

Read the passage “Singing Out” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

Singing Out

Nina Martinez shut the classroom door behind her and walked down the hall. She trudged up the steps to the second floor. There was a reason why Nina felt nervous this morning. She could not believe that she had decided to try out for the talent show. She loved to sing, but she disliked singing in front of other people. “Why am I doing this?” Nina thought.

Taking a deep breath, she pushed open the door of the auditorium and went inside. The theater was filled with laughing children. Nina saw her friends Luz and James along with a few other students from her class.

The bright, sunny room left no place for her to hide. A few teachers sat on folding chairs. Seeing Mrs. Brent, her music teacher, made Nina even more nervous. The teachers waited for the children to settle down. There was the stage, cold and bare.

“Hi, Nina!” Luz called out. “I didn’t think you would try out for the talent show. You are usually so timid and shy in front of a group of people.”



“That’s nonsense,” Nina said. “I’m not shy at all.”

Luz laughed, “Yeah, right.” Then she chuckled as she ran off to find a seat. Nina followed, dragging her feet. She wished she were downstairs sitting quietly at her desk. What mess had she gotten herself into?

One by one the students got up on the stage and sang or played a musical instrument, and Nina was amazed at how confident her classmates seemed. “Nina Martinez!” a voice called out. It was Mrs. Brent, the music teacher. Nina jumped from her chair when she heard Mrs. Brent announce her name. Nina felt small as she walked to the enormous, empty stage. It was huge! Her face was hot, and her shaking hands were as cold as ice. She fumbled with the sheet music of her favorite song. She tried to sing, but the words would not come out.

“I-I-” Nina began, and then stopped. “I can’t,” she said softly.

“Close your eyes and pretend you are alone,” said Mrs. Brent gently. “Forget about everyone else and just sing to please yourself.”

Nina felt silly, but she gave it a try. She shut her eyes and raised her voice and sang out. To Nina’s surprise, her hands stopped shaking and the song poured out like honey from a jar.

Nina heard Mrs. Brent clap and applaud loudly at the end of her song. “That’s the first time I have actually heard your voice,” she said. “You have such a beautiful voice. You are in the show!”

Nina let out a big sigh and smiled happily. Singing in front of people wasn’t so bad, after all.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “Singing Out.”

- 1 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentences from the passage.

Taking a deep breath, she pushed open the door of the auditorium and went inside. The theater was filled with laughing children.

What does auditorium **most likely** mean?

- (A) a friendly, open person
- (B) a small space in a house
- (C) a room for performances
- (D) a pantry for food

Part B: Which word from the sentence helps you understand what auditorium means?

- (A) breath
- (B) door
- (C) theater
- (D) laughing

- 2** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Why does Nina feel nervous the first time she tries to sing?

- (A) She does not get along with Mrs. Brent.
- (B) She cannot remember the words to her song.
- (C) She cannot see the words on her music sheet.
- (D) She does not like to perform in front of people.

Part B: What text evidence shows why Nina feels nervous?

- (A) "She loved to sing, but she disliked singing in front of other people."
- (B) "She fumbled with the sheet music of her favorite song."
- (C) "She tried to sing, but the words would not come out."
- (D) "Nina jumped from her chair when she heard Mrs. Brent announce her name."

- 3** Read the sentences from the passage.

Luz laughed, "Yeah, right." Then she chuckled as she ran off to find a seat.

Which word helps you understand what chuckled means?

- (A) laughed
- (B) ran
- (C) right
- (D) seat

4 When Mrs. Brent tells Nina to just sing for herself, what does it show about Mrs. Brent? Pick **two** choices.

- (A) She wants Nina to do well.
- (B) She thinks Nina's voice is too soft.
- (C) She does not think Nina will be in the show.
- (D) She does not think Nina will remember the song.
- (E) She understands why Nina feels nervous.

5 Nina is proud of herself at the end of the story. Underline the **two** details that **best** support this conclusion.

Nina heard Mrs. Brent clap and applaud loudly at the end of her song. "That's the first time I have actually heard your voice," she said. "You have such a beautiful voice. You are in the show!"

