

Things happen in THREES

1. They say things happen in threes. I don't know who first said this, but last Monday I certainly found out that it is true!
2. Actually, it all began on Sunday evening. Sunday was the last day before the start of daylight saving. At 2 am on Monday, time was to be brought forward by one hour for several months to gain an extra hour of sunlight in the evenings. People don't actually get up in the middle of the night to do that. They just do it as they're going to bed. Well, our family forgot ... no, make that Mum forgot. She's the person who sets all the clocks in our house, like the one on the microwave oven. She also sets her digital clock radio and uses it as an alarm. So, when her alarm went off at the usual time of 6.30 am, it was really 7.30 am! Of course, if she'd used her phone alarm, the time would have changed automatically. But she didn't!
3. All the family were going about their usual morning routine, completely unaware of the actual time. We soon came to our senses when Oliver from next door came over at 8.15 to get a lift with us. I was working on it being 7.15, still in my pyjamas and about to pour some milk on my cereal!
4. Well, it looked like a comedy in our house! Everyone was grabbing breakfast on the run, racing around getting dressed, making lunches, packing bags. Finally, Mum's car screeched to a halt outside the school grounds only five minutes late.
5. It was assembly first thing on a Monday. I was whispering to my friend about what had happened when I heard my name called out. Correction, I *thought* I heard my name called out. Thinking I was to receive an award, I walked up towards the front. Another child was doing the same. Then a friend pulled my sleeve as I passed him and said: 'You idiot! It's Dean Johnson who won, not you!' Oh, no! My name is Kane Johnson. How embarrassing! I went bright red and tried to slink back unnoticed to my seat, pretending not to hear all the muffled sniggering sounds.
6. The third unfortunate happening occurred during our sports session. Baseball was the game that day. I was first batter and stood up to the plate, bat in hand. The ball was pitched to me and I took a wild swing at it. At the same time I heard a ripping sound and realised the stitching in my shorts had split. I was hoping that the laughter from my team mates was just because I'd missed the ball. But no! They were also rolling around with laughter because the split had revealed the underwear I was wearing. To save time getting dressed that morning, I'd left my pyjama shorts on. They were bright yellow and covered in silver and black lightning bolts! My face turned bright red again. I'm so glad things don't happen in fours. Or do they?

Comprehension

1. The word *sniggering* in Paragraph 5 means to giggle in a manner that is:

- (a) quiet and slightly rude.
- (b) loud and very happy.
- (c) extremely loud.

2. During daylight saving you have:

- (a) more sunlight in the morning.
- (b) more sunlight in the evening.
- (c) no change to the sunlight.

3. Before Kane took a swing at the baseball he:

- (a) heard a ripping sound.
- (b) went red in the face.
- (c) stood up to the plate.

4. The pronoun *him* in Paragraph 5 refers to:

- (a) Dean Johnson.
- (b) the friend.
- (c) the child.

5. The main idea of Paragraph 4 is to explain:

- (a) what happened after Kane's family realised the correct time.
- (b) that Oliver's appearance made Kane's family realise the correct time.
- (c) that Mum sped in the car to get them to school on time.

6. It is a fact, not an opinion, that:

- (a) Kane wore his pyjama shorts to school.
- (b) what happened at Kane's house was funny.
- (c) things happen in threes.

7. Kane's family slept in because:

- (a) it was darker outside than was usual.
- (b) it was raining.
- (c) the alarm wasn't set correctly.

8. It is likely Kane thought he'd heard his name called out because:

- (a) he was expecting an award.
- (b) a friend pulled his sleeve.
- (c) his name sounded similar to the winner's.

9. The writer would agree that:

- (a) things always happen in threes.
- (b) things always happen in fours.
- (c) things could happen in fours.

10. You can conclude that the writer:

- (a) doesn't mind being embarrassed.
- (b) doesn't enjoy being embarrassed.
- (c) thinks incidents that occur are comical.

11. The next time there is daylight saving, Kane will most likely insist his mum:

- (a) uses her mobile phone alarm.
- (b) gets up at 2 am to change the time.
- (c) continues to use her digital clock alarm.

12. The second and third incidents are similar because they both made Kane:

- (a) late for school.
- (b) feel embarrassed.
- (c) popular among his friends.

All about words

1. The word *automatically* in Paragraph 2 means something that happens or works:
 - (a) by itself
 - (b) with human help
 - (c) occasionally
2. Which word is a synonym for *ripping* in Paragraph 6?
 - (a) roaring
 - (b) screeching
 - (c) tearing
3. Which word pair both have more syllables than the word *microwave*?
 - (a) embarrassing, assembly
 - (b) automatically, unfortunate
 - (c) digital, evening
4. Which word follows the rule: 'when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel to most words ending with e, the e is dropped before adding the suffix'?
 - (a) unnoticed
 - (b) dressed
 - (c) happened
5. Which pair of compound words do not mean the same as the two words that make them?
 - (a) sunlight, breakfast
 - (b) underwear, baseball
 - (c) forgot, towards
6. Which pair of words do not both have a long e sound like *seat*?
 - (a) evenings, actually
 - (b) team, wearing
 - (c) receiver, threes
7. The word is an antonym for *receive* in Paragraph 5.
 - (a) lose
 - (b) give
 - (c) gain
8. The word *idiot* in Paragraph 5 could be replaced with:
 - (a) idol
 - (b) child
 - (c) fool
9. Which words both have a soft c sound like *racing*?
 - (a) cereal, receiver
 - (b) certainly, comedy
 - (c) unnoticed, clock
10. The contraction *she'd* in Paragraph 2 is made from the words:
 - (a) she and could
 - (b) she and had
 - (c) she and would
11. Which pair of words are in alphabetical order?
 - (a) completely, comedy
 - (b) realised, revealed
 - (c) raining, racing
12. Which words both have a short u sound like *just*?
 - (a) months, cover
 - (b) during, usual
 - (c) Sunday, due

Grammar

1. The words *Monday, Sunday, Kane* and *Johnson* have capital letters because they are:
 - (a) *days of the week*
 - (b) *proper nouns*
 - (c) *common nouns*

2. In Paragraph 2, the ellipsis (...) punctuation is used:
 - (a) *to provide a pause.*
 - (b) *for dramatic effect.*
 - (c) *to show missing text.*

3. Verb tense can tell about what has happened (past), what is happening (present) or what will happen (future). Which tense are the verbs in this sentence?

