

Level D - Form 1 - Reading: Words in Context

Sample Question

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

Peter ordered a salad and a glass of juice. The waiter asked him what kind of dressing to put on the salad.

The word *dressing* as it is used here means

- A a mixture used for stuffing
- B the act of putting on clothes
- C a sauce that is added to a dish
- D something put on a wound

Level D - Form 1 - Reading: Words in Context

Here is an advertisement for temporary employment at a farm. Read the ad. Then do Numbers 1 through 8.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

**Many Openings for
Farm Workers to Harvest
a Bumper Crop of Oranges!**

Super Florida Oranges
is accepting applications for
HARVEST CREW LEADERS
Saturday, September 23, 2005
2010 Valley Farm Road
Orlando, Florida



Super Florida Oranges is one of the largest orange producers in the state. We offer high pay and a safe workplace. Any person interested in working for us must apply in person. Please pick up your application form at the farm office on a weekday. The office is open between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Applicants must prove that they have legal status to work in the United States. You may use a U.S. birth certificate, a green card, or some proof that you have become a U.S. citizen. We will deduct 15 percent from all paychecks for tax purposes. Because this is temporary work, lasting only from October through April, we offer no medical insurance. Only workers with experience in agriculture need apply.

If you have questions, call Monday through Friday at 555-8858.

1. The attention-getting banner of this ad offers temporary employment. The word *employment* as it is used here means
 - A advice
 - B food
 - C work
 - D money
2. The available positions are for harvest crew leaders. *Leaders* as it is used here means about the same as
 - F laborers
 - G overseers
 - H harvesters
 - J watchers

3. The first line of the ad refers to “many openings.” What does the word *openings* mean as it is used in this ad?
- A jobs
 - B doors
 - C ways to enter
 - D first performances
4. The ad says that “Super Florida Oranges is accepting applications for harvest crew leaders.” What is an *application*?
- F a promise to work
 - G a request for work
 - H an experienced worker
 - J a line of people waiting
5. The ad says applicants “must prove that they have legal status to work in the United States.” *Status* as it is used here means
- A desire
 - B experience
 - C need
 - D position
6. The ad says that “only workers with experience in agriculture need apply.” What does the word *agriculture* mean?
- F farming
 - G working
 - H leading a crew
 - J harvesting oranges
7. According to the ad, this job is “temporary work, lasting only from October through April.” Which of these words means the **opposite** of *temporary*?
- A permanent
 - B difficult
 - C farming
 - D outdoor
8. Super Florida Oranges is offering “high pay and a safe workplace.” Which of these words means the **opposite** of *safe* as it is used in this sentence?
- F average
 - G common
 - H dangerous
 - J uncertain

Here is an article about Harry Houdini, the magician. Read the article. Then do Numbers 9 through 18.

The Amazing Harry Houdini

Every year in late October, fans of Harry Houdini gather near his home and near the site where his ashes were scattered in hopes of contacting his spirit. This devotion is a testimony to the greatness of the twentieth century's most famous magician. Houdini became known around the world for sensational acts. He amazed crowds by releasing himself from ropes, handcuffs, submerged trunks, and other confinements.

Houdini emigrated to the United States from Hungary. His name then was Erik Weisz. As a youth, he was a circus acrobat and trapeze performer. The magician at the circus fascinated him. He would often stay at the magician's platform for so long that his family would have to come looking for him. Once, the magician accidentally exposed how one of his tricks was done. The young Houdini realized that he could reproduce these performances himself. At this time, Erik selected the stage name "Houdini," a variation on the name of the famous French magician Jean-Eugene Robert-Houdin. Houdini added the final *i* to make himself seem cultured, in the manner of an Italian artist.

Soon Houdini met a producer, Martin Beck, who persuaded him to specialize in escapes. Houdini's wife, Wilhelmina Rahner, took the name Beatrice Houdini and became his assistant during performances. Houdini and his wife traveled to Europe. He was wildly successful there, and after just a year, he became one of the world's leading performers.

