

**Name:****Class:****Date:**

## Are Computers Smarter Than People?

1 Would you accept a challenge to pit your brain against a computer? If you are cowed by the idea, you are not alone.

2 Computers are getting more powerful every year. In the 1980s, even the biggest computers in the world could not play expert chess<sup>1</sup> or win at high-level quiz games. But by 1997, an IBM computer named Deep Blue was able to beat international chess champion Garry Kasparov in a chess match. In 2011, another IBM computer, Watson, defeated two past winners in the television quiz show *Jeopardy!*

3 Surely the evidence points to the superior brainpower of the machines. Or does it?

4 There is no question that computers can calculate much faster than humans. They can work through millions of calculations in a second. They can store, retrieve, and process vast amounts of information. They are focused and accurate. Watson won at *Jeopardy!* by mining a database of more than 200 million pages in less than three seconds. Deep Blue was able to analyze billions of possible chess moves during a single three-minute turn.

5 But the computers' achievements, while remarkable, were accomplished by each computer carrying out one clearly defined task. Even a gigantic database contains only the information someone has put there. Chess allows only a limited number of moves, although they can be put together in a huge number of ways. Computers can beat people in specific contests involving many actions or steps, but only by following the instructions their programmers give them.

6 Now consider the marvel of the human brain. It is thought to hold about 100 million megabytes of memory and has some 100 trillion synapses, or places where nerve cells connect. By one estimate, the brain can process about 100 million instructions per second (MIPS). The computer that beat Kasparov at chess had a processing power of about 3 million MIPS. So why didn't Kasparov win?

7 Compared to a computer, the human brain has a wider variety of tasks on its plate. Your brain keeps you breathing and regulates your heartbeat. It constantly takes in data from your eyes, ears, nose, skin, and taste buds. A computer that took in so much data would run out of memory. Although Kasparov was surely paying close attention to the chess game, only a fraction of his brain's processing power was available for it.

8 Even with all these distractions, brains routinely do things that are very hard for a computer. People learn and adapt, experimenting with different approaches. With the help of our brains, we figure out new, unfamiliar situations by comparing them to our past experiences. Our brains also help us to draw conclusions from what we observe. A computer, on the other hand, cannot solve a new problem unless a programmer has already told it how to go about solving it.

9

Humans are also much better than computers at recognizing patterns. Even a young child can tell a cat from a dog, but computers are very poor at this task. Recent computer software designed to recognize faces and voices is not very accurate. Have you seen websites that ask you to read a series of twisted, slanted letters or numbers? They ask you to type the series correctly to prove that you are a real person and not a machine. These tests work precisely because people can do it and computers cannot.

- 10 Your flexible brain has broader abilities than a computer. The machine can calculate faster than you can, as long as someone has programmed it to do so. But you can adapt and explore new possibilities. You are not limited by a set list of options. If you still doubt that you are smarter than a computer, remember that it is people who program computers—not the other way around.

<sup>1</sup>A two-player strategy board game played on a checkered board with 64 squares and 32 game pieces.

### Question #1

Which sentence from the text **BEST** expresses the author's view of the human brain?

- A Surely the evidence points to the superior brainpower of the machines.
- B There is no question that computers can calculate much faster than humans.
- C Now consider the marvel of the human brain.
- D Although Kasparov was surely paying close attention to the chess game, only a fraction of his brain's processing power was available for it.