As it was raining, I guessed it was due to the cloud cover.

 - (a) *past*
 - (b) *present*
 - (c) *future*

4. A noun phrase is a group of words which begins with a noun or its determiner; e.g. *a car outside the school grounds, the start of daylight saving*. What is the noun phrase in this sentence?

I realised the stitching in my shorts had split.

 - (a) *I realised*
 - (b) *had split*
 - (c) *the stitching in my shorts*

5. Quantifying determiners tell how much of the noun there is; e.g. *several months, more daylight*. The quantifying determiner in this sentence is:

I was about to pour some milk on my cereal.

 - (a) *about*
 - (b) *some*
 - (c) *cereal*

6. The adverb *automatically* in this sentence tells the in which something happens.

Her mobile phone changed the time automatically.

 - (a) *frequency*
 - (b) *purpose*
 - (c) *manner*

7. A preposition phrase begins with a preposition; e.g. *I walked towards the front*. Which phrase is not a preposition phrase?

This unfortunate happening occurred during our sports session after lunch.

 - (a) *This unfortunate happening*
 - (b) *during our sports session*
 - (c) *after lunch*

8. In this sentence, which word is the conjunction that joins the two smaller sentences?

We soon came to our senses when Oliver arrived at the door.

 - (a) *soon*
 - (b) *when*
 - (c) *at*

Something extra

- ✦ Write a paragraph about a fourth incident that could have happened to Kane.
- ✦ Research to find out the difference in time between where you live and five other locations in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere in both summer and winter. Take daylight saving time into consideration.

GREENLAND: A STRANGE NAME FOR A LAND OF ICE

1. The name 'Greenland' fills your mind with images of a land covered with green grass, trees and lush plants. If you have visited Greenland or seen photographs of it, you know this is not true. This huge island, the largest in the world, is more than 80 per cent covered in ice. So why is it called Greenland?
2. There are two main theories as to how it got its name. A Viking explorer named Eric the Red is believed to have been the first European to live in Greenland, about 1000 years ago. He discovered it after being sent away from his homeland in Iceland. It was said he had murdered two people and was banished for three years as punishment. When his exile ended, Erik the Red decided to settle on the island permanently. To do this successfully, he needed more people. To make this freezing, icy place sound a more pleasant place to live, he called it Greenland. The truth is, only the coastal areas aren't covered in ice all year round and have grass in summer.
3. The other reason has to do with a translation error. Old maps show Greenland was called Gruntland. The word 'grunt' means 'ground'. The 'green' in Greenland was possibly meant to be 'grunt' (Groundland).
4. Looking at a world map gives you the answer to Greenland's icy environment. Most of Greenland lies within the Arctic Circle and the northernmost tip is only 700 km from the North Pole.
5. The greater part of Greenland is uninhabitable. The majority of its population live in coastal areas in the southwest, where the capital city of Nuuk is located. Here, the climate is less harsh.
6. While ice and steep cliffs make it hard to get around Greenland (unless you travel by boat or plane), the glaciers (rivers of ice) and the icebergs that break off them into the ocean are spectacular to see. Large icebergs are taller than a 15-storey building, while small ones are the size of a hut. Of course, this is only one-eighth of the iceberg; the rest is under the sea.
7. Even though Greenland generally does not live up to its name, the people who live there and tourists who visit enjoy this beautiful white world.



Comprehension

1. The word *uninhabitable* in Paragraph 5 means a place that is:

- (a) pleasant to live in
- (b) unable to be lived in
- (c) full of houses

2. Greenland is ice-covered because it:

- (a) is a huge island.
- (b) has icebergs in the sea.
- (c) is located so far to the north.

3. The main idea of Paragraph 5 is to explain:

- (a) where and why most people in Greenland live.
- (b) why most of Greenland is uninhabitable.
- (c) where the capital city is located.

4. Before Eric the Red was banished, he:

- (a) decided to live permanently in Greenland.
- (b) encouraged people to come to Greenland.
- (c) committed murder.

5. How much of an iceberg cannot be seen?

- (a) one-eighth
- (b) half
- (c) seven-eighths

6. It is an opinion, not a fact, that Greenland:

- (a) is beautiful.
- (b) has glaciers.
- (c) is icy.

7. If Greenland was located further south it would:

- (a) still have the same climate.
- (b) be warmer.
- (c) be even colder.

8. A glacier and an iceberg are similar because they both:

- (a) are rivers of ice.
- (b) float in the sea.
- (c) are formed from ice.

9. Which type of vehicle would be the most useful in Greenland?

- (a) helicopter
- (b) train
- (c) car

10. The author would agree that Greenland:

- (a) is not worth visiting.
- (b) has spectacular scenery.
- (c) is easy to travel around.

11. You can conclude that:

- (a) it is uncertain how Greenland got its name.
- (b) Greenland was named because of its green coastal areas.
- (c) Greenland was meant to be called Groundland.

12. The main idea of Paragraph 2 is to explain:

- (a) Eric the Red's part in Greenland's name.
- (b) who Eric the Red was.
- (c) how Greenland was settled.

