

The pet store (A2)

George is at the pet store, looking at what kind of pet he might want to get for his birthday. George asked if he could have a horse, but his parents said no because horses are too big.

First, he sees dogs and cats. Baby dogs are called puppies. Baby cats are called kittens. George likes them because they are easy to take care of and can play a lot, but they will get bigger. George wants a small pet.

Then George sees animals that have to live in a cage. He sees rabbits, guinea pigs, and mice. Mice are what you call more than one mouse. He likes these animals because they are small. Birds live in cages too. George sees a parrot and a canary. He likes them all, but he doesn't want to clean the cage.

George sees the animals in tanks. The tanks full of water have fish and turtles in them. He thinks about a goldfish but decides he likes the turtles more. There are also tanks with rocks and sand that have snakes, spiders, and scorpions, but George is afraid of them. George likes the turtles best, but they won't fit in the little fishbowls. Turtles need bigger tanks, so they can swim sometimes and hide sometimes.

George decides he wants to get a turtle for his birthday. He buys a book on how to take care of a turtle and a list of what types of turtles the store has.

Did you understand the text?

1) What kind of pet did George want, but his parents said no because they were too big?

- ☐ a) A Puppy
- ☐ b) A Kitten
- ☐ c) A Horse
- ☐ d) A Rabbit

2) What kind of pet does NOT live in a cage?

- ☐ a) Rabbits
- ☐ b) Guinea pigs
- ☐ c) Mice/Mouse
- ☐ d) Goldfish

3) Which kind of pet did NOT scare George?

- ☐ a) The Scorpions
- ☐ b) The Canaries
- ☐ c) The Spiders
- ☐ d) The Snakes

4) What kind of pet did George decide he wanted to get for his birthday?

- ☐ a) Turtle
- ☐ b) Parrot
- ☐ c) Goldfish
- ☐ d) Mouse

Days of the week (A2)

There are seven days of the week, or uniquely named 24-hour periods designed to provide scheduling context and make time more easily measureable. Each of these days is identifiable by specific plans, moods, and tones.

Monday is viewed by many to be the "worst" day of the week, as it marks the return to work following the weekend, when most full-time employees are given two days off. Most students attend school in the morning and return home in the afternoon (usually from about eight until three or seven until two), and most workers go to work in the morning and return home in the evening (usually from nine to five or eight to four).

Tuesday is the second day of the week, and is in many ways similar to Monday. Not a whole lot changes, schedule-wise, between Tuesday and Monday; most individuals go to school or work and return home to watch television, play video games, make plans with friends, spend time with family, read, or engage in a similar leisure-related activity.

Wednesday is the third day of the week, and serves as the "middle" of the work week; some individuals refer to Wednesday as "hump day," as once its workday is complete, employees will have passed the work-week "hump," and will be on the downturn, as only two days on the job will remain in the week.

Thursday is the fourth day of the week, and is viewed favorably by many, as it's rather close to the end of the work week.

Friday is the fifth day of the week, and marks the end of the workweek and school-week for the vast majority of employees and students. By Friday afternoon/evening, most students/workers cannot wait to leave and go home, as they won't have to report back to school/work until Monday.

Saturday is perhaps the most highly regarded day of the week. Because Sunday follows it (and there is presumably no work or school to attend, for most individuals), everyone is free to stay out (or awake) until late at night, having fun with plans or other leisure-related activities. To be sure, Saturday is generally thought of as a day to partake in hobbies that couldn't otherwise be enjoyed during the regular week.

Sunday is the final day of the week, and is used by most as a day of rest. Fewer late-night plans are made on Sundays, compared to Saturdays, as most individuals have to wake up for work or school on Monday morning.

Did you understand the text?

1) How many days of the week are there?

- ☐ a) six
- ☐ b) three
- ☐ c) seven
- ☐ d) five

Numbers (A2)

Most individuals don't think about numbers, or numerical representations of quantity, but they play a major part in everyday life. To be sure, numbers determine the time individuals will wake up in the morning, how much money employees earn per hour, what day of the year it is, and much, much more.

Additionally, numbers impact everyday living on a much smaller scale. In the grocery store, for instance, numbers determine products' prices, the amount of a product available for purchase, how much money will need to be paid for products, and a whole lot else.

To understand larger (and more intimidating numbers), interested persons first need to understand basic numbers, or numbers from one to ten, as they comprise each and every advanced number, or a multi-digit number that indicates a larger amount/quantity.