## Sand Sculpting



- 1 When most people build a sandcastle on the beach, they just pile up a big mound of sand and add shells or seaweed to decorate it. To a sand sculptor, however, a sandcastle is something quite different. It is a work of art. A sand sculptor is an artist who creates statues using wet sand.
- 2 Sand sculptors do not just make castles. They carve life-sized people, animals, cartoon characters, sports cars, and many other interesting figures. Sometimes they make sculptures of objects that really exist. Other times, they dream up designs no one has ever seen before. Whatever they carve, they use thousands of tiny details to make their creations look real. An artist building a castle may shape hundreds of bricks by hand. When creating a statue of a person, sculptors pay special attention to the face, hair, and clothes. They know that adding a row of buttons to a coat or a funny expression to the face of a character can make a statue seem to come alive.
- 3 Some sand sculptors work in studios, just like sculptors who carve marble or wood, but most of them would rather work on the beach, where their creations can be seen and admired. One of the best places for sand sculptors to show off their work is at a sand-sculpting contest. These contests take place in countries all over the world. Some are one-time events, and some take place every year. The winners take home thousands of dollars in cash prizes.
- 4 During a contest, sand artists must race against the clock and against each other. The first thing they do is prepare the sand they will use, getting it wet enough to stick together. After this, they make a rough outline of the shape they will carve. Some sculptors do this by dragging boards through the sand. Then they use their hands and tools to bring out the shape. The last step is to add the details.
- 5 For most people, sand sculpting is just a hobby. For some sculptors, however, it is a business. They can earn a living creating sculptures for malls and office buildings. Sometimes sand artists will even form companies with many employees. Working together, these employees can build giant sculptures that last a long time. One California company built a sculpture of the Lost City of Atlantis that holds the record as the largest sand sculpture in the world. A rival company built a sculpture of a famous castle that was the size of a football field and weighed 19,000 tons.

- 6 Sand sculptures are fascinating, whether they are built for fun or profit, in a studio, or on a beach. Every time they go to work, sand sculptors prove that there is magic in a simple handful of sand.

### Question #2

What is the *main* idea of the passage?

- A Sand sculptors earn a living by creating durable sand sculptures.
- B Sand sculptors create giant sculptures by using their hands as well as tools.
- C Sand sculptors create works of art to showcase their talents at sand-sculpting contests.
- D Sand-sculpting contests occur all over the world and the winners receive large cash prizes.

## Plastic Bags

(1) Everyone on the planet use plastic bags. (2) When people shop, they can't be avoided unless they bring their own cloth bags. (3) Some environmentalist groups want to put a tax on plastic bags in order to get people to use them less. (4) They say that plastic bags take decades to break down in landfills and that plastic bags harm animal life in our oceans, rivers, lakes, and streams. (5) Environmentalists also think that people will bring their own reusable bags to stores more often if they have to pay for using plastic bags, but studies have shown that this isn't true.

(6) In Ireland the government placed a tax on plastic grocery bags. (7) Studies found that people started using more plastic bags than they did before the tax on the bags. (8) When plastic bags were banned in San Francisco the first city to pass such a law people switched to paper bags. (9) Paper bags require more energy to manufacture and emit more greenhouse gases. (10) However, paper bags can be recycled. (11) People don't recycle the bags. (12) They take up more space in landfills.

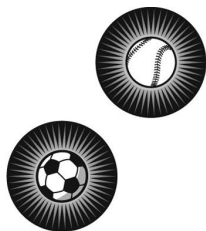
(13) People need to buy fewer things. (14) When we do use things, we need to recycle them. (15) The well-known motto — Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle should be followed. (16) If we reduce the number of items we buy, we will use fewer plastic bags. (17) Reuse bags to line garbage cans or to pick up trash in a park. (18) When you go shopping, take your own cloth bag to carry your purchases. (19) Stores should be made to recycle the plastic bags as well. (20) This will add less waste to the landfills on Earth. (21) When we help our planet, we help everyone.

**Question #3****Read sentence 8.**

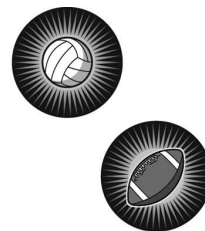
When plastic bags were banned in San Francisco the first city to pass such a law people switched to paper bags.

**What is the correct way to write the underlined part of the sentence?**

- A San Francisco; the first city to pass such a law, people
- B San Francisco, the first city to pass such a law, people
- C San Francisco, the first city to pass such a law people
- D San Francisco—the first city to pass such a law, people



# Summer Sports Camp



It's almost summer, and that means it's time to sign up for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Sports Camp! This is your opportunity to improve your skills in your favorite sport AND learn new sports too. Each morning you will practice the sport of your choice, with coaches from the city's schools. The afternoons are dedicated to teaching all campers a new sport.

Each camp is two weeks long, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$15 per person, and payment must be included with camp application. All applications must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department on Tenth Street by May 10. Space is limited, so sign up early!