All about words

1. The words *in exile* in Paragraph 2 mean:
 - (a) *living where you want to be.*
 - (b) *staying in a holiday place.*
 - (c) *being forced to live away from your home country.*
2. Which root word in each pair stays the same when the suffix *-ed* is removed?
 - (a) *located, believed*
 - (b) *covered, murdered*
 - (c) *banished, decided*
3. Which pair of words do not both have a long e sound like *green*?
 - (a) *freezing, people*
 - (b) *believed, sea*
 - (c) *reason, pleasant*
4. Which word would not fit in this group?

homeland southwest within

 - (a) *tourists*
 - (b) *Iceland*
 - (c) *Greenland*
5. The word is an antonym for *spectacular* in Paragraph 6.
 - (a) *ordinary*
 - (b) *amazing*
 - (c) *beautiful*
6. Which pair of words in Paragraph 2 are not both synonyms?
 - (a) *banish, exile*
 - (b) *freezing, icy*
 - (c) *believed, pleasant*
7. Which words both have more syllables than *punishment*?
 - (a) *environment, population*
 - (b) *northernmost, explorer*
 - (c) *uninhabitable, icebergs*
8. In which pair of words is one spelt incorrectly?
 - (a) *permanently, thoughts*
 - (b) *súccessfully, beautiful*
 - (c) *building, discovered*
9. Which pair of words are in alphabetical order?
 - (a) *Nuuk, North Pole*
 - (b) *Groundland, Greenland*
 - (c) *ice, iceberg*
10. Which word from Paragraph 6 is the homophone of a word that means *the telling of something that has happened*?
 - (a) *steep*
 - (b) *storey*
 - (c) *small*
11. Which word does not have a 'sh' sound like 'population'?
 - (a) *translation*
 - (b) *ocean*
 - (c) *glacier*
12. Which word does not have a silent consonant?
 - (a) *explorer*
 - (b) *scenery*
 - (c) *island*

Grammar

1. Viking, European and Nuuk have capital letters because they are:
 - (a) common nouns
 - (b) proper nouns
 - (c) collective nouns

2. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
 - (a) Does greenland lie within the arctic circle only 700 km from the north pole?
 - (b) Does Greenland lie within the Arctic Circle only 700 km from the North Pole.
 - (c) Does Greenland lie within the Arctic Circle only 700 km from the North Pole?

3. Adverbs can tell how (manner), when (time) or where (place) something happens. The adverb *successfully* in this sentence tells:

For Eric the Red to do this successfully, he needed more people.

 - (a) how
 - (b) when
 - (c) where

4. The preposition phrase which starts with a preposition and adds extra information about the verb is:

Erik the Red was banished for three years.

 - (a) Erik the Red
 - (b) was banished
 - (c) for three years

5. Which comparative adjectives should complete this sentence?

Greenland is the island in the world and has icebergs surrounding it than a 15-storey building.

 - (a) largest, tallest
 - (b) larger, taller
 - (c) largest, taller

6. Determiners are words which make information more precise for the reader; e.g. *those icebergs*. Which word is the determiner in this sentence?

Tourists who visit will enjoy this beautiful white world.

 - (a) will
 - (b) this
 - (c) white

7. Which word is the preposition linking a verb to a noun? Example: The rest is *under the sea*.

Erik the Red was banished from his homeland.

 - (a) was
 - (b) from
 - (c) homeland

8. Which word is a modal verb that helps another verb? Example: We *should visit*, he *must go*.

The word 'green' could have been meant to be 'grunt'.

 - (a) could
 - (b) to
 - (c) been

SOMETHING EXTRA

- ✦ Look in an atlas or world map and identify some of the countries near to Greenland. What are some major similarities or differences among the countries?
- ✦ Make a list of all the places and people mentioned in the text and write them in alphabetical order.

split ends

1. I'll never forget the day that I got the nickname, 'Backside Billy'. It was the most embarrassing moment of my life, but now that it happened so long ago I've started to think it's kind of amusing.
2. I was feeling great the day that it happened. It was a Monday and the first day back to school after the holidays. I had a fresh new haircut, new backpack and an awesome new bike. My school uniform T-shirt was new as well, but not my school shorts. They had been my brother's and were a little old. I didn't care though because who even looks at boring black shorts?
3. Riding into the school on my bike I got a lot of attention. It was a new XTR mountain bike in extreme green and lightning yellow. Every boy in my class wanted one. I rode in at blistering speed, slammed on the brakes and swerved around, squealing my tyres. Mr Fanning, our teacher, was not very impressed when he saw me, but I didn't get into trouble.
4. We had assembly first thing that morning. At the end we had aerobic fitness. Mr Fanning would lead us through some ridiculous-looking exercises like jumping jacks, squats and jogging on the spot. The whole school had to do it and he'd get one of the kids up on stage and help demonstrate the exercises. Mr Fanning started the music and scanned the assembly crowd for an assistant. When his eyes found me I tried to hide behind some of my friends.
5. 'Billy! Come up here and help me today. You seemed to have lots of energy on your bike this morning, so let's show the school how to get warmed up for the day!' he shouted out to me. I slowly made my way up to the stage and stood beside him. Looking out I realised how many children there were. I began to feel nervous.
6. Mr Fanning started with side stretches and then moved into jogging on the spot. I copied everything he did. Why did he have to choose me? This was so embarrassing. Slowly, Mr Fanning switched to doing squat stretches. I started to do the same and just as I was feeling my shorts stretching a little too much ... riiiiiiiiip!
7. The entire school was totally silent as the deafening ripping sound filled the air. You could have heard a pin drop! I turned around to see what the noise was and that's when it seemed that everyone in the world started to laugh. Then I knew ... the seat of my shorts had ripped wide open and I was showing the school my underwear! My new bright red boxer shorts were clearly visible through the big split. I ran to the classroom, horrified. How was I going to hide this?
8. And that's the day ... and the way ... I became Backside Billy.



Comprehension

1. What caused Billy to run to the classroom?

- (a) He didn't like his old shorts.
- (b) He thought doing aerobics was embarrassing.
- (c) His shorts had ripped.

2. What happened first?

- (a) Billy rode to school on his new bike.
- (b) Billy was feeling great.
- (c) Mr Fanning scanned the crowd.

3. You can work out that the children were laughing:

- (a) at Billy's ripped shorts.
- (b) because Billy looked silly doing aerobics.
- (c) at Mr Fanning.

4. It is a fact, not an opinion, that:

- (a) ripping his shorts was the most embarrassing moment of Billy's life.
- (b) Mr Fanning was not impressed by Billy's bike riding style.
- (c) Billy ran to the classroom.