Nina let out a big sigh and smiled happily. Singing in front of people wasn't so bad, after all.

Read the passage “New Kid in School” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

New Kid in School

Jayden watched the kids play from his corner of the school playground. Some were swinging on the swings or sliding down the slide. Others were kicking a dirty old soccer ball around. It was his third day at his new school and his third recess period standing in the corner of the playground, alone. He wished someone would ask him to swing, slide, or play soccer, but no one did. That day after school, Jayden walked home slowly with his head down. As he passed the park, shouting and laughing caught his attention.

“Over here!” someone shouted. “Kick it! Kick it to me!” someone hollered. It was some neighborhood kids playing soccer. Jayden stopped to watch them and recognized several of his classmates. He paused a few minutes to observe them. He was hoping they would see him and invite him to join their game, but no one did.

Jayden missed his old school and his old friends. “Why did we have to move?” he muttered to himself and whispered under his breath. “I don’t have any friends here. I’ll never have any friends here. Back home, I had Shawn, Jorge, and Nora. Back home, I—” Jayden caught himself. This was his home now, whether he liked it or not.

When he reached his house, it appeared empty. “Mom?” he called out, walking from room to room. “Mom? I’m home.” Then he noticed a note attached to the refrigerator. It read: “Barry and I are across the street at our neighbor’s house. Come on over, honey.”

In the neighbor’s backyard, Jayden saw his mother talking with a woman. They were chatting over cups of tea at a patio table. His three-year-old brother Barry and a little girl about the same age were playing in a sandbox.

GO ON →

“Hi, sweetie!” his mother called. “How was school today?”

“Okay,” Jayden replied, though it hadn’t been.

“This is our neighbor, Mrs. Ori, and her little girl Ava.”

Just then, Ava reached out and grabbed the toy car at Barry’s feet.

“Uh-oh,” Jayden thought. “Look out!”

The car was Barry’s favorite toy, and if anybody else touched it, he would wail and cry and kick, but the wail and the kicks didn’t happen. Instead, Barry watched Ava roll the car through the sand. Then he picked up a toy truck and did the same.

That night in bed, Jayden did some thinking. “Maybe I’ve been going at this friends business the wrong way. I’ve been waiting for people to make friends with me. Maybe I should try to make friends with them,” he said to himself. The next day on the playground, he approached Tyler, one of the soccer players he’d seen the day before.

“Hi,” Jayden smiled. “I got this new soccer ball for my birthday a few weeks ago. Do you want to use it instead of that old mushy one?”

“Sure!” Tyler answered.

“Do you want to be on my side? What position do you play?”

Out loud, Jayden said, “I play forward.” To himself, he said, “Whoever thought I could learn something from my three-year-old brother!”



Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “New Kid in School.”

- 6 Read the sentences from the passage. Circle the sentence that **best** tells you how Jayden feels about the move.

Jayden stopped to watch them and recognized several of his classmates.

He was hoping they would see him and invite him to join their game, but no one did.

He paused a few minutes to observe them.

Jayden missed his old school and his old friends.

- 7 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the passage.

“Why did we have to move?” he muttered to himself and whispered under his breath.

What does muttered **most likely** mean?

- (A) to shout loudly so everyone can hear
- (B) to use words that make no sense
- (C) to say something in a low voice
- (D) to be completely quiet

Part B: Which word helps you understand what muttered means?

- (A) himself
- (B) move
- (C) under
- (D) whispered

8 Read the sentence from the passage.

The car was Barry's favorite toy, and if anybody else touched it, he would wail and cry and kick, but the wail and the kicks didn't happen.

Which word helps you understand what wail means?

- (A) anybody
- (B) cry
- (C) favorite
- (D) touched

9 How does Jayden feel because of his brother's success at making a new friend? Pick **two** choices.

- (A) His mother was wrong.
- (B) No one at school likes him.
- (C) He needs to try harder to make friends.
- (D) He should make friends with his brother.
- (E) Friends can have something in common.

