Smart Cub Learning

11+ TOPIC PACK

Comprehension: Inference

English

60 questions on eight passages, from finding facts to reading between the lines, with worked solutions

SAMPLE

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How to do it

An inference is an answer the writer does not say out loud. You work it out from clues in the text. Good readers do this all the time, and it is what most hard comprehension questions ask for.

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Learn the method

1. Read the passage once all the way through. Then read the question carefully.
2. Find the line that helps. Put your finger on the exact words.
3. Ask yourself: what does this clue suggest? What is the writer not telling me?
4. Test each option against your clue. Cross out any option the text does not support.
5. For a word question, put each option in place of the word and read the sentence again. The right meaning still makes sense.
6. Some questions ask why the writer says something. Ask what the words make you think or feel, or what they show about a character.
7. Choose the option that the words in the passage prove. Do not choose one just because it sounds sensible.

Worked example 1

The school library opens at eight o'clock each morning. Pupils may borrow three books at a time and keep them for two weeks. Mrs Okoro, the librarian, stamps the date inside the front cover.

How many books may a pupil borrow at a time?

A Three

B Two

C Eight

D Ten

How to work it out

1. This question asks for a fact, so the answer is written in the text.
2. Pick out the key words in the question: borrow and books.
3. Find them in the text. It says pupils may borrow three books at a time.
4. Two and eight are in the text as well. They are the weeks and the opening time, not the books.

The answer is A: Three

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Passage 1 The Number 14

8 questions. Circle the letter of your answer. Look back at the passage as often as you like.

Amira is riding the bus on her own for the first time.

Amira had never taken the bus alone before. Mum had written the plan on a card: "Number 14. Get off at the library. Gran will be waiting." Amira put the card in her coat pocket. She kept her hand on it all the way to the stop.

The bus was late. Amira checked the card three times. When it finally came, she sat near the driver with her bag on her knees. She peered at every street sign.

The number 14 passed the baker's, the church and a long park with a green fence. Then the bus turned left, and Amira did not know that road. She sat up straight. The card said nothing about a left turn. Her tummy felt as if it were full of cold water.

"Excuse me," she whispered to the driver, "is this the way to the library?" The driver smiled. "Road works on Mill Street, love. We're going round the long way today. Next stop but one."

Amira let out a breath she had not known she was holding. She took her hand off the card at last, and her fingers were stiff. Through the window she saw the library's round clock. Beneath it stood Gran, waving a yellow umbrella although the sky was clear.

Amira jumped down before the doors had finished opening. "I did it!" she said. Gran only laughed. "I know. I have been watching every number 14 go past since two o'clock."

Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions. You can look back at the passage as often as you like.

1 Where was Amira meant to get off the bus?

A At the church

B At the library

C At the baker's shop

D At the park

2 Why did the bus take a different road?

A There were road works on Mill Street.

B The driver had forgotten which road to take.

C The bus had broken down.

D Amira had asked for the long way.

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Passage 3 Omar's Diary: Moving Week

8 questions. Circle the letter of your answer. Look back at the passage as often as you like.

Omar writes a diary during the week his family moves to a new town.

Saturday 4 September Everything I own is in a box with a number on it. Even my football is in Box 14, taped shut. Mum says a house is only bricks. Dad keeps whistling, which he only does when he is nervous. I told Dev I didn't mind moving. Then I went upstairs and looked at my empty bedroom wall for a long time.

Sunday 5 September New house. It smells of paint and somebody else's cooking. My room is smaller than the old one, but the window looks out on a huge oak tree. Dad lost the box with the kettle, so we had orange squash out of a thermos lid for breakfast. Mum laughed so much she had to sit on the stairs.

Monday 6 September First day at Elm Road Primary. A girl called Priya showed me where to hang my coat. I only nodded. At break I stood by the fence and tied my shoelace twice, even though my shoes have Velcro.

Tuesday 7 September Rain all day. In class we each had to say one fact about ourselves. I said I once ate eleven sausages at a barbecue. Everyone laughed, and Priya said, "Legend." Nobody called me that at my old school. I think I might say more tomorrow.

Wednesday 8 September Priya asked if I wanted to join the football at break. I said I'd think about it, but I was already running before she had finished. Box 14 was opened tonight. The ball was a bit flat, but I didn't mind. I wrote to Dev and told him I did mind moving, a bit. Then I told him about the oak tree.

Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions. You can look back at the passage as often as you like.

17 What was in Box 14?

A A kettle

B A thermos

C A football

D A bedroom lamp

18 What did the family drink from at breakfast?

A A thermos lid

B A teapot

C A kettle

D Paper cups from a packet

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