5. In Paragraph 2, they refers to:

- (a) Billy's shorts.
- (b) the school holidays
- (c) new school things

6. You can predict that when Billy left the classroom he:

- (a) asked Mr Fanning if he could assist with aerobic fitness again.
- (b) rode around on his bike at blistering speed so others would notice.
- (c) tried to hide the rip in his shorts.

7. You can conclude that Billy:

- (a) does not care what he looks like.
- (b) likes to show off to his friends.
- (c) is good friends with Mr Fanning.

8. What caused Billy's shorts to split open?

- (a) Doing squats in aerobic fitness.
- (b) They were already torn and just ripped further.
- (c) They were too small.

9. A summary of Paragraph 3 is:

- (a) Billy had the new mountain bike that every boy in school wanted and showed it off.
- (b) Mr Fanning was not impressed with Billy or his bike.
- (c) Billy rode loudly into school on his new bike and got the attention of many people, including Mr Fanning.

10. The paragraph that is mainly about what Billy wore is:

- (a) Paragraph 3
- (b) Paragraph 2
- (c) Paragraph 4

11. Billy thought that doing aerobic fitness looked:

- (a) ridiculous
- (b) fun
- (c) tiring

12. Mr Fanning chose Billy to help because:

- (a) he wanted to embarrass Billy.
- (b) Billy had attracted his attention when he rode into school.
- (c) Billy needed exercise.

All about words

1. Which word in Paragraph 7 means to be so loud you can't hear anything else?

- (a) horrified
- (b) deafening
- (c) silent

2. In which word pair are both words not spelt correctly?

- (a) demonstrait, assisstant
- (b) embarrass, momant
- (c) showted, fantastic

3. Which word pair could be synonyms for swerved in Paragraph 3?

- (a) skidded, stopped
- (b) veered, turned
- (c) slammed, squealed

4. Which word comes second in alphabetical order?

- (a) aerobic
- (b) assembly
- (c) amusing

5. Which word belongs in this group of words?

nickname backpack awesome

- (a) boring
- (b) classroom
- (c) realise

6. Which word pair has the same number of syllables as assistant?

- (a) loudly, horrified
- (b) embarrassing, moment
- (c) assembly, exercise

7. The contraction he'd in Paragraph 4 is made from the words:

- (a) he and would
- (b) he and could
- (c) he and should

8. Say each word pair and listen to the first vowel sound. Which pair has the same first vowel sound as scanned?

- (a) assembly, stage
- (b) backpack, happened
- (c) brakes, attention

9. Which word is an antonym for impressed in Paragraph 3?

- (a) swayed
- (b) excited
- (c) unaffected

10. The sentence *You could have heard a pin drop!* in Paragraph 7 means:

- (a) There was a lot of noise and laughter.
- (b) It was completely silent and nobody was speaking.
- (c) The ripping sound made everyone deaf.

11. In some words the last consonant is doubled before adding ed to keep the vowel short (e.g. scanned, slammed). Which word below also follows this rule when adding ed?

- (a) impress
- (b) squeal
- (c) rip

12. Which word does not share the same sound with these words?

amusing through

- (a) mountain
- (b) choose
- (c) music

Grammar

1. Which sentence has the correct punctuation?
- (a) *I had a new haircut, backpack, bike, and even a new school T-shirt.*
- (b) *I had a new haircut, backpack, bike and even a new school T-shirt.*
- (c) *I had a new haircut, backpack, bike, and even a new, school T-shirt.*
2. A command verb is used to order, command or instruct (e.g. **Look at me!**). Which sentence uses a command verb?
- (a) *I'll never forget that day.*
- (b) *The entire school was totally silent.*
- (c) *Billy, come up here!*
3. Adverbs can tell the manner, time or place in which something happens. What does the adverb in this sentence tell about the verb **switched**?
- Slowly, Mr Fanning switched to doing squat stretches.
- (a) *manner (how)*
- (b) *time (when)*
- (c) *place (where)*
4. Adverbials can add extra information about a verb. Which is the adverbial in this sentence?
- My red boxer shorts were clearly visible through the split.
- (a) *my red boxer shorts*
- (b) *the split*
- (c) *clearly*
5. The ellipsis (...) is punctuation used at the end of Paragraph 6:
- (a) *to provide a pause.*
- (b) *to show missing text.*
- (c) *for dramatic effect.*
6. Verb tense can tell about what has happened (past), what is happening (present) or what will happen (future). In which tense is the verb in this sentence?
- You seemed to have lots of energy on your bike this morning.
- (a) *present*
- (b) *past*
- (c) *future*
7. Some of the adjectives used to describe a noun in this sentence are:
- Billy's new mountain bike was green and yellow.
- (a) *yellow, new*
- (b) *bike, new*
- (c) *yellow, Billy*
8. A determiner can give information about a noun e.g. *a child, your school*. Which two words are the determiners in this sentence?
- The teacher was not happy that Billy rode his bike recklessly.
- (a) *not, rode*
- (b) *the, his*
- (c) *was, recklessly*

Something extra

- ✦ Find ten words in the text starting with *s* and write them in alphabetical order.
- ✦ What would you have done in Billy's position? Write your answer.

And the award goes to ...

1. And the award goes to ... Who? What? ... Plants, of course! The plant kingdom is filled with fascinating trees, flowering plants, bushes, shrubs, herbs and ... even weeds! Discover the plants that have achieved 'awards' in the categories below.

2. *Smelliest flower*

Can you imagine what rotting flesh smells like? That's the disgusting odour the *Titan arum* gives off. This giant lily is also known as the 'corpse flower' because it has the stench of a dead body. The plant smells like this so it can attract the insects that eat dead animals. The insects get covered in pollen as they investigate the smell. Some of the pollen falls off them when they go to another flower. The lily takes six years to produce its first flower. Amazingly, the flower only blooms for about 36 hours before it starts to wilt.

3. *Tallest flowering plant*

This award goes to the mountain ash. It grows as much as one metre per year with most of these trees reaching a height of around 100 metres. Some grow as tall as 140 metres. If not cut down, a mountain ash can live for 400 years. Note: The coast redwood is the tallest tree species in the world. As it is a type of conifer and does not produce flowers, it can't win the tallest flowering plant award!