- 10** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which word **best** describes Jayden at the end of the story?

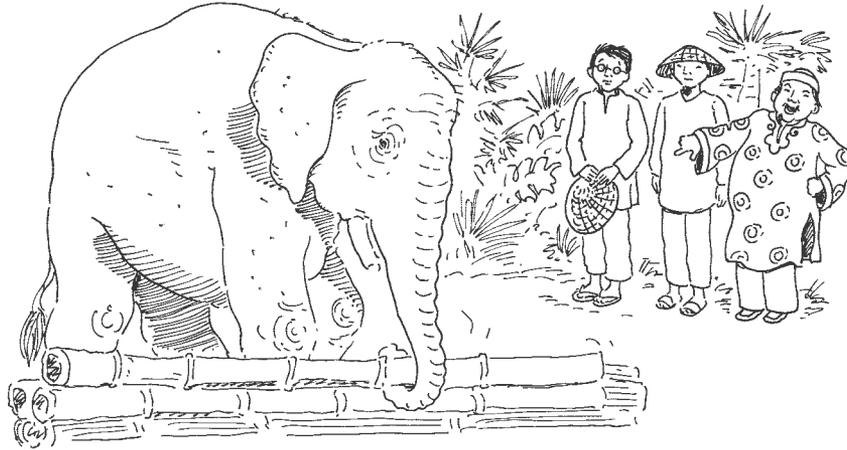
- (A) happy
- (B) pushy
- (C) shy
- (D) upset

Part B: What text evidence supports how Jayden feels at the end of the story?

- (A) "He wished someone would ask him to swing, slide, or play soccer, but no one did."
- (B) "'I don't have any friends here. I'll never have any friends here.'"
- (C) "This was his home now, whether he liked it or not."
- (D) "'Whoever thought I could learn something from my three-year-old brother!'"



Read the passage “A Lesson Learned” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.



A Lesson Learned

There once lived a wealthy man named Katu. Because he was so rich, he only wanted the finest things in life. He thought everything he owned was the best. He made sure the people in his village knew it.

Katu believed his home was not good enough for him. He wanted a house bigger and better than anyone else in the village. So, one day he decided to build a new house with the tallest logs he could find. He bragged to everyone that his logs were the best money could buy.

Katu needed a sturdy elephant to move the heavy logs to build his house. He hired a man who owned an elephant named Lago. Lago was the strongest elephant anyone from the village had ever seen. All the villagers watched how easily Lago piled the heavy logs on top of each other to build the house. They were amazed by his strength. Katu watched as Lago piled the logs higher and higher. Katu began bragging about his house to two men who were standing nearby.

“You see, my friends,” said Katu, “how wonderful my house will be. There will be no other house like it in the village. My house will be the best house in the village.”

Katu continued to brag about Lago’s strength and his house to the two other men. But there was something about the powerful elephant that Katu did not know. Lago understood every word that Katu said. The elephant did not like what he heard. Lago decided that he had heard enough. Katu was still bragging when one of the men interrupted him. The man pointed over Katu’s shoulder.

“What is it?” Katu asked angrily. “Can’t you see I am busy?”

Katu tried to ignore the man, but the man kept pointing. Katu finally turned around and stopped talking. Lago was coming straight at him! The two men quickly scrambled out of the way. Katu was too afraid to move. Lago seized Katu with his trunk and lifted him high in the air. The elephant held Katu over his new house. Then Lago ran into the house as hard as he could. The house swayed and collapsed into a heap of logs. Lago backed away from the fallen house. He set Katu gently on the ground.

It took Katu many weeks to rebuild his house, but he learned his lesson. From that day on, he promised to never brag again.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on
“A Lesson Learned.”

1 Read the sentence from the passage.

Katu needed a sturdy elephant to move the heavy logs to build his house.

What does sturdy **most likely** mean in the sentence above?

- (A) friendly
- (B) smart
- (C) strong
- (D) young

2 Read the sentences from the passage.

The two men quickly scrambled out of the way. Katu was too afraid to move.

