

READING COMPREHENSION

1) Every year in New Orleans, Louisiana, the city celebrates Mardi Gras. During the Mardi Gras season, tourists visit from all over the world. The celebration goes on for weeks and includes parades with floats, marching bands, and dance teams. The parades march on for miles through the city, embarking at the Mississippi River, advancing through the historic neighborhoods of the Garden District, until they finally arrive at the French Quarter for the biggest party of the night. Between parades, visitors and locals alike enjoy the New Orleans cuisine during Mardi Gras (especially etouffe, jambalaya, and crawfish stew) while listening to the city's world-known jazz music. The culture of New Orleans is always vibrant, but it truly comes to life at Mardi Gras.

The main idea of the paragraph is

- A. Parades include floats, marching bands, and dance teams.
- B. Visitors come from all over the world to enjoy the Mardi Gras celebration.
- C. New Orleans is known for jazz music.
- D. Mardi Gras offers locals and tourists many opportunities to celebrate.

2) The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) wants to get trans fats off the 'safe' list for food products. Many food manufacturers use trans fats, also known as hydrogenated oils, because they are cheap and help the foods stay stable on the shelves for long periods of time. But doctors have found that these fats raise blood levels of low-density lipoprotein, the 'bad cholesterol.' In addition, trans fats are bad for our livers. Evidence has linked eating trans fats to obesity and liver disease. There are healthier alternatives to trans fats. If the FDA rules to completely eliminate them, then manufacturers would have to reformulate their recipes.

Low-density lipoproteins are:

- A) Good for your body
- B) Useful for manufacturing food products with long shelf lives
- C) A toxic chemical found in certain foods
- D) A form of cholesterol that is not healthy.

3) In the words of the late Steve Jobs, "If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle." Oftentimes, students are disillusioned upon entering academies of higher education; they expect to decide upon arrival exactly what they are meant to do with their lives. However, many students do not know what they want to be when they "grow up" until later in life—and that is OK. Exploration is important. For example, before famous actor Harrison Ford became Indiana Jones, he was a carpenter. He traded in his woodworking tools for a new career. Before she became a domestic entrepreneur, Martha Stewart was a stockbroker. While in school, take the time to learn what you like, and don't settle for the career path you think you *should* take. Instead, commit to finding a career and job that will bring you satisfaction.

The purpose of this passage is to

- A. teach students how to find their career choice.
- B. communicate to students that career choice takes time
- C. challenge students to finally settle on a career path
- D. encourage students to choose a career path

Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

- 4) Most male animals in the wild will have multiple mates in their lifetime.
Wolves keep the same partner for life, and always travel in the same pack.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It restates the idea found in the first.
- B. It reinforces the first.
- C. It provides a contrast to the first.
- D. It explains what is stated in the first.

Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

- 5) Global warming is a scientific term used to describe the rising average temperature of the Earth.
Scientists believe that global warming is partly caused by humans burning fossil fuels.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It expands on the first sentence.
- B. It provides an effect of the first.
- C. It contradicts the first sentence.
- D. It explains what is stated in the first.