## Summer Sports Camp Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please select which dates you wish to attend camp. Label your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. We will do all we can to assign you to your first choice. Please remember space is limited and campers will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

\_\_\_ June 4 to June 15

\_\_\_ June 18 to June 29

\_\_\_ July 9 to July 20

\_\_\_ July 23 to August 3

\_\_\_ August 6 to August 17

\_\_\_ August 20 to August 31

On the back of this page, list your favorite sports, indicating which one you would most like to practice this summer in camp. We also want you to list the new sports you would like to learn. Do some research and be creative – this is your chance to try something you've never done before!

### Please Note

All campers will be expected to wear appropriate footwear. Personal equipment and gear are appreciated, but will be provided for those who do not have any.

Two snacks will be provided each day, along with plenty of water. Each camper is responsible for bringing his/her own sack lunch.

**Question #4**

**According to the application, what should campers list on the back of their applications?**

- A** the weeks that they are available to attend camp
- B** personal information like their name, address, and birthdate
- C** their favorite sports and what sports they would like to try
- D** what kind of sports equipment they have and what they will need

## Taste of Summer



Why do I return each year  
to the fields outside of town?

I could just as easily go  
to the marketplace.

5 Is it the sun  
high in the sky  
reaching for my shoulders?

The purple plunk  
of each berry that drops  
10 into my pail?

Is it the rain of ripe fruit  
as I accidentally brush  
a shrub with my arm?

Or the stain of nature's royal paint  
15 on my fingertips  
and tongue?

Today, yes,  
It is all of these.

But on a cold winter night  
20 these berries, like dark jewels,  
will fill my mouth  
with summer.



**Question #5**

**Read these lines from the poem.**

Is it the rain of ripe fruit  
as I *accidentally* brush  
a shrub with my arm?

**Which word means the *opposite* of *accidentally*?**

- A cautiously
- B correctly
- C patiently
- D purposely

**Question #6**

**Which of these is a compound sentence?**

- A The new winter sports league will begin in December at the local high school.
- B Lin bought a new book, and Kylie bought a puzzle.
- C Michaela cooked rice and steamed vegetables for dinner last night.
- D When you ride a bike, you should be sure to wear a helmet.

**Question #7**

Which is the correct revision of the underlined portion of the sentence below?

Jan, whose favorite place to eat is Lee's Drive-In, often doesn't have the opportunity to eat there.

- A Jan, favorite place to eat being Lee's Drive-In,
- B Jan's favorite place to eat is Lee's Drive-In,
- C Lee's Drive-In Jan's favorite place to eat
- D Correct as is

**Question #8**

Which is the correct way to write the following sentence?

Rover is the fourth dog to run across our yard.

- A Rover is the fourth dog to run accross our yard.
- B Rover is the forth dog to run accross our yard.
- C Rover is the forth dog to run across our yard.
- D Leave as is.

**Question #9**

Which is the correct way to write the underlined words in the sentence below?

I know your going to win the race.

- A know you're
- B no your
- C no you're
- D Correct as is

**Question #10**

Read each sentence and look at the underlined word in each sentence. Which sentence shows the underlined word spelled correctly?

- A Mr. Vacero stoped at the stop sign.
- B Mr. Vacero stoppet at the stop sign.
- C Mr. Vacero stopd at the stop sign.
- D Mr. Vacero stopped at the stop sign.

**Question #11**

Which is the correct way to spell the underlined word below?

She watched the kittens eat thier dinner.

- A they're
- B their
- C there
- D Leave as is.

**Question #12**

Read this sentence.

Jan, whose favorite place to eat is Lee's Drive-In, often doesn't have the opportunity to eat there.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- A Jan, favorite place to eat being Lee's Drive-In, often doesn't have the opportunity to eat there.
- B Jan's favorite place to eat is Lee's Drive-In, often doesn't have the opportunity to eat there.
- C Lee's Drive-In Jan's favorite place to eat often doesn't have the opportunity to eat there.
- D Leave as is.

**Question #13**

Read the following sentence.

Alexander's armies conquered new areas, and he immedietely began to build great cities to connect his new empire together.