What does the word scrambled mean?

- (A) hurried
- (B) searched
- (C) skipped
- (D) walked

3 What happens **after** Katu brags to the two men but **before** Lago runs into Katu's house?

- A** Lago holds Katu over the house.
- B** Katu promises to never brag again.
- C** Katu's house collapses into a heap of logs.
- D** Lago piles the heavy logs on top of each other to build the house.

4 Put the events of the passage in the correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5. Write the correct number in front of each event.

_____	Lago runs into Katu's house, causing it to fall apart into a heap of logs.
_____	Katu wants to build the biggest house in the village.
_____	Katu brags about the house and Lago's strength.
_____	Lago does not like hearing Katu's bragging.
_____	Katu hires a man who owns the strongest elephant in the village.

- 5** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: What kind of man is Katu at the end of the story?

- (A) a wiser man
- (B) a richer man
- (C) a braver man
- (D) a stronger man

Part B: What text evidence supports your answer in part A?

- (A) "It took Katu many weeks to rebuild his house, but he learned his lesson."
- (B) "He bragged to everyone that his logs were the best money could buy."
- (C) "Because he was so rich, he only wanted the finest things in life."
- (D) "Katu was too afraid to move."

Read the passage “The Ship of the Desert” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

The Ship of the Desert

Long, long ago, a man was traveling on the edge of the desert. He carried food and water on his back. He lugged his heavy tent on the ground behind him, dragging it across the sand. The man was returning to his family far away, but the hot sun and his heavy load made the journey difficult.

Suddenly, he saw a strange creature ahead of him. It was large, brown, and hairy. The creature bellowed at him, and the loud noise frightened him! The man rushed away. He ran as fast as he could, even with his heavy load.

The next day, he came across a similar creature. This time, the creature was at the far end of a small pool of water. It kept drinking and drinking. Curious, the man carefully inched closer to get a better look. The creature had long, skinny legs and a long, thick neck. Most remarkably, it had a huge hump on its back.

The third day, the man saw more and more of these odd creatures. He decided to observe them carefully to see what he could learn. They ate plants and drank water for long periods of time. Sometimes one would look up and stare straight at him. Another might even bellow, like the first creature he saw. But the man realized that the stares and bellows from the creatures were not mean. The creatures were actually meek and gentle.

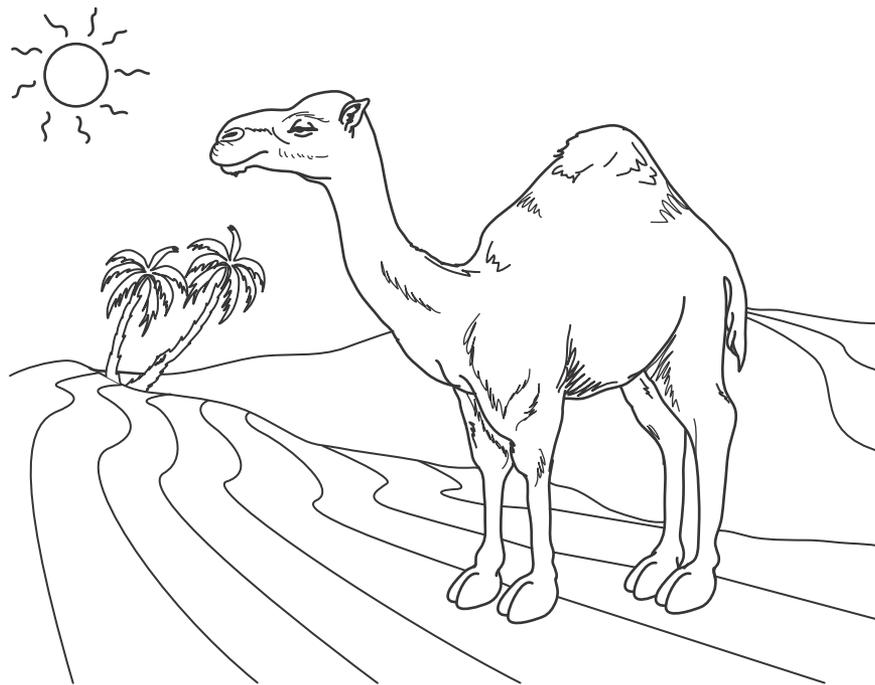
The man watched some creatures coming over a high sand dune. He knew the desert extended for miles and miles past that dune. "These creatures must be able to walk in the desert without water for a long time!" he thought.

