

## READING FOR UNDERSTANDING (RFU)



Reading for understanding (RFU) exercises are for students to practice understanding what they read in short readings. A student must read a selection and analyze the material in the reading using prior knowledge to arrive at the correct answer. If the student does not have prior knowledge of the subject in the reading, the student can utilize dictionaries or other references to arrive at the correct answer.

**RFU Box 2, # 52 ●**

(1) Even in the stately homes of early New England, heat was rare, and there existed an abundance of cold bedrooms. Perhaps this is the reason that the main consideration in choosing sleeping garments was their

- A. economy                      B. warmth                      C. style                      D. tradition
- 

(2) Excessive exposure of the skin to the rays of the sun is to be discouraged. The sun is a very powerful natural remedy, and like other potent medicines, it should not be

- A. treated with caution                      C. used at any time  
B. prescribed by a physician                      D. taken in large doses
- 

(3) Those who do nothing render themselves incapable of doing anything. But, while we are executing any type of work, we are preparing and qualifying ourselves to undertake another. The more we do

- A. the more tired we become                      C. the less we wish to do  
B. the less we are able to do                      D. the more we can do
- 

(4) According to many historians, about five hundred years before the time of Columbus, a group of Norse explorers found the northeastern coast of North America. Leif Ericson was the first of these explorers. There is evidence that he explored Cape Cod, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. The Native Americans drove the Norse explorers away, and the next explorers were led by Columbus. Thus, we might say that Columbus

- A. discovered North America                      C. rediscovered North America  
B. was the first white person in North America                      D. lost his way on the ocean
- 

(5) The carelessness of pearl divers threatened to deplete the oyster beds. So that the beds might continue to yield pearls, the divers were cautioned against leaving the oyster to die after robbing its shell of the pearl. They were instructed to open the shell with great care. Then the oyster was to be

- A. thrown far out to sea                      C. left to die on the shore  
B. let down into the sea again                      D. allowed to keep its pearl
-

**Continuation of RFU Box 2, # 52 ●**

(6) To some of us, seven-thirty in the morning means breakfast and the pleasant aroma of coffee. Six in the evening represents daily world happenings in tabloid form. Other times of the day also have just such

- A. bothersome details  
B. specific meanings  
C. pressing responsibilities  
D. unexplored possibilities
- 

(7) Icarus was a noble Greek youth whose father made a pair of wings for him from feathers and wax. The youth probably did not realize that wax melts when heated, for he flew into the heat of the sun and

- A. Lost his wings    B. found eternal youth    C. became a god    D. was molded in wax
- 

(8) Concealed behind the bushes, we watched our prey approach the pit that we had dug and covered over with leaves and light branches. Surely the animal would not have sauntered along so casually had it sensed that it was about to be

- A. hidden    B. followed    C. attacked    D. captured
- 

(9) Since no reliable population census had ever been made in that country, the exact number of its inhabitants was

- A. large    B. increasing    C. unknown    D. exaggerated
- 

(10) The greatest scientist until that time was Aristotle, a philosopher of ancient Greece. The theories that he had stated were accepted as true without any proof. No one even thought of

- A. testing them    B. learning them    C. recording them    D. accepting them

ANSWERS for 52● (1) B, (2) D, (3) D, (4) C, (5) B, (6) B, (7) A, (8) D, (9) C, (10) A

**RFU Box 2, # 52 ▲**

(1) All of the other children in the class were older than John. Susan was two months older than he was, and she was the next youngest. Therefore, the rest of the children were

- A. at least two months older than John                      C. younger than John  
B. younger than Susan    D. bigger than John
- 

(2) Increased demand for dairy products, in part as high-protein substitutes for expensive meats, contributed to a rise in the price of

- A. fish                                      B. meat                                      C. milk                                      D. chicken
- 

(3) Some animals make better pets than others. If you are looking for a pet, you must consider, among other things, whether this animal is noisy; whether it will smell bad; whether it will play tricks on people; whether it will destroy or tear objects; and whether it will hurt people. In other words, the animal you get must not only be one that you think will be fun; it must also be one that

- A. you think you will enjoy after it grows up.                      C. will not bother other people  
B. will eat food that is easy to obtain                                      D. is not too expensive to keep
- 

(4) Switzerland is a landlocked country. It is bounded by Germany on the north, France on the west, Italy on the south, and Liechtenstein and Austria on the east. Switzerland has