What is the correct way to spell the underlined word in this sentence?

- A immediately
- B imediately
- C immediatelly
- D Correct as is

**Question #14**

Which of the following sentences correctly uses commas to set off parenthetical information?

- A Kate wanted to attend the party, but she had too much homework.
- B Becky brought refreshments, games, and a present to the party.
- C Gary, who lived across town, arrived at the party a little late.
- D Michael considered the fun, lively party one of the best of the year.

**Question #15**

Read the following sentence.

The book that first appeared on store shelves in 1965 is still in print today.

What is the *best* way to revise the sentence so that it contains parenthetical information about the cost of the book?

- A The book that first appeared on store shelves in 1965 when it cost \$2.50 is still in print today, and the current price tag is \$17.99.
- B The book that first appeared on store shelves in 1965 (the cost then was \$2.50) is still in print today (the price tag now is \$17.99).
- C The book that first appeared on store shelves in 1965 is still in print today, and the price has risen from \$2.50 to \$17.99.
- D The book that first appeared on store shelves in 1965 cost \$2.50 at the time (today, it is still in print, and costs \$17.99).

**Question #16**

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

- A The main reason—the only reason—I went was because I promised I would.
- B The—New Jersey to London flight—is longer than the Tokyo to Beijing flight.
- C It is a known fact that dogs—are great companions.
- D Students need—just one thing—to achieve success, and that is willpower.

# The Perfect Ten

This is the rough draft of Tiana's essay. It may have some errors.

(1) Many would agree that the best athlete ever is Nadia Comaneci. (2) Given her circumstances, Nadia was able to rise above the rest and conquer any challenge that was in front of her. (3) Nadia was born in poor town in Romania and lived in a small apartment with her family. (4) As a young child, she loved to run and jump. (5) She would often pretend she was a gymnast. (6) Then on one eventful day this small little girl was discovered by Bela Karolyi, a gymnastics coach. (7) His wife, Marta, currently coaches the American Gymnastics Team.

(8) This special girl was about to begin her dream of being a gymnast. (9) Bela saw that Nadia was an extraordinary girl that was full of life. (10) Bela asked Nadia to join his gymnastics school. (11) After one year of training, Nadia competed for the very first time. (12) At the young age of seven, Nadia competed in the National Junior Gymnastics Competition and placed 13<sup>th</sup>. (13) Bela tried to bribe Nadia. (14) He told her that if she placed higher than 13<sup>th</sup> next time, he would give her a doll. (15) To a poor seven year old, that was a big deal. (16) The following year she got a first place medal and Bela gave her the doll he promised.

(17) From then on, Nadia only got better and better. (18) In 1971, Nadia competed in the Friendship Cup Meet in Bulgaria and took home two gold medals. (19) She continued to get both silver and gold medals in every competition she was in. (20) Then in 1975, Nadia won the all-around competition in gymnastics for the European Competition. (21) She was the youngest girl to ever win that kind of medal.

(22) There was only one competition left that Nadia had dreamed of winning—the Olympics. (23) In 1976, the summer Olympic games were held in Canada. (24) Nadia wowed the fans and judges with her amazing talent. (25) They described her performance on the uneven bars as "swimming in the air." (26) She had such beauty in her movement. (27) She walked away with three gold medals. (28) She also did something that no one had ever done before. (29) Nadia received seven perfect 10s.

(30) Nadia's accomplishments had forever gone down in history. (31) No one could argue that Nadia's feat in gymnastics helped make the sport more popular worldwide. (32) Young girls all around the world now dreamed of becoming a gymnast like Nadia.

**Question #17**

Which of the following sentences from "The Perfect Ten" uses punctuation to set off a parenthetical element?

- A sentence 7
- B sentence 11
- C sentence 20
- D sentence 25

**Question #18**

What is the correct way to write the sentence below so that the parenthetical information is set off from the rest of the sentence?

**My brother, who is two years younger than I am loves skiing and running.**

- A My brother, who is two years younger than I am, loves skiing and running.
- B My brother who is two years younger than I am, loves skiing, and running.
- C My brother, who is two years younger than I am loves skiing, and running.
- D Leave as is.



