

## Level M - Form 1 - Reading: Construct Meaning

### Sample Question

Read the paragraph. Then choose the best answer to the question.

At the club, Bob sang in a band. While he was onstage, he would look into the crowd. Some people danced, and others just listened. Bob felt good when the people cheered.

How did Bob feel when he sang?

- A ugly
- B happy
- C scared
- D untalented

# Level M - Form 1 - Reading: Construct Meaning

Here is an article about Christopher Columbus. Read the article. Then do Numbers 1 through 6.

## A Mistake That Changed History

When you think about it, it's ironic that one of the most famous explorers in the world never discovered what he set out to find. Instead of a faster route to Asia, Christopher Columbus discovered what is called the Americas. The interesting thing is that when Christopher Columbus died, he still thought that he had landed in the East Indies. But Columbus's accident turned out to be one of the most important discoveries of the world.

Columbus was of Italian descent, but by the age of 25 he had made his way to Portugal. At the time, Portugal had the world's most successful sea trade. But before Columbus could become captain of his own vessel, he had to teach himself the Portuguese and Spanish languages. To make a living, Columbus was a chart maker. This job enabled him to study geography and maps, making him even more interested in the idea of being captain of his own ship.

Europeans wanted spices that were grown in the East Indies, but it took too long to travel east overland or by ship around the coast of Africa. The trip was dangerous and expensive. Columbus was certain he knew a quicker way. He would sail west around the world. First he tried to get financial backing from King John II of Portugal, but the King's committee rejected his ideas as unreasonable. So Columbus moved to Spain and eventually got King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to put up the money for the trip.

In 1492, Columbus landed in North America. It was one of history's most important accidents. Until then, few people in Europe realized that the Americas existed. In fact, Columbus still thought he had reached the East Indies. That is why he called the people living there Indians. In spite of the confusion, Columbus's voyage remains a major event in history.

1. Columbus moved to Spain because
  - A his wife was Spanish
  - B he knew the king and queen
  - C his sailing route would be shorter
  - D Portugal's king refused to back his plan
2. Based on the fact that Columbus taught himself two languages, what can you say about him?
  - F He was interested in education.
  - G He was highly motivated.
  - H He wanted to impress people.
  - J He wanted to become a teacher.

3. Which of these best describes King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella?
- A fearful
  - B confident
  - C persistent
  - D unreasonable
4. Europeans wanted a water route to Asia because
- F they had trade agreements with India
  - G it took too long to travel overland
  - H certain coastal nations were at war
  - J Portugal dominated the sea trade

5. Which of these is **not** information given in the article?
- A Columbus was unable to obtain financial backing in Portugal.
  - B Columbus's father was a wool weaver.
  - C Columbus died thinking he had landed in the East Indies.
  - D At one time, Columbus made a living as a chart maker.
6. This article is mostly about
- F accidental discoveries
  - G trade routes to the East Indies
  - H Columbus's family background
  - J Columbus's experiences and journey to America

Read this story about Rhonda’s birthday. Then do Numbers 7 through 12.

### Birthday Girl

Rhonda chose her outfit for work carefully and was excited as she walked to the bus stop. Today was her birthday and she was in a good mood.

When Rhonda got to the office, the phones were already ringing. It was going to be a busy day. All morning, she sorted mail, delivered packages, and answered the phone. The morning passed quickly. At 11:30, Rhonda stopped by her friend Manny’s desk to see if he wanted to go out to lunch.

“Sorry, Rhonda,” he said. “I’m just swamped with work today.”

Rhonda went back to her desk disappointed that no one at work knew it was her birthday. She decided she would treat herself to lunch at her favorite coffee shop. Then the phone interrupted her thoughts.

“Good morning, Thompson Financial Services,” she said brightly, despite her down mood.

“Rhonda, this is Margaret. Could you please come to the conference room with copies of the latest report?”

“I’ll be right there, Margaret.” Rhonda hung up the phone and sighed. She gathered the copies and walked to the conference room. She knocked quietly on the door. As she opened the door, she was shocked when her co-workers yelled “Surprise!”

A large banner hung across the room that said “Happy Birthday to Our Favorite Receptionist.” There was a birthday cake and tray of sandwiches.