- A. no seacoast                      B. many mountains                      C. no border                      D. many lakes
- 

(5) Many lakes in Canada and in the United States are fed by melting snow. After the spring thaw, the lakes become much

- A. deeper                      B. smaller                      C. clearer                      D. warmer
- 

(6) Dark pigmentation is good protection against the painful and dangerous burns that result from direct exposure to the rays of the sun. People should be particularly careful to limit exposure to the sun if they are

- A. fatigued                      B. anemic                      C. fair-skinned                      D. underweight
-

**Continuation of RFU Box 2, # 52 ▲**

(7) The boat was carried along by the powerful current. Hoping that the waters would soon subside, Larry stopped the motor. Since he was many miles from home, he did not want to waste

- A. movement                      B. current                      C. time                      D. fuel
- 

(8) The author was accepted wholeheartedly by he critics. She never wrote a book that was not greeted with

- A. shock                      B. praise                      C. indifference                      D. scorn
- 

(9) Very young children cannot accept even a brief absence of the people they love. Their mother's leaving the house is till a mystery to them. They have no idea of time; they do not realize that departure will be followed by

- A. loss                      B. absence                      C. play                      D. return
- 

(10) It is not possible for the human eye to see the rays that are given off by radium. They rays have amazing qualities. If they are used carelessly, they can poison, injure, or even kill people. If they are used carefully by people trained in their use, they can be

- A. expensive                      b. painful                      C. injurious                      D. beneficial

**RFU Box 2, # 52 ■**

(1) The settlers were building a stockade for their protection. In order that water should always be readily available inside the stockade, they built it

- A. in a clearing    B. of rough logs    C. as quickly as possible    D. around a spring
- 

(2) A young couple in a single-engine plane was forced down in the wilds of northern Canada. They were not rescued until nearly two months later. They were alive because they had enough food to eat, and because they had enough emergency supplies to protect themselves against

- A. starving    B. freezing    C. loneliness    D. rescue
- 

(3) There is a new, interesting type of sandal that will stay on the feet only as long as one is walking forward but will fall off if one tries to walk backward. These shoes have been called

- A. “hobble-heels”    B. “stick-tights”    C. “backward-walkers”    D. “go-aheads”
- 

(4) Sea sedge, sea reed, mangrove trees, and Lucerne clover have the wonderful tenacity that makes roots so useful in binding the soil together and in keeping the banks of streams and rivers, as well as sea dikes, from being seriously undermined. Because of this ability, these plants belong to a group that is sometimes given the name

- A. “mountain vines”    B. “prairie plants”    C. “soil binders”    D. “horsetweeds”
- 

(5) The human animal is the only one who has learned to build a fire, and so is the only animal that cooks food. This has proved in some ways to be a disadvantage to our digestive apparatus and to our teeth, which are now deprived of some of the work that they were meant to do. We rarely hear of the lower animals having decayed teeth or indigestion, yet these troubles are quite common in human beings. These difficulties may be partly due to the consumption of too many

- A. cooked foods    B. raw foods    C. cold foods    D. frozen foods
- 

(6) Bathroom fixtures are expensive and last the life of the home. Because of this, they should be selected to be as functional and attractive in ten or twenty years as when they were

- A. remodeled                      B. removed                      C. fixtures                      D. installed
- 

**Continuation of RFU Box 2, # 52 ■**

(7) couch grass is a stubborn variety of grass. It clings tenaciously to its chosen home. I have worked against it for three years in my garden and as yet have not been able to

- A. cultivate it                      B. eradicate it                      C. reproduce it                      D. recognize it
- 

(8) The president of the company was shocked to hear of the treachery of an employee whom everyone had considered

- A. trustworthy                      B. ambitious                      C. dispensable                      D. competent
- 

(9) all of our information about the saber-toothed tiger comes from bones found in California. Scientists have been able to reconstruct the saber-toothed tiger in form, but the actual shade and length of its hair

- A. have long been known                      C. are still only guessed at  
B. are described on cave walls                      D. are unimportant
- 

(10) The Titan's oldest son was named Prometheus, a name meaning "forethought." The name turned out to be very appropriate, for young Prometheus was always

- A. planning for the future                      C. helping other people  
B. excelling in sports                      D. doing brave deeds