The basic numbers are as follows:

One (1) - Example: "He purchased one watermelon from the grocery store."

Two (2) - Example: "She bought two types of bread from the store."

Three (3) - Example: "He decided to get three bags of onions when he went shopping."

Four (4) - Example: "In preparation for the party, Janice bought four cartons of ice cream at the store."

Five (5) - Example: "Joe picked up five boxes of cereal from the breakfast aisle."

Six (6) - Example: "A pound of beef costs a lot of money at my favorite grocery store."

Seven (7) - Example: "Seven of the 10 aisles at my local grocery store contain pasta."

Eight (8) - Example: "I bought eight cookies for the price of four at the store."

Nine (9) - Example: "There were only nine loafs of bread left at the grocery store."

Ten (10) - Example: "Ten pineapples sure is a lot, don't you think?"

After ten, eleven (11), twelve (12), thirteen (13), fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16), seventeen (17), eighteen (18), nineteen (19), and twenty (20) follow. These numbers are seen less in grocery stores, as most prices are 10 dollars or less; it is however worth knowing these numbers, generally and, in terms of grocery shopping, for when the bill must be paid.

After twenty, numbers such as twenty-five (25), fifty (50), seventy-five (75), and one hundred (100) follow. So long as one knows the core number, or the number situated in the tens or hundreds position that determines the general amount, understanding these more complicated numbers won't be difficult. For example thirty-three (33) is simply "thirty" plus three; sixty-seven is "sixty" plus seven; and sixty-nine is simply "sixty" plus nine.

My family at home (A2)

My family lives in a small house. It's simple but pretty. It has a large garden. I like to work in the garden but my sister hates to work in the garden. She prefers to read. She reads in the morning, in the afternoon and at night.

I give all of the vegetables to mom and dad. They like to cook in our small kitchen. I eat any vegetable but my sister eats only a few.

My family always eats breakfast and dinner together. We talk. We laugh. Then my sister washes the dishes.

At night dad likes to listen to music. Mom works on the computer. I watch television. And my sister reads.

Soon we go to bed. My parents go to bed late but my sister and I go to bed early. I'm ready to go to sleep but my sister wants to keep reading.

Did you understand the text?

1) Which is another way to describe the family's house?

- ☐ a) cramped but cozy
- ☐ b) narrow but suitable
- ☐ c) little but attractive
- ☐ d) old but cheery

2) The family has how many members?

- ☐ a) two
- ☐ b) three
- ☐ c) four
- ☐ d) five

3) Who doesn't enjoy working in the garden?

- ☐ a) grandmother
- ☐ b) cousin
- ☐ c) father
- ☐ d) sister

4) When does the sister like to read?

- ☐ a) at night
- ☐ b) in the afternoon
- ☐ c) in the morning
- ☐ d) all of the above

5) When do the family members not eat together?

- ☐ a) at dinner
- ☐ b) at lunch
- ☐ c) at breakfast
- ☐ d) all of the above

Doctor (A2)

Doctor Klein: Good morning, Cecilia, how are you feeling today?

Cecilia: I do not feel very well, Doctor Klein. I hope that you can treat my illness.

Doctor Klein: I'm sorry that you feel very sick. Tell me some of your symptoms so that I can give you a proper diagnosis.

Cecilia: I have not felt well since yesterday afternoon. The symptoms began with a headache and a gradual sore throat. I drank tea with lemon and honey, and I went to bed early. However, I am extremely exhausted, and I don't feel any better today.

Doctor Klein: I have seen these symptoms recently in some of my other patients. I'll check your temperature and examine your throat in order to give you a proper diagnosis.

Cecilia: Thank you, Doctor.

Doctor Klein: Open up and say "Ahhhhhh..."

Cecilia: "Ahhhhhh..."

Doctor Klein: Oh, my! I can already see that your throat is very red. Your temperature of 100 degrees indicates that you are running a mild fever. I am afraid that you might have the flu.

Cecilia: What is the best way to cure my symptoms?

Doctor Klein: You will need plenty of rest, and you should drink fluids frequently in order to stay hydrated. You've also just started to show symptoms, so I can prescribe you a medication that can reduce fever and shorten the duration of your illness.

Cecilia: Should I stay home from work as well?

Doctor Klein: Yes, you should remain in bed until the fever breaks. You should also wait until 24 hours after the fever has broken before you return to work. You do not want to risk getting your coworkers sick as well.