**Question #19**

What is the correct way to write the sentence below so that the parenthetical information is set off from the rest of the sentence?

**The walk to the waterfall although long and hot was well worth it in the end.**

- A The walk to the waterfall, although long and hot, was well worth it in the end.
- B The walk to the waterfall, although long and hot was well worth it, in the end.
- C The walk, to the waterfall although long, and hot was well worth it in the end.
- D The walk, to the waterfall although long and hot, was well worth it in the end.

**Question #20**

The sentence below contains errors in punctuation. Read the sentence and the question that follows.

**The walk to the waterfall although long and hot was well worth it in the end.**

Which version of the sentence has been correctly edited for punctuation?

- A The walk to the waterfall, although long and hot, was well worth it in the end.
- B The walk to the waterfall, although long and hot was well worth it, in the end.
- C The walk, to the waterfall although long, and hot was well worth it in the end.
- D The walk, to the waterfall although long and hot, was well worth it in the end.

**Question #21**

A student wrote the following short paragraph. Read the paragraph and answer the question that follows.

My brother, who is two years younger than I am loves skiing and running. In addition to alpine skiing, he also does cross-country skiing and freestyle skiing. Next year, my brother hopes to compete in Alpine skiing races. There is no doubt in my mind that he will win first place and do well.

What is the correct way to write the underlined sentence so that the parenthetical information is set off from the rest of the sentence?

- A My brother, who is two years younger than I am loves skiing, and running.
- B My brother who is two years younger than I am, loves skiing, and running.
- C My brother, who is two years younger than I am, loves skiing and running.
- D Correct as is.

# Fast in the Ice

## DIFFICULTIES, TROUBLES, AND DANGERS

BY B. M. BALLANTYNE<sup>1</sup> For some hours the brig<sup>1</sup> proceeded onward with a freshening breeze, winding and turning in order to avoid the lumps of ice. Many of the smaller pieces were not worth turning out of the way of, the mere weight of the vessel being sufficient to push them aside.

2 Up to this time they had succeeded in steering clear of everything without getting a thump; but they got one at last, which astonished those among the crew who had not been in the ice before. The captain, Gregory, and Dicey were seated in the cabin at the time taking tea. Ned Dawkins, the steward, an active little man, was bringing in a tea-pot with a second supply of tea. In his left hand he carried a tray of biscuits. The captain sat at the head of the table, Dicey at the foot, and the doctor at the side.

3 Suddenly a tremendous shock was felt! The captain's cup of tea leaped away from him and flooded the centre of the table. The doctor's cup was empty; he seized the table with both hands and remained steady; but Dicey's cup happened to be at his lips at the moment, and was quite full. The effect on him was unfortunate. He was thrown violently on his back, and the tea poured over his face and drenched his hair as he lay sprawling on the floor. The steward saved himself by dropping the bread-tray and grasping the handle of the cabin door. So violent was the shock that the ship's bell was set a-ringing.

4 "Beg pardon, gentlemen," cried the first mate, looking down the skylight. "I forgot to warn you. The ice is getting rather thick around us, and I had to charge a lump of it."

5 "It's all very well to beg pardon," said the captain, "but that won't mend my crockery!"<sup>2</sup>

6 "Or dry my head," growled Mr Dicey; "it's as bad as if I'd been dipped overboard, it is."

7 Before Mr Dicey's grumbling remarks were finished all three of them had reached the deck. The wind had freshened considerably, and the brig was rushing in a somewhat alarming manner among the floes.<sup>3</sup> It required the most careful attention to prevent her striking heavily.

8 "If it goes on like this, we shall have to reduce sail," observed the captain. "See, there is a neck of ice ahead that will stop us."

9 This seemed to be probable, for the lane of water along which they were steering was, just ahead of them, stopped by a neck of ice that connected two floe-pieces. The water beyond was pretty free from ice, but this neck or mass seemed so thick that it became a question whether they should venture to charge it or shorten sail.

10 "Stand by the fore- and main-topsail braces!"<sup>4</sup> shouted the captain.

11 "Aye, aye, sir!"