4. *Smallest flowering plant*

The watermeal plant is so small you could fit about 5000 in one heaped teaspoon! It is a type of duckweed that floats along on top of still water in ponds and lakes. It also produces the world's smallest fruit, called a 'utricle'.

5. *Most painful plant*

The stinging tree has tiny, glass-like hairs containing a toxin that can cause intense pain. Many animals are not bothered by the sting but a human feels severe pain for hours or even days if hairs pierce their skin and break off, releasing the toxin. The hairs are so small that the skin often closes over them. The only sure way of getting rid of them is by using a hair-removal waxing strip!

6. *Most well-known carnivorous plant*

The Venus flytrap is probably the most well-known carnivorous plant. Did you know it eats animals instead of getting its nutrients from the soil? Its leaves are actually 'traps' which the plant holds open in the air, like a clamshell. Insects are attracted to the plant by the sweet nectar on the leaves. When an insect lands on a leaf it snaps shut. Then the plant digests the insect. All that remains is leftover crunchy bits that the plant ejects before its next meal.



Venus flytrap

Comprehension

1. The words *starts to wilt* in Paragraph 2 mean that the plant has begun to:

- (a) bloom
- (b) smell
- (c) die

2. The Titan arum's flower has a disgusting smell so:

- (a) insects will stay away.
- (b) its pollen will be spread by insects attracted to it.
- (c) its flower will wilt.

3. It is an opinion, not a fact, that:

- (a) the Titan arum flower is amazing.
- (b) watermeal plants produce fruit.
- (c) stinging trees can hurt humans.

4. A coast redwood is different from a mountain ash because it is:

- (a) very tall
- (b) a tree
- (c) a conifer

5. A term not used to refer to the Titan arum in the text is:

- (a) a giant lily
- (b) a dead body
- (c) the corpse flower

6. What event occurs second? A Venus flytrap:

- (a) ejects leftover insect remains.
- (b) opens its leaves.
- (c) digests a captured insect.

7. The world's smelliest flower starts to wilt after about:

- (a) one and a half days.
- (b) one and a half weeks.
- (c) 36 days.

8. The writer would agree that the plant kingdom:

- (a) is not worth learning about.
- (b) has a limited number of species in it.
- (c) is full of interesting facts.

9. Which type of animal would be most attracted to a Venus flytrap?

- (a) mouse
- (b) bird
- (c) beetle

10. You can conclude that a stinging tree's sting:

- (a) can last a long time.
- (b) affects any animal that visits the tree.
- (c) is easy to treat.

11. A way to avoid a Titan arum's stench would be to:

- (a) inhale deeply.
- (b) wear a blindfold.
- (c) put a peg on your nose.

12. Which sentence would not be included in a summary of the paragraph about the watermeal plant?

- (a) Watermeal is used in aquariums.
- (b) Watermeal is a tiny floating plant found in still water.
- (c) Watermeal has a fruit called a utricle.

All about words

- 1. The word *releasing* in Paragraph 5 could be replaced with:**
 - (a) *discharging*
 - (b) *relaxing*
 - (c) *freezing*
- 2. Which root word does not stay the same when the suffix *-ed* is removed?**
 - (a) *bothered*
 - (b) *achieved*
 - (c) *covered*
- 3. Which word does not fit in this group?**

plants weeds bushes trees

 - (a) *herbs*
 - (b) *shrubs*
 - (c) *insects*
- 4. Which pair of words both have a long e sound like *leaves*?**
 - (a) *teaspoon, dead*
 - (b) *metre, break*
 - (c) *heaped, feels*
- 5. Which compound word does not mean the same as the two words that make it?**
 - (a) *flytrap*
 - (b) *leftover*
 - (c) *intense*
- 6. The word is an antonym for *disgusting* in Paragraph 2.**
 - (a) *revolting*
 - (b) *pleasing*
 - (c) *grasping*
- 7. Which pair of words are not synonyms?**
 - (a) *smallest, smelliest*
 - (b) *odour, smell*
 - (c) *tiny, small*
- 8. Which pair of words both have fewer syllables than the word *containing*?**
 - (a) *crunchy, carnivorous*
 - (b) *discover, attracted*
 - (c) *stinging, mountain*
- 9. Which pair of words is in alphabetical order?**
 - (a) *produce, pollen*
 - (b) *flowering, floats*
 - (c) *digests, disgusting*
- 10. In which pair of words is one spelt incorrectly?**
 - (a) *fascinating, severe*
 - (b) *height, catagories*
 - (c) *metres, ejects*
- 11. Which word from Paragraph 5 does not mean to go into sharply?**
 - (a) *pierce*
 - (b) *sting*
 - (c) *pain*
- 12. Which word has two silent consonants?**
 - (a) *hour*
 - (b) *human*
 - (c) *height*

Grammar

1. The ellipsis (...) is punctuation that can be used: 1. to show text is missing; 2. to provide a pause; 3. for dramatic effect. Each of the three ellipses in Paragraph 1 is used for:

- (a) missing text
- (b) a pause
- (c) dramatic effect

2. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- (a) Have you ever used a hair removal strip to take out glass like hairs from a stinging tree?
- (b) Have you ever used a hair-removal strip to take out glass-like hairs from a stinging tree?
- (c) Have you ever used a hair-removal strip to take out glass-like hairs from a stinging tree.

3. Which adjectives should complete this sentence?

The Titan arum is the flower while a stinging tree is the

- (a) smellier, painful
- (b) smelliest, most painful
- (c) smelliest, painfulest

4. An adjective phrase starts with an adjective and describes a noun or a pronoun; e.g. *most well-known carnivorous plant*. What is the adjective phrase in this sentence?

The stinging tree has tiny, glass-like hairs.

- (a) the stinging tree
- (b) has tiny
- (c) tiny, glass-like

5. Adverbs can tell how (manner), when (time) or where (place) something happens. The adverb *amazingly* in this sentence is one of:

Amazingly, the flower only blooms for 36 hours.

- (a) manner
- (b) time
- (c) place

6. Which word is a modal verb that helps another verb? Example: *It could sting, he might scream*.

A mountain ash can live for 400 years.