On the fourth day, the man came across one of the gentle giants. It was down in the sand with its eyes closed, dozing. The man had an idea.

"Perhaps this creature could help me carry my load," he thought. So he walked quietly up to the animal. He slipped a rope around its mouth and back over its ears. Then he loaded all of his belongings onto the creature's back and slipped onto its hump.

The animal awoke and got to its feet. The man rode it all the way home. His children greeted him excitedly. They too wanted to ride the wonderful creature.

"Now we can make the desert our home!" the man said happily. And that is how the camel came to be humans' great helper. And that is why we call it "The Ship of the Desert."



Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “The Ship of the Desert.”

- 6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentences from the passage.

He carried food and water on his back. He lugged his heavy tent on the ground behind him, dragging it across the sand.

What does the word lugged mean?

- (A) bounced
- (B) kicked
- (C) pulled
- (D) smashed

Part B: Which words from the sentences help you understand what lugged means?

- (A) “food and water”
- (B) “heavy tent”
- (C) “behind him”
- (D) “dragging it”

7 How does the sequence of events help you understand the passage?
Pick **two** choices.

- (A) The story is organized so that each day, the man has a different thought.
- (B) It shows that the man wants to ride the camel on the first day.
- (C) The man slowly gains knowledge by the end of the story.
- (D) The camel refuses to help the man on the third day.
- (E) The last day shows how the man learns nothing about the animal.

8 Read the sentence from the passage.

It was down in the sand with its eyes closed, dozing.

What does dozing mean in the sentence above?

- (A) digging
- (B) drinking
- (C) eating
- (D) sleeping

9 What happens after the man rides the creature all the way home?

- (A) His children greet him excitedly.
- (B) The creature falls asleep in the sand.
- (C) The creature bellows at the man and frightens him.
- (D) He watches some creatures walk over a high sand dune.

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 10** Put the events of the passage in the correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5. Write the correct number in front of each event.

_____	The man rides the animal all the way home.
_____	The man walks through the desert to return to his family.
_____	The man sees a creature that scares him.
_____	The man realizes the animals don't need water for a long time.
_____	The man watches these animals and learns about them.



Read the article “City of Parades” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

City of Parades

Chicago is a big city. People from many different countries have come to live here. All these people are proud of their cultures. Every year they show their pride by marching in parades to celebrate their cultures. Many spectators fill the sidewalks to cheer on the people in the parade.

The first parade every year is the Chinese New Year Parade. It celebrates the first day of the Chinese calendar. The parade is held in January or February. People line the streets to watch the lion and dragon dancers, magicians, and acrobats. The parade ends with a huge, long paper dragon. People carry it on poles. Noisy firecrackers are set off as the dragon winds down the street.

Next comes the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. It happens in March. People march down the street with bagpipes. They play Irish songs. There are also marching bands, floats, and dancers. The dancers do the Irish jig. It is a tradition to wear green on Saint Patrick’s Day. Even the Chicago River is green this day! People pour green dye into the river to make it green.

Just a few days later, people from Iran have a parade. They call the day Nowruz. It marks their New Year. Nowruz falls on the first day of spring. People place pink and purple flowers on the roadside. Children carry pinwheels shaped like flowers. People carry long signs that say, “Happy Nowruz!” Later in the day, many families get together for a holiday dinner.

Next is the Greek Independence Day Parade. This parade is held to celebrate Greece’s freedom. People wave blue and white Greek flags as they march down the street. Men dress like army guards. They wear red caps and white skirts. They also wear red shoes that have big black balls of fur on the toes.

