

Google Classroom: Reading Comprehension

Understand Main Ideas and Details pgs. 99-101, 105-112, and 113-116

Practice 1:

Point: Being a celebrity is often difficult

Supporting detail: 1. Celebrities have to look almost perfect all the time.

Supporting detail: 2. Celebrities sacrifice their private lives.

Supporting detail: 3. Celebrities are in constant danger of the wrong kind of attention.

Point: People lie for different reasons.

Supporting detail: 1. To avoid hurting someone's feelings.

Supporting detail: 2. To avoid a fight.

Supporting detail: 3. People also lie so that they'll fit in.

Supporting detail: 4. To avoid spending more time with someone.

Point: There are several positive ways to encourage.

Supporting detail: 1. Get them to exercise by emphasizing how good they'll look.

Supporting detail: 2. Set an example

Supporting detail: 3. Make exercise a family activity.

Point: Serious depression has definite warning signs.

Supporting detail: 1. Change in sleep patterns.

Supporting detail: 2. Abnormal eating patterns.

Supporting detail: 3. Trouble in thinking or concentrating.

Supporting detail: 4. Hopelessness.

Point: Several factors can interfere with having a good memory.

Supporting detail: 1. Lack of motivation.

Supporting detail: 2. Lack of practice.

Supporting detail: 3. Self-doubt.

Supporting detail: 4. Distraction.

Practice 3:

1.Point: I'm a perfect example of someone who has "math anxiety."

Items that logically support the point:

A. I feel dread every time I sit down to take our Friday math quiz.

C. During my last math test, I "froze" and didn't even try to answer most of the questions

E. I turned down a summer job as a sales clerk because I would have had to figure out how much change customers should get back.

2.Point: Elephants are very intelligent animals.

B. Like chimps, elephants can recognize their reflections in mirrors.

C. Elephants tear off branches of trees to use as fly swatters.

D. Elephants have been seen keeping vigil over their dead companions.

3.Point: Drinking coffee can be bad for people.

B. Coffee in the evening can interfere with sleep at night.

D. Too much coffee can cause the hands to shake.

E. Drinking too much coffee can lead to a faster heartbeat and light-headedness.

4. **Point:** If you think school is difficult, it's even harder for older students.

B. It takes a lot of work to re-learn study habits.

C. Many older students have family and job responsibilities in addition to classes.

D. Some older students are afraid of not "fitting in."

5. **Point:** Workers in early American factories led difficult lives.

A. The average work day was twelve hours long.

B. Early factory workers were paid pennies an hour.

E. All workers on power machines risked accidents that could maim or kill.

6. **Point:** Schools should eliminate the summer vacation.

A. It costs too much money for school buildings to remain empty in the summer months.

C. Year-round school can better prepare students for year-round work in the adult world.

E. Students will learn more and forget less if they attend school twelve months a year.

7. **Point:** Some people have very poor telephone manners.

A. They never identify themselves, but just begin the conversation.

D. They conduct conversations with people around them at the same time they're talking on the phone.

F. They often call around 6p.m., which is most people's dinner hour.

8. **Point:** My father's boss is an unpleasant man to work for.

A. He barks orders and never asks for an employee's opinion.

D. Even when he invites employees out to lunch, he expects them to pick up their own checks.

E. He changes his mind so often that an employee who pleased him on Friday can be in the doghouse by Monday.

9. **Point:** There are some simple ways to save money at the supermarket.

A. Avoid products which charge extra for packaging, such a cheese wrapped individually by slice.

B. Buy store brands of basic items instead of expensive name-brand products.

D. Shop when you are not hungry, so that you won't be tempted to buy pricey treats.

10. **Point:** Nobody in this neighborhood will miss the Martins when they move.

B. They keep their poor dog chained to a tree 24 hours a day, and it howls for much of that time.

D. Over the past few years, the outside of their house has begun to look shabbier and shabbier

F. When the neighborhood kids play ball anywhere near their house, Mr. Martin yells at them, "Keep your ball game off my property!"

Practice 4:

1. **Point:** That child is very curious.

C. He has taken apart all the clocks in the house to see how they work. He borrowed his father's hammer to break rocks because he "wanted to see what they looked like inside." HE is forever asking questions that start with "How" and "Why."

2. **Point:** Aunt Isabel is my least favorite relative.