- (a) mountain
- (b) can
- (c) for

7. Determiners are words which make information more precise for the reader, e.g. *those plants*. Which word is the determiner in this sentence?

This giant lily smells like rotting flesh.

- (a) This
- (b) smells
- (c) like

8. Which word is the preposition linking a verb to a noun? Example: *floats along the pond*.

It snaps shut when an insect lands on a leaf.

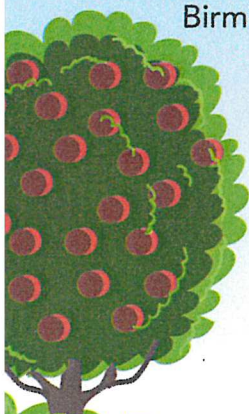
- (a) It
- (b) an
- (c) on

Something extra

- ✦ Rate the plants that received 'awards' in the order you most enjoyed reading about from 1 to 5, 1 being the best.
- ✦ Research to find out more about the plant you rated number 1 on your list.

Factory in a garden

1. When you rip the wrapper from your favourite Cadbury's chocolate bar, I don't suppose you ever think of the company that makes the chocolate and how it all began. But it does have an interesting history. Read on ...
2. In 1824, John Cadbury opened a shop in Birmingham, a large city in the UK. Among the many things he sold were tea, coffee, drinking chocolate and cocoa. After a few years, he began to make chocolate bars. As his business grew, John needed help, so his brother Benjamin joined him. Their chocolate became so popular that Queen Victoria gave the brothers a special award.
3. In Victorian times, most people who worked in factories lived in small, overcrowded houses with no gardens. When people became unwell, their illnesses spread quickly. The conditions were unhealthy and the people often unhappy.
4. The Cadburys strongly believed that everyone had the right to a happy and healthy life. Their dream was for the workers in their factory to have their own houses with large gardens. In these they could plant fruit trees, grow vegetables and have space to relax and play.
5. When John and Benjamin retired, John's sons George and Richard carried on the family business. In the countryside close to Birmingham, the brothers built a new factory and their dream village for their workers. It was in a place called Bournville, which had a stream running through it. A large park with a lake was created. Here families could gather and children could play freely in the fresh air. The environment was so pleasant that Cadbury's, Bournville became known as the 'factory in a garden'.
6. The Cadburys' strong belief in social justice did not stop there. As time went on, they funded a hospital, schools and a holiday home for children from the city's poor areas. To the people of Birmingham, they donated the Lickey Hills, a large country park just beyond Bournville.
7. Even today, as the sprawling city of Birmingham has gobbled up the countryside for kilometres round, Bournville still stands like an oasis in the middle of a red brick desert. As you take a walk around the village with its neat gardens full of flowers and trees, or stroll around the nearby park, you can smell the delicious aroma of chocolate coming from the 'factory in the garden'.
8. Maybe next time you rip the wrapper from your favourite Cadbury's chocolate bar, you will think of the family that showed how much it cared about social justice by improving the lives of its workers.



Comprehension

1. It is a fact, not an opinion, that the Cadbury company:

- (a) began in Birmingham.
- (b) makes the best chocolate.
- (c) was the best place to work.

2. The Cadburys created their dream village to:

- (a) make themselves feel good.
- (b) show how good they were.
- (c) give their workers a chance for a happy, healthy life.

3. The author wrote the text:

- (a) because he or she likes Cadbury's chocolate.
- (b) to show how caring the Cadbury family was.
- (c) to make you buy Cadbury's chocolate.

4. If the Cadburys had not built the village for their workers, the workers may have:

- (a) become sick more often.
- (b) left their jobs.
- (c) been offered better jobs.

5. Which happened last?

- (a) John Cadbury opened a shop.
- (b) The Bournville factory and village were built.
- (c) George and Richard Cadbury took over the family business.

6. In Paragraph 4, the word *these* refers to the:

- (a) workers
- (b) houses
- (c) gardens

7. In Paragraph 7, *gobbled up* means:

- (a) taken over
- (b) eaten quickly
- (c) destroyed

8. The main idea of Paragraph 6 is that the Cadbury family:

- (a) funded hospitals and schools.
- (b) donated the Lickey Hills park.
- (c) continued to help the people of Birmingham.

9. A summary of Paragraph 3 is:

In Victorian times:

- (a) factory workers lived in small houses which didn't have any gardens.
- (b) illness spread because factory workers lived in crowded, unhealthy houses.
- (c) factory workers were unhealthy and they were miserable.

10. You can conclude from the text that in Victorian Britain, many people:

- (a) had a hard life.
- (b) had an easy life.
- (c) lived in luxury.

11. Bournville is different now from how it was in Victorian times because it is surrounded by:

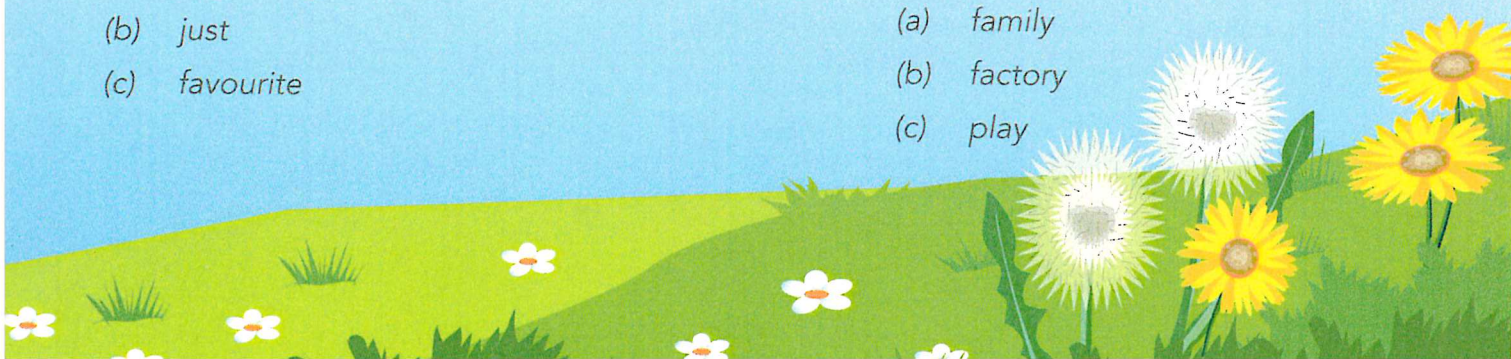
- (a) the city of Birmingham.
- (b) fields and hills.
- (c) water.