The Fifth of May Parade comes after the Greek parade. Mexican Americans call this day Cinco de Mayo. This parade is held to celebrate the day Mexico won an important battle. Red, white, and green floats parade down the street. Men and women in colorful costumes dance. Bands blow their horns and play their guitars. In fact, Mexican Americans have two parades each year. They also have a parade in September to celebrate their freedom.

The Columbus Day Parade is held in October. The parade celebrates Christopher Columbus's journey and the Italian-American culture. Italian Americans show their pride by playing music and performing dances from their country. It is the last cultural parade of the year.

All of these cultures make Chicago a very interesting place to live.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “City of Parades.”

1 Read the sentence from the article.

People place pink and purple flowers on the roadside.

Based on the words *road* and *side*, what is the meaning of the compound word roadside?

- (A) the side of a road
- (B) a road with two sides
- (C) the side of a driveway
- (D) a road that goes sideways

2 Which **three** words from the article are compound words?

- (A) bagpipes
- (B) cultures
- (C) firecrackers
- (D) sidewalks
- (E) traditions
- (F) parades

- 3** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: What is the paper dragon in the Chinese New Year Parade a sign of?

- (A) The acrobats are coming.
- (B) The parade is about to end.
- (C) The lion dancers are coming.
- (D) The parade is about to begin.

Part B: Underline the sentence from the passage that **best** supports your answer in part A.

The first parade every year is the Chinese New Year Parade. It celebrates the first day of the Chinese calendar. The parade is held in January or February. People line the streets to watch the lion and dragon dancers, magicians, and acrobats. The parade ends with a huge, long paper dragon. People carry it on poles. Noisy firecrackers are set off as the dragon winds down the street.

- 4 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Why does the author talk about the Columbus Day Parade at the end of the article?

- (A) It has the most spectators.
- (B) It is the least important parade.
- (C) it is the final parade of the year.
- (D) It has the fewest floats in the parade.

Part B: What text evidence supports your answer in part A?

- (A) The Columbus Day Parade takes place in October.
- (B) The parade celebrates Italian-American culture.
- (C) Italian Americans play music and perform dances.
- (D) The Columbus Day Parade is the last cultural parade of the year.

- 5 How does the author organize the article to show that Chicago is the city of parades?

- (A) by explaining how each parade started
- (B) by comparing and contrasting each of the parades
- (C) by telling the sequence in which the parades happen
- (D) by telling the number of people that take part in the parades

Read the article “Pasta Comes to America” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Pasta Comes to America

Many Americans like pasta. They enjoy making and eating pasta dishes. Pasta can be long and thin. It can be short and thick. It can even come in shapes like wheels or stars. The names of different types of pasta often describe the way the noodle looks. For example, the word *spaghetti* means “little strings” in Italian. Some people eat pasta with cheese sauce or tomato sauce. Others love it with meat sauce or even just a little oil.

People who like pasta can thank Italian Americans. They helped bring pasta to America. Italians first came to America more than one hundred years ago. Many Italians came to live in the big cities in America. Often they would live together in their own neighborhoods. That is why many big cities today have a neighborhood called “Little Italy.”

Italians loved many things about America. But they did not always like the food in their new country. They missed the food from Italy. They especially missed pasta. They liked the hard cheeses that they could cook with pasta. They grew vegetables and spices in their gardens. They would add fresh vegetables and spices to their sauces and pasta. They also liked fruit. They would eat it with pasta.