Cecilia: I suppose I will just take it easy and relax for a couple of days. Thank you, doctor, for all of your help!

Doctor Klein: No problem! Try your best to rest for a couple of days. I hope you feel better soon!

Did you understand the text?

1) When did Cecilia begin to feel ill?

- ☐ a) last night
- ☐ b) this morning
- ☐ c) yesterday morning
- ☐ d) yesterday afternoon

3) Dr. Klein diagnoses Cecilia with which illness?

- ☐ a) the common cold
- ☐ b) the flu
- ☐ c) hay fever
- ☐ d) a head injury

2) Which of the following is not one of Cecilia's symptoms:

- ☐ a) sore throat
- ☐ b) vomiting
- ☐ c) exhaustion
- ☐ d) headache

4) How long does Cecilia have to wait until she can return to work?

- ☐ a) 15 minutes after taking her medication
- ☐ b) 100 minutes after her medical appointment
- ☐ c) 24 hours after the fever breaks
- ☐ d) 72 hours after her initial symptoms began

A great summer vacation (A2)

I just returned from the greatest summer vacation! It was so fantastic, I never wanted it to end. I spent eight days in Paris, France. My best friends, Henry and Steve, went with me. We had a beautiful hotel room in the Latin Quarter, and it wasn't even expensive. We had a balcony with a wonderful view.

We visited many famous tourist places. My favorite was the Louvre, a well-known museum. I was always interested in art, so that was a special treat for me. The museum is so huge, you could spend weeks there. Henry got tired walking around the museum and said "Enough! I need to take a break and rest."

We took lots of breaks and sat in cafes along the river Seine. The French food we ate was delicious. The wines were tasty, too. Steve's favorite part of the vacation was the hotel breakfast. He said he would be happy if he could eat croissants like those forever. We had so much fun that we're already talking about our next vacation!

Did you understand the text?

1) What city did they go to for their summer vacation?

- ☐ a) Lyon
- ☐ b) Louvre
- ☐ c) Paris
- ☐ d) Latin

2) How long was the summer vacation?

- ☐ a) Eight weeks
- ☐ b) Eight days
- ☐ c) One week
- ☐ d) Two weeks

3) What did their hotel room have?

- ☐ a) A balcony
- ☐ b) A refrigerator
- ☐ c) A view of the metro
- ☐ d) A bottle of wine

4) Who got tired walking in the Louvre museum?

- ☐ a) Steve
- ☐ b) Harry
- ☐ c) Seine
- ☐ d) Henry

5) What did Steve enjoy the most?

- ☐ a) The wine and the food
- ☐ b) The cafes along the river Seine
- ☐ c) The Latin Quarter and the balcony
- ☐ d) The hotel breakfast and the croissants

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Preparing food (A1)

Jack was hungry. He walked to the kitchen. He got out some eggs. He took out some oil. He placed a skillet on the stove. Next, he turned on the heat. He poured the oil into the skillet. He cracked the eggs into a bowl. He stirred the eggs. Then, he poured them into the hot skillet. He waited while the eggs cooked. They cooked for two minutes. He heard them cooking. They popped in the oil.

Next, Jack put the eggs on a plate. He placed the plate on the dining room table. Jack loved looking at his eggs. They looked pretty on the white plate. He sat down in the large wooden chair. He thought about the day ahead. He ate the eggs with a spoon. They were good.

He washed the plate with dishwashing soap. Then, he washed the pan. He got a sponge damp. Finally, he wiped down the table. Next, Jack watched TV.

Did you understand the text?

1) What food was cooked?

- ☐ a) Pork
- ☐ b) Rice
- ☐ c) Fish
- ☐ d) Eggs

2) Where did Jack eat the eggs?

- ☐ a) In front of the TV
- ☐ b) At the dining room table
- ☐ c) In the kitchen
- ☐ d) In his room

3) How long did the eggs cook?

- ☐ a) 2 minutes
- ☐ b) 3 minutes
- ☐ c) 5 minutes
- ☐ d) 10 minutes

4) What was the chair made of?

- ☐ a) Wood
- ☐ b) Metal
- ☐ c) Stone
- ☐ d) We do not know

5) Jack cooked in a skillet. What is another word for skillet?

- ☐ a) Slow cooker
- ☐ b) Pan
- ☐ c) Oven
- ☐ d) Microwave