12. George and Richard were happy to take over the family business because they wanted to:

- (a) be rich
- (b) be famous
- (c) help their workers



All about words

1. Which word in Paragraph 5 could not be replaced with *designed*?
 - (a) *retired*
 - (b) *built*
 - (c) *created*
 2. Homographs are words that have the same spelling but different meanings. Which word from Paragraph 4 is a homograph of the word that means *a story performed on a stage*?
 - (a) *life*
 - (b) *dream*
 - (c) *play*
 3. Which compound word does not mean the same as the two words that make it?
 - (a) *everyone*
 - (b) *justice*
 - (c) *countryside*
 4. Which word from Paragraph 7 is an antonym of *compact*?
 - (a) *sprawling*
 - (b) *neat*
 - (c) *delicious*
 5. The word *oasis* in Paragraph 7 means:
 - (a) *a small village in the country*
 - (b) *a big city*
 - (c) *a place surrounded by desert where there is water for plants to grow*
 6. Which word has an *oo* sound as in *through*?
 - (a) *improving*
 - (b) *just*
 - (c) *favourite*
 7. The prefix *un-* gives a word the opposite meaning. Which word from Paragraph 3 means *miserable*?
 - (a) *unwell*
 - (b) *unhealthy*
 - (c) *unhappy*
 8. In which word is the *sh* sound made in a different way from the others?
 - (a) *special*
 - (b) *delicious*
 - (c) *condition*
 9. Which word has the same number of syllables as *relax*?
 - (a) *gather*
 - (b) *oasis*
 - (c) *hospital*
 10. Which two words both have a sound made by *ea* that is different from the one in *stream*?
 - (a) *created, neat*
 - (b) *pleasant, spread*
 - (c) *healthy, stream*
 11. Which pair of words is not in alphabetical order?
 - (a) *stroll, stream*
 - (b) *social, special*
 - (c) *unhappy, unhealthy*
 12. Which word does not follow the 'change the *y* to *i* and add *es*' rule to form its plural?
 - (a) *family*
 - (b) *factory*
 - (c) *play*
- 

1. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- (a) *Cadbury's chocolate is popular worldwide.*
- (b) *The Cadbury's were a very caring family.*
- (c) *The Cadbury's belief in social justice was very strong.*

2. A group of words that starts with a noun is called a **noun phrase**; e.g. *houses with no gardens*. In this sentence, the noun phrase is:

The Cadbury brothers donated a country park to the people of Birmingham.

- (a) *Cadbury brothers*
- (b) *donated a country park*
- (c) *people of Birmingham*

3. Which word is a preposition linking a noun and a noun group in this sentence?

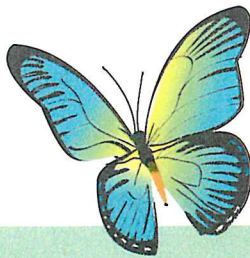
They wanted people to have their own houses with large gardens.

- (a) *to*
- (b) *their*
- (c) *with*

4. A preposition phrase is a group of words starting with a preposition. In this sentence, the preposition phrase is:

The factory in the park makes delicious chocolate.

- (a) *The factory in the park*
- (b) *makes delicious chocolate*
- (c) *in the park*



5. Which word is the relative pronoun that refers to a noun mentioned earlier in the sentence?

Cadbury's was in Bournville, which had a stream running through it.

- (a) *in*
- (b) *which*
- (c) *it*

6. Which group of words could stand as a sentence on its own?

The people worked hard and also enjoyed relaxing with their families.

- (a) *The people worked hard*
- (b) *also enjoyed relaxing*
- (c) *with their families*

7. In alliteration, the initial sound of each word is the same. Which group of words shows alliteration?

- (a) *factory in a garden*
- (b) *rip the wrapper*
- (c) *play freely*

8. Adverbs can describe how, when or where something is done. Which group of words is an adverbial of time?

For many years, the Cadburys helped the people of Birmingham.

- (a) *For many years*
- (b) *the Cadburys helped*
- (c) *the people of Birmingham*

Something extra

- ◆ Find out more about Cadbury's. Browse through the website <<http://www.cadbury.co.uk>> and enjoy some of the activities.
- ◆ Design a poster to advertise the 'Factory in a garden'.

Frederick's Limericks

1. There once was an old man named Frederick
Who liked nothing better than limericks.
He would read them all day
To enjoy the wordplay.
But some were too rude to make public.



3. There was a blonde singer named Sandi
Whose voice was as sweet as rock candy.
She entered a song quest
And won without contest.
Now she's a huge star with a CD.



4. There once was a beast named Thomas
Whose hair was long, gold and luscious.
He shed everywhere
And he didn't care.
He's just a dog, not a menace!



2. Two young friends named Rhyce and Tim
Role-played when they had the whim.
They dressed in bright costumes
And duelled in pretend tombs.
The exercise kept them trim.



5. A dancer with very tiny feet
Refused to eat any kind of treat.
She never indulged
And this she divulged.
Indulging would not keep her petite.