12 "Now, Mr Mansell," said he, with a smile, "we have come to our first real difficulty. What do you advise; shall we back the topsails, or try what our little Hope is made of, and charge the enemy?"

13 “Charge!” answered the mate.

14 “Just so,” said the captain, hastening to the bow to direct the steersman. “Port your helm.”<sup>5</sup>

15 “Steady.”

16 The brig was now about fifty yards from the neck of ice, tearing through the water like a race-horse. In another moment she was up to it and struck it fair in the middle. The stout little vessel quivered to her keel<sup>6</sup> under the shock, but she did not recoil. She split the mass into fragments, and, bearing down all before her, sailed like a conqueror into the clear water beyond.

17 “Well done the Hope!” said the captain, as he walked aft, while a cheer burst from the men.

18 “I think she ought to be called the Good Hope ever after this,” said Tom Gregory. “If she cuts her way through everything as easily as she has cut through that neck of ice, we shall reach the North Pole itself before winter.”

<sup>1</sup> *brig*: a square-rigged sailing ship with two masts

<sup>2</sup> *crockery*: objects, such as dishes, made of baked clay

<sup>3</sup> *floes*: a sheet or mass of floating ice

<sup>4</sup> *topsail braces*: ropes that control the movement and position of the topsail (the sail above the lowermost sail on the mast of a square-rigged ship)

<sup>5</sup> *helm*: the steering equipment of a ship

<sup>6</sup> *keel*: a timber or plate running lengthwise along the center of the bottom of a ship and usually sticking out from the bottom

Excerpt from *Fast in the Ice* by R. M. Ballantine. In the public domain.

### Question #22

Explain the role of paragraphs 17 and 18 in advancing the plot of the story. Support your explanation with relevant details from the text.

# I Can Do It

Clare woke up early with butterflies in her stomach. She could sense excitement in the air. It was a beautiful morning with lots of sunshine, and a big, blue sky. The sweet scent of pancakes on the griddle made her smile.

Clare dressed carefully, making sure her specially fitted boots were properly adjusted. Then, she made her way slowly to the kitchen where she joined her brother and grandparents for a delicious breakfast.

Fifteen minutes later, Uncle Ray's old red truck hummed in the driveway. Clare, with the assistance of her grandfather, climbed aboard. Uncle Ray and Clare sped down the open road. She was about to experience one of the greatest adventures of her life. Today, Clare would learn to ride a horse.

Not just any horse was waiting for Clare at the Center for Special Riders. Legacy, a beautiful black stallion, had been chosen just for her. You see, Clare had suffered a serious illness when she was a baby, and ever since, she had trouble walking unassisted. This is why she wore the specially made boots.

For years, Legacy had been helping children like Clare learn to ride. He whinnied "hello" when she arrived and brushed his soft nose against her cheek. Legacy seemed to be saying, "Don't worry, I'll take care of you. We're going to have a wonderful time today."

Clare put on a riding helmet, and with the assistance of one of the Center's trained instructors, she slowly climbed up the mounting block beside Legacy, and swung herself into the saddle. A security belt was looped around Clare's waist to keep her in place. Before she knew it, she was relaxed, and Legacy was taking long, comfortable strides around the arena.

The instructor led Legacy around and around the arena, making circles and figure eights. Clare sat up straight and let her body move with Legacy's every step. Clare felt as if she were floating.

When Clare's lesson on Legacy ended, she sighed with regret. "When can we do this again, Uncle Ray?"

"Next week, same time," was his reply.

Clare's eyes lit up. "With Legacy as my partner, I can run, I can fly, I can do just about anything," she thought. Her heart filled with anticipation and joy as she waited for the next time she could ride.

**Question #23**

Read this sentence from the passage.

A security belt was looped around Clare's waist to keep her in place.

A security belt is a strap that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A helps her get on the horse
- B tells the horse when to move
- C keeps her from falling off
- D makes her ride more exciting

**Question #24**

Which of the following is a synonym for whimper?

- A murmur
- B coward
- C cry
- D rumor

# The Donkey and the Charger

The light of the day was becoming faint, while the Charger and Donkey conversed in the stable. You see, the Donkey praised the Charger, who was muscular and handsome. Unlike the Donkey, the horse was ungrudgingly taken care of and bestowed upon. The pitiable Donkey scarcely had enough to eat, even though his work was grueling.

