant to food
- b) They would know that the ant who had a different smell was an intruder
- c) They would protect the ant
- d) They would follow that ant away from danger

2. Which three behaviors of ants show that they are hard-working?

- a) They work together to build shelter, find food and protect their young
- b) Thousands of ants work to build the anthill and tunnels
- c) The ants clean out the garbage from their colony
- d) The ants communicate with smells

3. What would probably happen if the Queen ant suddenly died?

- a) The colony might die out
- b) There would be no more eggs
- c) There would be no more new ants
- d) The ants will starve

4. Which statement is an OPINION not a FACT?

- a) Queen ants can live up to fifteen years
- b) Some ants are in charge of keeping the colony clean
- c) Ants are amazing little creatures
- d) Each colony of ants has its own special smell

Match each event (cause) with its effect.

Because ants keep their colony clean,

they can tell other ants where there is food or danger.

Because ants communicate with smells,

air and water can get into the soil.

Because ants dig holes,

she is the ant who lays the eggs.

Because ant colonies have one Queen,

there is a pile of garbage outside the anthill.

Complete each sentence with the base or root word
for each of the words in brackets.

Ants _____ by releasing
or sending out smells to other ants.
(communicators)

The parents of the new baby
prepared a _____.
(nurseries)

When you see an anthill you know it
holds a _____ of ants.
(colonies)

An ant _____ is made of many tunnels.
(cities)

Ants can smell _____.
(dangerous)

You should not _____
into other people's spaces.
(intruders)

Type words from the story that match these definitions.

Choose from these words:

shelter, task, amazing, creatures, system, signal

a job or chore _____

living things or animals _____

remarkable and wonderful _____

a sign that gives information _____

a place that is safe _____

a set of connected things _____

Add the suffix "ing" to each verb.
Remember to drop the silent "e" and in some words
to double the final consonant.

pile _____

follow _____

pose _____

protect _____

rot _____

stop _____

build _____



Look at the underlined word in each sentence and then circle whether it is used as a NOUN or a VERB.

The ants work together to build tunnels. NOUN or VERB

The work of the ants is hard. NOUN or VERB

The anthill is a small pile of sand. NOUN or VERB

The ants pile the sand over the hole. NOUN or VERB

The smell of the garbage is awful. NOUN or VERB

I can smell the garbage. NOUN or VERB

I see a trail of ants on the ground. NOUN or VERB

The ants trail after each other along the ground. NOUN or VERB

STORY 2

Can you make a picture using light? If you have ever used a camera, you already have. A camera focuses light onto the film inside it and causes a chemical reaction on the surface of the film. That chemical reaction to light is what records your picture. In fact, the word photography comes from a combination of two Greek words: photo, meaning light and graphien, which means to write or draw.

Today, you can take a picture faster than you can say "cheese" and press a button. If you had helped take the first photograph, you would have been in for a much longer wait. Imagine saying "cheese" for eight hours. That is how long it took the very first picture to be recorded.

Early photographs did not look much like the ones you see today. There was no film or photographic paper back then. The black and white images were recorded directly onto flat metal plates. The chemical reaction took so long that only things that did not move, like buildings, could be photographed successfully. Even then, the pictures were blurry and grainy.

By the mid 1800s, photography had become faster. Photographers still used metal plates instead of film, but new chemicals reacted to light faster. For the first time, photographers could take pictures of people. If you wanted one of these early portraits, you had to pose for ten to thirty minutes, depending on how much light was available. While posing, you had to sit perfectly still. Any movement would make the picture come out blurry. People did not try to smile for these pictures. It was easier to keep a straight face than to hold a smile for that long.

Photography became even faster in 1884. That year, George Eastman, the founder of Kodak, replaced the metal photographic plates with film. Modern film is not much different from the film used back then. It is made of material called cellulose and coated with layers of light-sensitive chemicals. The improvement made it possible to take pictures at the press of a button. Not only did the film change the speed of taking pictures, it also paved the way for people to own their own cameras.

Today, photography continues to get faster. We now have cameras that need no film at all. Digital cameras record light on electronic chips, making it possible to take, view and print pictures, all without film. Smaller and better cameras are being developed all the time. As long as people love taking pictures, photography will continue to get faster and easier.

1. Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. When you see old photographs of people, why aren't they smiling?
 - a) They were annoyed with how long the photographer was making them pose
 - b) It was too tiring to smile while they waited for light to cause a chemical reaction on the plate
 - c) They were thinking about how expensive the photographer's pictures were
 - d) Their kids were acting up instead of posing nicely

2. Why could ordinary people own cameras and take pictures after cellulose film was invented. Pick three reasons.
 - a) The film was not heavy
 - b) The chemicals on the film reacted faster to light
 - c) People did not have to stay still for a long time to have their pictures taken
 - d) Photographers were going out of business

3. Why did it take many hours to take a picture of a building using a metal plate?
 - a) The buildings were too dark
 - b) The chemicals took a long time to react to light
 - c) The plates were too hard and heavy
 - d) The photographer didn't know how to take photographs

4. What has always stayed the same as photography methods have changed over time?
 - a) Every photograph has to be printed on paper
 - b) Every photograph needs film
 - c) Every photograph needs light
 - d) Every photograph needs chemicals to react to light

5. How can a digital camera save money for people who like to take lots of photographs? Pick three.
 - a) They can use smaller and lighter cameras
 - b) They never have to buy film
 - c) They only have to print the pictures that actually turned out well
 - d) They can take pictures in the dark

6. Which sentence is an OPINION and NOT a FACT?
 - a) As long as people love taking pictures, photography will continue to get faster and easier
 - b) Today, you can take a picture faster than you say "cheese" and press a button
 - c) Even then, the pictures were blurry and grainy
 - d) Not only did film change the speed of taking pictures, it also paved the way for people to own their own cameras



Is each word an adjective or an adverb?

Circle the correct answer.

blurry ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

directly ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

grainy ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

perfectly ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

successfully ADJECTIVE / ADVERB

Add *s* or *es* to each word as required.
Then print the new word.

focus _____

smile _____

cheese _____

press _____

success _____

Print the missing words to complete the comparison
of adjectives.

successful

more successful

most successful

easier

best

smallest

faster

more possible

straight

grainy

Print the base word of each word from the story.

photographic _____

improvement _____

combination _____

reaction _____

movement _____

Add one of the suffixes to each word below.

Use each suffix only once.

Don't forget to drop the silent 'e' at the end of some words.

ation, ity, ment, ion, able

print _____

possible _____

imagine _____

direct _____

develop _____