In a typical act, Houdini was shackled with chains and placed in a trunk that was locked, roped, weighted, and submerged underwater from a boat. He would escape and then swim to the boat. In another feat, he was suspended 75 feet above ground, where he freed himself from a straitjacket. Houdini's uncanny escape abilities stemmed partly from his great physical strength and partly from his amazing skill at manipulating locks. From 1916 to 1923, Houdini produced motion pictures in which he displayed his artistry and skill.

In his later years, Houdini lectured and wrote about magic. He also campaigned against spiritualists who claimed to contact departed spirits. Houdini had become interested in spiritualism after the death of his mother. He tried to contact her through mediums but was unsuccessful. He was disgusted to discover that many of the mediums used magician's tricks to dupe the public. However, Houdini was never convinced that making contact with the dead was impossible. In fact, he and his wife planned to continue their search for an honest spiritualist after one spouse had died. The couple devised a secret 10-word code to use as a test. Houdini died first, in 1926. His widow finally declared the search a failure before her death in 1943.

9. Read the sentence and the question to decide which word best fills the blank.
- In his later years, Houdini gave _____ about magic.
- Which of these shows that Houdini gave lectures about magic?
- A songs
 - B history
 - C speeches
 - D secrets
10. The first paragraph in the article refers to the devotion shown by Houdini's fans. *Devotion* as it is used here means
- F skill
 - G cheer
 - H honesty
 - J loyalty
11. The second paragraph says Houdini learned how to reproduce certain magic tricks. Which of these words means the **opposite** of *reproduce*?
- A explain
 - B invent
 - C recall
 - D ruin
12. According to the second paragraph, Houdini's stage name was a variation of the name of a famous French magician. *Variation* means about the same as
- F illegal use of
 - G English spelling of
 - H slightly different form of
 - J quite as difficult as
13. The fourth paragraph describes one of Houdini's typical acts, where he was chained and then locked in a trunk. Which of these words means nearly the same as *typical*?
- A best
 - B safe
 - C simple
 - D usual
14. For seven years, Houdini made movies in which he displayed his artistry and skill. Which of these words means the **opposite** of *displayed*?
- F concealed
 - G developed
 - H discussed
 - J paraded

15. In one of his tricks, Houdini was suspended seventy-five feet above the ground. Which of these words means that Houdini was *suspended* above ground?
- A left
 - B hung
 - C punished
 - D thrown
16. In the fourth paragraph, Houdini's escape abilities are described as uncanny. *Uncanny* means about the same as
- F fake
 - G frightening
 - H overrated
 - J strange
17. The last paragraph discusses Houdini's work against mediums who tried to dupe the public. Which of these words means the **opposite** of *dupe*?
- A convince
 - B serve
 - C be honest with
 - D perform in front of
18. Houdini tried to contact his mother after she died, but he was unsuccessful. Which of these phrases means that Houdini tried to *contact* his mother?
- F get in touch with
 - G write letters to
 - H show magic to
 - J use a code with

Here is an article that explains the difference between term and whole-life insurance. Read the article. Then do Numbers 19 through 20.

Term and Whole-Life Insurance

The average person hates to think about his or her own death, and life insurance policies seem too complicated for most people to comprehend. However, it's vital that you leave your family enough money to survive when you die. Therefore, you should make sure your life insurance policy provides your survivors with adequate protection. The two most common types of life insurance are term and whole-life. If you buy term life insurance, you'll be covered for a certain length of time. When that time period is over, you are no longer protected and you get no money back. Whole-life insurance is good for your entire life. The money you put into a whole-life policy gradually adds up over the years. You can cash in the policy and get that money back if you should need it later.

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| <p>19. The passage says life insurance policies are too complicated to comprehend. The word <i>comprehend</i> means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A createB completeC includeD understand | <p>20. Your insurance policy needs to provide adequate protection. The opposite of the word <i>adequate</i> is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">F realG muchH enormousJ insufficient |
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