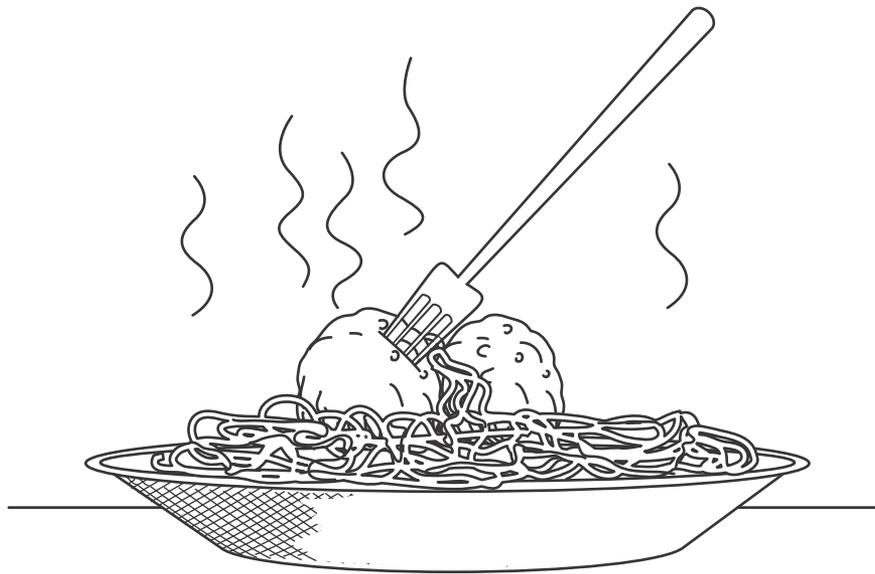
This was a different way of eating than most Americans were used to. They did not often use fresh fruits and vegetables in their cooking. And pasta was new to them, too.

Italian Americans found ways to get the foods they liked. First, they planted vegetables and spices in their own gardens. Then, they bought cheeses and pasta that came from faraway Italy.

Then war broke out. Pasta and cheese could not be shipped all the way from Italy. Pasta factories began to open in America. They could make the pasta that Italians wanted.

As a result, there was a lot of pasta being made in America. It did not cost much money to buy. Then it was discovered that pasta was healthy. Recipes for homemade pasta meals were included in cookbooks and magazines. Americans began to eat pasta at mealtimes in their homes. Spaghetti and meatballs became a favorite meal.

Italian Americans started to open pasta restaurants. They called them spaghetti houses. Italian restaurants soon became very popular restaurants. People liked these restaurants. It made them feel like they were in Italy. Even today, Americans enjoy eating at Italian restaurants.



Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “Pasta Comes to America.”

- 6 How does the author organize “Pasta Comes to America”?
- (A) by comparing Italian foods to other foods
 - (B) by describing the foods Italian Americans enjoyed
 - (C) by listing the order of events that led to Italian food’s popularity
 - (D) by explaining how Italian Americans were able to find the food they wanted

- 7 Read the sentence from the article.

Recipes for homemade pasta meals were included in cookbooks and magazines.

Based on the words *home* and *made*, what is the meaning of the compound word homemade?

- (A) materials used to build a home, such as wood or brick
- (B) made at home, rather than in a store or factory
- (C) family dinners served at home, rather than in a restaurant
- (D) different types of homes, such as ranches or log cabins

8 How does the author help the reader understand how Americans came to love pasta?

- (A) by comparing Italian food to American food
- (B) by giving the reasons why Italians eat pasta
- (C) by explaining how eating pasta helped Americans
- (D) by telling what happened once Italians moved to America

9 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: How does the author explain the opening of American pasta factories?

- (A) The factories were the cause for war breaking out.
- (B) The factories were a contrast to the Italian factories.
- (C) The factories were the reason Italian restaurants became popular.
- (D) The factories were a key step in how Italians found the food they wanted.

Part B: Which sentence from the article **best** supports your answer in part A?

- (A) "They could make the pasta that Italians wanted."
- (B) "Then it was discovered that pasta was healthy."
- (C) "Italian Americans started to open pasta restaurants."
- (D) "Then, they bought cheeses and pasta that came from faraway Italy."

Name: _____ Date: _____

10 Which **three** words from the article are compound words?

- Ⓐ vegetables
- Ⓑ cookbooks
- Ⓒ factories
- Ⓓ gardens
- Ⓔ mealtimes
- Ⓕ meatballs