A. When we meet, she always has something critical to say, such as "What have you done with your hair?" or "You look terrible in that color." She calls my sister "the smart sister" and me "the dumb one." Oh my birthday, she said, "I didn't think you wanted a present."

3. **Point:** Our biology teacher is lazy.

A. He has his top students present the lessons to the class so he doesn't have to do anything. If someone is having trouble in class, he tells him or her to get help from one of the other students. So he doesn't have to grade papers, he allows us to grade each other's homework and test papers, even midterm and final exams.

4. **Point:** Margo is a very rude worker.

B. She keeps customers waiting while she talks with a coworker. When someone asks her about a sale, she snaps. "If it isn't on the shelf, we don't have it!" When her boss isn't

watching her, she answers the telephone by saying, “Yeah, what do you want?”

5. **Point:** That roller coaster is dangerous.

C. Last year, it broke down several times, leaving people stranded in their cars sixty feet off the ground. In most cars, the seatbelts are torn and don't always buckle properly. One area if the track shakes and makes a strange grinding sound whenever a car passes over it..

6. **Point:** Greg is irresponsible

C. He never pays his bills on time. WHEN he borrows things, he returns them damaged, or not at all. He is usually late for appointments, if he even remembers them at all.

7. **Point:** The meal I cooked for my girlfriend was horrible.

C. The chicken came out so tough and dry that I could barely cut it with a steak knife. I overcooked the fresh vegetables so much that they changed from a bright green color to the color of an army jeep. The cake I tried to bake collapsed into itself, turning into a shapeless chewy mass that resembled a giant cookie.

8. **Point:** High-school proms should be banned.

A. Proms pressure students to spend a ridiculous amount of money on gowns, tuxes, flowers, and even limos. Prom preparation distracts students for many weeks from the real business of school, which is education. In addition, the social pressure to get a date for the prom makes many people miserable.

9. **Point:** Neil is a hypocrite - he usually does the opposite of what he says.

A. He spent a half hour talking and laughing with someone yesterday, then later confided to me, "I can't stand that man!" He lectures his daughters about the dangers of drug addiction, but he is a heavy drinker and smoker.

10. **Point:** My boss is considerate

B. Instead of giving us orders, she asks us to do things. She always thanks an employee for completing a task. She often helps out when she sees that things are getting stressful.

Practice 5:

Each of the ten points below is followed by two items of support. Put a check () next to the item that is specific and clearly shows us the writer's point. By contrast, the other item will be vague, dull, or wordy and lack sharp details.

1. I could tell I was coming down with the flu.

_____ A. 1. I began feeling lousy while I was at school. 2. By the time I got home, it was even worse. 3 The symptoms kept developing, one after another. 4 I went to bed feeling horrible, and there was no doubt that I was really in for it. 5. I could tell I was going to feel awful for days. 6. Getting the flu is such a miserable experience that I really would not wish it on anyone.

_____ B. 1. I know exactly when the flu hit. 2. I was at my desk when I felt a tickle in my throat. 3 I began to cough,

and the cough refused to go away. 4. A few minutes later, the words on my computer screen began to swim. 5. I could feel a deep headache developing behind my eyes. 6. By the time I got home later that afternoon, I had a fever of 102. 7. I crawled into bed shivering, even with three blankets. 8. And I was aching so badly I felt as though I'd been hit by a truck.

2. My brother is accident-prone.

_____ A. 1. Once he tried to open a tube of Krazy Glue with his teeth. 2. When the cap came loose, glue squirted out and sealed his lips shut. 3. They had to be pried open in a hospital ER.

_____ B. 1. Even when he does simple jobs, he seems to get into trouble. 2. This can lead to funny but sometimes dangerous results. 3. Things never seem to go right for him, and he often needs the help of others to get out of one problem or another.

3. When money gets tight, our family finds ways to economize.

_____ A. 1. There are a lot of corners we can cut when we need to. 2. If you think about it, there are plenty of unnecessary expenses every day that people can cut out when necessary. 3. Food and entertainment are two categories that eat up a lot of money needlessly. 4. Those expenses may not seem like a lot individually, but they can add up to quite a bit. 5. My family has gotten good at being aware of such small ways to save.