Some time later, the Charger and the Donkey lived during a time of great war. A war that called all those who were courageous. A war that beckoned all those who were valiant. Imagining the heroic battles and epic victories, the Donkey yearned to be called. However, it was not he who was wanted. At once, a heavily armed warrior mounted the horse and left for battle. The Donkey dejectedly watched the noble pair ride off into the horizon. Filled with longing for need, the Donkey followed his hero to observe the battle.

His mouth watered as his eyes traced the movements of the Charger while fending off the enemy. His eyes became teary while grasping all of the Chargers bravery. And then at once, the fearless horse rushed into the very middle of the enemy. The fearless Charger fell down wounded on the battle field.

It was then that the Donkey had an epiphany. Seeing all these things changed his mind. "How much more fortunate am I than the Charger? I can remain in the safety of my home, while he is exposed to all the perils of war." While cherishing his wellbeing, the Donkey contentedly walked home.

Adapted from The Donkey and the Charger by Aesop, public domain.



**Question #25**

Read this sentence from "The Donkey and The Charger."

A war that beckoned all those who were valiant.

What is the meaning of valiant?

- A valuable
- B brave
- C willing
- D called

**Question #26**

A person who is experiencing anxiety is feeling

- A nervous.
- B regretful.
- C calm.
- D sad.



**Question #27**

If someone had a nightmare, he or she

- A got enough sleep.
- B did not get enough sleep.
- C had a scary dream.
- D had a pleasant dream.

**Question #28**

Which of the following is a synonym for slumber?

- A move
- B awaken
- C walk
- D sleep

**Question #29**

The word logical is made up of the root "logic" and the suffix "-al." Based on this information, what is the meaning of logical?

- A full of logic
- B relating to logic
- C without logic
- D make logic

# Coral Reefs: Colorful Cities Beneath the Sea Surface

- 1 Imagine an underwater city, full of dazzling colors and shapes, populated by vibrant, exotic sea plants and animals. These “cities” are coral reefs, marine ecosystems that make up less than one percent of the ocean. However, it is estimated that about a quarter of all marine species depend on coral reefs for their survival. Humans also benefit from these “rainforests of the sea.” Medicines have been developed using coral reef species, and people rely on the animals that live in coral reefs for food. Every year, coral reefs around the world generate roughly 375 *billion* dollars in income.

## What are Coral Reefs?

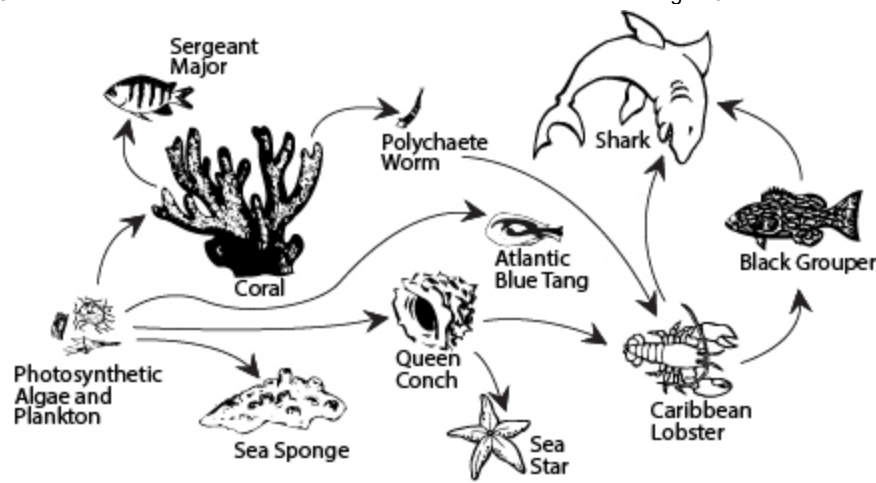
- 2 The basis of all coral reef ecosystems are photosynthetic algae and simple animals called polyps (coral). The hard limestone reefs are actually the skeletons of polyps. Coral and algae have a close relationship that helps both organisms. The algae live inside the polyps, giving the animals oxygen and nutrients produced during photosynthesis. The polyps, in turn, give the algae carbon dioxide and the substances they need to perform photosynthesis.