“And you thought we forgot it was your birthday, didn’t you?” said Manny with a smile.

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| <p>7. Rhonda works as a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A delivery person</li><li>B receptionist</li><li>C telephone operator</li><li>D financial services director</li></ul> | <p>8. Manny couldn’t go out to lunch with Rhonda because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>F he had to answer the phones</li><li>G he was going to a meeting</li><li>H he was part of the surprise</li><li>J he doesn’t like Rhonda</li></ul> |
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9. It is likely that Rhonda ate lunch
- A at home after work
  - B by herself at her desk
  - C at the coffee shop with Manny
  - D with her co-workers in the conference room
10. When the phone rings, Rhonda answers brightly. How does the way she answers the phone differ from her mood?
- F Rhonda pretends she is happy even though she feels down.
  - G Rhonda sounds happy because she feels happy.
  - H Rhonda is worried and sounds upset on the phone.
  - J Rhonda sounds down on the phone, but she feels happy inside.
11. The sign said “favorite receptionist” because
- A Rhonda had worked there for a long time
  - B Rhonda’s co-workers liked her a lot
  - C Rhonda was not a hard worker
  - D Rhonda was new to the job
12. Which is the best summary of this story?
- F Today was Rhonda’s birthday.
  - G Rhonda’s co-workers surprise her with a birthday party.
  - H Rhonda doesn’t want anyone to know it is her birthday.
  - J Manny and Rhonda have a fight over lunch.

Read this letter about a problem at Allied Foods. Then do Numbers 13 through 20.

305 Eastwick Circle  
Great Hills, Maine 04060  
January 6, 2003

Ms. Rebecca Chin  
Human Resources Manager  
Allied Food Products  
22 North Paddington Road  
Great Hills, Maine 04060

Dear Ms. Chin:

I am writing on behalf of all the hardworking and loyal smokers who work at Allied Foods. Our names are on the attached list. We feel that you abandoned us when the building manager closed the lounge. Could we meet with you to discuss the problem?

Because people do not want us around when we smoke, we have to stand outside or sit in our cars. It's a terrible waste of our time and the company's time. I'm sure the company wants us to finish our work.

We understand how the lounge bothers people sitting nearby. Perhaps the lounge could be moved farther away from offices. That way, maybe everyone would be happy. We would appreciate a chance to discuss this matter with you in person.

Respectfully,

*Patrice Evonne Peterson*

Patrice Evonne Peterson

13. Who is Patrice Peterson?

- A a lawyer
- B a cigarette salesperson
- C a customer of Rebecca Chin's
- D a worker at Allied Food Products

14. What happened before Ms. Peterson wrote this letter?

- F There was a fire at Allied Foods.
- G The smokers at Allied Foods were fired.
- H The smoker's lounge at Allied Foods was closed.
- J The smokers asked for a lounge but didn't get it.

15. What is the main idea in this letter?
- A Smokers have a right to smoke wherever they please.
  - B The smokers want to speak with Ms. Chin.
  - C Allied Foods treats all employees fairly.
  - D The smokers work harder than other employees.
16. The smokers are probably angry with Ms. Chin because she
- F closed the lounge
  - G didn't speak up for them
  - H makes them smoke in their cars
  - J complained about them to management
17. Why did the lounge area bother the people working nearby?
- A It smelled.
  - B It was ugly.
  - C Only smokers could use it.
  - D It took up too much space.
18. Which of these best summarizes why the lounge was important to smokers?
- F The bosses weren't allowed inside.
  - G The lounge had vending machines.
  - H It was the only place indoors where workers could smoke.
  - J There was a lot of space there to relax and do work.
19. What is the most likely reason Ms. Peterson includes a list of names in her letter?
- A She wants to make her letter longer.
  - B She wants Ms. Chin to write back to each person listed.
  - C She wants to show that many people agree with what she writes.
  - D She wants others to take the blame if her letter makes someone angry.
20. Which of these is the most likely reason Ms. Peterson was the one who sent this letter?
- F The other smokers elected Ms. Peterson to speak for them all.
  - G Ms. Peterson was the only one who could write.
  - H Ms. Peterson is a friend of Rebecca Chin.
  - J No one else cared about the problem.