Comprehension

1. Which word in Limerick 2 means 'an odd or fanciful notion'?

- (a) *whim*
- (b) *duelled*
- (c) *luscious*

2. Frederick read limericks because he:

- (a) *liked the wordplay.*
- (b) *wrote them.*
- (c) *had a good sense of humour.*

3. The main idea of Limerick 4 is that dogs:

- (a) *are a nuisance.*
- (b) *are ugly beasts.*
- (c) *can't help shedding hair everywhere.*

4. After Rhyce and Tim dressed up in costumes, they:

- (a) *duelled in pretend tombs.*
- (b) *were friends.*
- (c) *had a whim.*

5. Limericks are similar because they all:

- (a) *follow the same rhyming pattern.*
- (b) *are about the same topic.*
- (c) *have the same number of syllables in each line.*

6. You can predict that the dancer will continue to:

- (a) *duel in tombs.*
- (b) *dance beautifully.*
- (c) *watch what she eats.*

7. The main ideas of limerick 3 is:

- (a) *Sandi's blonde hair*
- (b) *Sandi's sweet voice*
- (c) *how Sandi became a star*

8. Limericks can be summarised as:

- (a) *poems with lines the same length.*
- (b) *funny poems with five lines.*
- (c) *poems with all lines rhyming.*

9. You can infer that dancers need to:

- (a) *keep their feet small.*
- (b) *have long, gold luscious hair.*
- (c) *stay slim.*

10. What was the effect of Rhyce and Tim role-playing? They:

- (a) *stayed trim.*
- (b) *dressed up in great costumes.*
- (c) *were able to duel.*

11. The word *some* in Limerick 1 refers to:

- (a) *wordplays*
- (b) *limericks*
- (c) *treats*

12. What is the writer's point of view about dogs in Limerick 4?

- (a) *The writer is very tolerant of dogs.*
- (b) *The writer thinks dogs are a menace.*
- (c) *The writer is indifferent to dogs.*



All about words

1. The word *luscious* in Limerick 4 means:

- (a) *luxurious; very attractive*
- (b) *chubby*
- (c) *tasty*

2. Which word is a synonym (word with a similar meaning) for *rude*?

- (a) *polite*
- (b) *discourteous*
- (c) *measure*

3. Which word is an antonym for *menace*?

- (a) *threat*
- (b) *pretend*
- (c) *aid*

4. When adding *-ing* to a word with a short vowel followed by a consonant, double the last consonant before adding *-ing*. Which word does NOT follow this rule?

- (a) *dressing*
- (b) *shedding*
- (c) *trimming*

5. Which sentence is spelt correctly?

- (a) *He wuns wrote a limerick with a verry funny punch line.*
- (b) *He once wrote a limerick with a very funny punch line.*
- (c) *He once rote a limerick with a very funny punch line.*

6. The word *divulged* in Limerick 5 means:

- (a) *not polite*
- (b) *told*
- (c) *dived*

7. Which word does NOT have a homophone (words that sound the same, are spelt differently and have a different meaning)?

- (a) *make*
- (b) *won*
- (c) *would*

8. The word *refuse* is a homograph (word that is spelt one way but pronounced differently depending on its use). In which sentence does it mean *decline* and not *rubbish*?

- (a) *Dog hair may be considered refuse.*
- (b) *A dancer may refuse to eat fattening food.*
- (c) *Rhyce and Tim threw their empty water bottles in the refuse bin.*

9. In which word can the sound *s* as in *singer* NOT be heard?

- (a) *dancer*
- (b) *menace*
- (c) *shed*

10. Which word in Limerick 2 originates from a Latin word meaning 'a combat between two'?

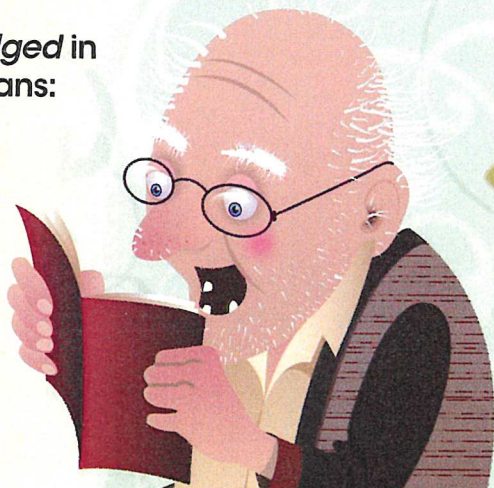
- (a) *duelled*
- (b) *pretend*
- (c) *exercise*

11. In Limerick 5 the word from the French language meaning *small* is:

- (a) *cheat*
- (b) *feet*
- (c) *petite*

12. Which word starts with the same sound as *Thomas*?

- (a) *trim*
- (b) *this*
- (c) *there*



Grammar

1. Which limerick includes all of the following punctuation marks—capital letters, full stops, commas, exclamation marks and apostrophes?

- (a) Limerick 4
- (b) Limerick 3
- (c) Limerick 1

2. In a simple sentence the subject is the person or thing doing the action and the predicate is a comment about the subject and includes the verb. In the sentence below, which word is the subject?

Two young friends dressed in bright costumes.

- (a) dressed
- (b) Two young friends
- (c) costumes

3. In the sentence in Q2 above, which part of the sentence forms the predicate?

- (a) Two young friends
- (b) in bright costumes
- (c) dressed in bright costumes

4. A noun group is a noun usually with a determiner and some adjectives; e.g. *an old man*. Which is the noun group in this sentence?

A dancer with very tiny feet refused to eat.

- (a) A dancer with
- (b) very tiny feet
- (c) refused to eat

5. Which group of words starting with an adjective is an adjective phrase telling about a noun?

There was a beast named Thomas whose hair was long, gold and luscious.

- (a) long, gold and luscious
- (b) named Thomas
- (c) There was a beast

6. The comparative and superlative forms of the adjective *trim* are *trimmer* and *trimmest*. What are the comparative and superlative forms of the adjective *luscious*?

- (a) *luscioser, lusciosest*
- (b) *lusher, lushest*
- (c) *more luscious, most luscious*

7. In this sentence which is the past tense verb group?

He didn't care because he's just a dog not a menace.

- (a) *didn't care*
- (b) *he's a dog*
- (c) *not a menace*

8. Which apostrophe has been used correctly to show possession?

- (a) *Fredericks' always laughing at limericks.*
- (b) *Rhyce's costume is bright.*
- (c) *Heidi's been very successful*

Something extra

- ✦ Limerick 3 uses the simile 'as sweet as rock candy' to compare two things using the words 'as' or 'like'. Find ten other well-known similes then write a sentence using each.
- ✦ Draw your own images for each limerick.