_____ B. 1. We have a simple breakfast like oatmeal rather than bacon and eggs. 2. We pack lunches rather than eat in

the school cafeteria or restaurants. 3. We plan ahead for those lunches, buying economy sizes of peanut butter, lunch meat, and fruit. 4. We cut back on buying impulse items like candy, chips, and coffee or soda drinks. 5. Rather than going out to the movies at eight dollars a head, we rent a DVD and make popcorn at home.

4. Our old car is ready for the junk pile.

_____ A. 1. If the car's problems were just cosmetic, we might be able to live with them, but it's worse than that. 2. Our car has major mechanical problems that would cost more to fix than would be worth it. 3. Even if we did fix them, that would leave a lot of smaller problems to deal with. 4. Those problems not only affect its appearance but definitely make the car unsafe. 5 It's time to say goodbye to the old heap.

_____ B. 1. The transmission slips, and our mechanic told us it would cost \$2,000 to get it repaired. 2. That's more than the car is worth. 3. Because the engine burns oil, we have to add a quart a week. 4. In addition, the air conditioner and heater are shot, the upholstery is stained or torn, the cover has fallen off the glove box, the rear-view mirror is loose, and the driver's window sticks much of the time in the "down" position.

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5. The little boy was in a stubborn mood.

_____ A. 1. When I asked him to do something, he gave me nothing but trouble. 2. He seemed determined to make things difficult for me, for he had made his mind up.

_____ B. 1. When I asked him to stop playing in the yard and come indoors, he looked me squarely in the eye and shouted “NO!” and then spelled it out: “N. . . O!”

6. The food in the cafeteria is terrible some days.

_____ A. 1. They serve canned vegetables, which are not as good as fresh ones. 2 The macaroni and cheese does not do anything for your appetite, and the pizza is not as good as the kind you can get at a pizzeria. 3. Some of the meat is virtually inedible. 4. Lots of luck if you want something good to drink.

_____ B. 1. The string beans and other canned vegetables are limp and salty, and the macaroni and cheese is gluey and tasteless. 2. The pizza is usually spongy and cold and does not have much cheese on it. 3. You’d need diamond tipped teeth to be able to chew the beef in the stew. 4. The hamburgers taste like rubber.

7. Our new kitten causes us lots of trouble.

_____ A. 1. He has shredded the curtains in my bedroom with his claws. 2. He nearly drowned when he crawled into the washing machine. 3. And my hands look like raw hamburger from his playful scratches and bites.

_____ B. 1. He seems to destroy everything he touches. 2. He's always getting into places where he doesn't belong. 3. Sometimes he plays too roughly, and that can be painful.

8. Speaking before a group is a problem for many people.

_____ A. 1 Many people will go to almost any length to avoid speaking to a group. 2. If they are forced to do it, they can feel so anxious that they actually develop physical symptoms. 3. If asked, people will often prefer that anything happen to them as an alternative to having to speak in public.

_____ B. 1. Some people will pretend to be ill to avoid speaking publicly. 2. Stage fright, stammering, and blushing are frequent reactions. 3. When asked to rank their worst fears, people often list public speaking as even worse than death.

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9. My uncle knew very little about cooking when he got his first apartment.

_____ A. 1. He had to live on whatever he had in the freezer for a while. 2. He was not any good in the kitchen and went through a trial-and-error process of learning how to prepare things to eat. 3. More often than not with his meals, he would make mistakes first, and someone who knows what to do in preparing food would probably not believe some of the things that he did.

_____ B. 1. The only dinners he ate for the first three weeks were frozen turkey or chicken dinners. 2. When he got tired of Cheerios for breakfast, he tried to cook an egg by putting a whole egg in the microwave, where it exploded. 3. Then for lunch one day, instead of a bologna sandwich, he attempted to make a grilled cheese sandwich by putting slices of cheese and bread in a toaster.

10. My family has real problems.

_____ A. 1. My mom was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and hypertension, but we cannot afford the medications she should now be taking. 2. Since my dad lost his job as an insurance agent, we've started to fall behind on our mortgage payments. 3. Then my sister was caught shoplifting cosmetics from our local drug store.

_____ B. 1. My mom has some serious health problems, and it is really going to be a challenge for us to try to deal with them. 2. My dad is not employed at the present, and so there is no money coming in. 3. As a result, we're having to deal with major financial difficulties. 4. Then my sister has been acting out because of all the stress in the family.