The right abiotic factors are necessary for these coral reef species to thrive. Clear, shallow water that is between 77 and 84 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal.

Abiotic Factors That Can Affect the Health of Coral Reef Ecosystems	
✓	Water Depth
✓	Tides
✓	Sunlight
✓	Wave Action
✓	Salt Concentration
✓	Temperature
✓	Nutrients

## Coral Reef Food Chains and Food Webs

- 3 Like land-based ecosystems, the original source of energy for coral reef food chains and food webs is the sun. Producers capture the sun’s energy and use it to make their own food; these include photosynthetic algae and plankton. Other organisms, called primary consumers, eat producers. Primary consumers in a coral reef ecosystem include coral and some small fish. Some organisms eat other consumers. A shark is a top predator that eats large fish and lobster. Decomposers, such as the queen conch, break down dead and decaying matter to obtain energy. Decomposers also release substances that other living things can use.
- 4 The illustration below shows the connections between a few of the living things in a coral reef ecosystem. Many coral reefs contain thousands of fish species, as well as turtles, shrimp, and numerous additional plants and animals.



### Coral Reefs: The Importance of Maintaining Balance

- 5 Living things in a coral reef depend on one another, and removing a single organism could possibly disrupt the balance of an entire area. It would be like removing a piece from a tower of wooden blocks—the entire structure might come tumbling down. Even the mightiest predators could not survive without the smallest living things. Indeed, the destruction of fragile coral has harmed many coral reef ecosystems throughout the world.
- 6 Coral reefs are valuable to humans and are a key part of the underwater world. They should be preserved and protected. Governments will need to work on figuring out solutions to big problems like rising water temperatures and higher levels of carbon dioxide in oceans. You can do your part, too! Avoid buying objects made of coral. If you are ever lucky enough to snorkel in a coral reef, don't touch or disturb anything. Finally, tell others about coral reefs and why we need them in our oceans.

### Glossary

abiotic describes the nonliving factors in an ecosystem. *Biotic* refers to living factors such as plants and animals.

**Question #30**

**Use the information in the text to write an argument explaining why we should do our best to protect the world's coral reefs. In your essay, be sure to include:**

- **A sentence that clearly describes the claim or claims you are making;**
- **Reasons, facts, and evidence to support your claim or claims; and**
- **A concluding statement.**

Mt. Pisgah 6th ELA Intervention Answer Key

Question	Answer	Standard	DOK	Difficulty	Type
1	C	6.RI.CS.6	2	None	Multiple Choice
2	C	6.RI.KID.2	2	High	Multiple Choice
3	B	6.L.CSE.2	2	None	Multiple Choice
4	C	6.RI.KID.1	2	Medium	Multiple Choice
5	D	6.L.VAU.5	2	Medium	Multiple Choice
6	B	6.L.CSE.1	2	Low	Multiple Choice
7	D	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
8	D	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
9	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
10	D	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
11	B	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
12	D	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
13	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
14	C	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
15	B	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
16	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
17	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
18	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
19	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
20	A	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
21	C	6.L.CSE.2	1	Low	Multiple Choice
22	N/A	6.RL.CS.5	3	None	Essay
23	C	6.L.VAU.4	2	Low	Multiple Choice
24	C	6.L.VAU.6	1	Low	Multiple Choice
25	B	6.L.VAU.6	1	Low	Multiple Choice
26	A	6.L.VAU.6	1	Low	Multiple Choice
27	C	6.L.VAU.6	1	Low	Multiple Choice
28	D	6.L.VAU.6	1	Low	Multiple Choice
29	B	6.L.VAU.4	1	Low	Multiple Choice
30	N/A	6.W.TTP.1.i	3	None	Essay

Passage

Are Computers Smarter Than People?

Sand Sculpting

Plastic Bags

Summer Sports Camp

Taste of Summer

The Perfect Ten

Fast in the Ice

I Can Do It

The Donkey and the Charger

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