



Blizzard in Birmingham

The Turner kids were not accustomed to snow. The most they ever got in their southern city of Birmingham was an inch or so per year. Even that was quite infrequent—it never snowed more than once or twice each winter. And on the few occasions that it did snow, it was always too warm for the snow to accumulate. The temperature almost never got below freezing. What was funny was that even the slightest bit of snow was enough to cancel school and close businesses. No one knew how to drive in the stuff. It was never enough for young Lily Mae Turner, though, because the snow that came was always too sparse to build a snowman or to go sledding. But one night, in March of 1993, something magical happened. An unexpected blast of cold air from Canada and moist air from the Caribbean converged on the eastern part of the United States to create the "Storm of the Century." All that the Turner kids knew was that when they woke up Saturday morning, there was 17 inches of unbelievable snow on their front lawn and as far as the eye could see.

The Turner parents were in shock. Most folks in town were ill-prepared for such a storm. They had no shovels to dig their way out and no salt to keep from slipping. They had no idea what to do.

- As used at the beginning of the story, what does "accustomed" mean?
A. used to B. aware of
C. scared of D. interested in
- As used at the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for "infrequent"?
A. common B. long
C. rare D. surprising
- Which other title would best fit this passage?
A. "1993" B. "A Cold March"
C. "Magical Snow" D. "Ill-Prepared Parents"
- The author may have described the storm as magical because
A. Lily Mae believed the snow was magic
B. it was such an unusual thing to happen that it felt like magic
C. there was no other explanation for why the storm occurred
D. the author wanted to cast doubt on whether the storm actually
- How are the children different than the adults in this passage?
A. The kids stayed warm, while the adults were cold.
B. The kids knew the storm was coming, while the adults did not.
C. The kids went out and had fun, while the adults did not know what to do.
D. The adults still had to go to work, while the kids stayed home.
- What conclusions can be drawn about what the weather is typically like in Birmingham during the month of March?
I. It is warm.
II. It does not snow.
III. It is windy.
A. I only B. I and II
C. II and III D. I, II, and III

While the adults seemed paralyzed with disbelief, the Turner kids set about having the time of their lives. Lily Mae discovered that a rope tied to a metal trash can lid made a perfect sled. John Henry figured out that if he put his feet in plastic grocery bags before putting on his rain boots, his feet stayed warm for a longer time. Rachel made snow angels in every part of the yard. Together, all the kids made a huge snowman and dressed it in their dad's hat and jacket. (Mr. Turner didn't own a scarf!)

For three straight days, the Turner kids had a splendid time. On Tuesday, the temperature hit 70 degrees, and life for these Southerners went back to normal.



7) What can be said about the Turner kids' ideas for playing in the snow without the usual snow gear?

- They were creative.
- They were effective.
- They were complicated.

8) "What was funny was that even the slightest bit of snow was enough to cancel school and close businesses." "No one knew how to drive in the stuff. "Which of the following punctuation marks could best be used to combine the above sentences?

- a comma (,)
- a semicolon (;)
- an ellipsis (...)
- a hyphen (-)

9) What was going on outside of Birmingham during the snowstorm?

- The rest of the country was also dealing with snow.
- Nothing—Birmingham was the only area affected by the storm.
- The Eastern United States was also hit by the storm.
- The passage does not provide enough information to say.

10) As used at the end of the story, which is the best antonym for "splendid"?

- great
- perfect
- happy
- terrible

11) What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- To entertain
- To inform
- To persuade
- To describe

12) Which of the following is a simile?

- The dog was as fat as a pig.
- The dog was as fat as a pig.
- The dog was as fat as a pig.
- The dog was as fat as a pig.

13) Which of the following is a metaphor?

- A friend is like your soul.
- A friend is like your soul.
- A friend is like your soul.
- A friend is like your soul.

14) Which of the following is a simile?

- The baby was like an octopus.
- The baby was like an octopus.
- The baby was like an octopus.
- The baby was like an octopus.

15) Which of the following is a metaphor?

- The giant's steps were thunder.
- The giant's steps were thunder.
- The giant's steps were thunder.
- The giant's steps were thunder.

16) Which of the following is a simile?

- I feel like a limp.
- I feel like a limp.
- I feel like a limp.
- I feel like a limp.

17) Which of the following is a metaphor?

- Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
- Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
- Those girls are like two peas in a pod.
- Those girls are like two peas in a pod.

18) Which of the following is a simile?

- The fluorescent light was the sun.
- The fluorescent light was the sun.
- The fluorescent light was the sun.
- The fluorescent light was the sun.

19) Which of the following is a metaphor?

- he's a wet blanket.
- he's a wet blanket.
- he's a wet blanket.
- he's a wet blanket.

20) Which of the following is a simile?

- The bar of soap was a slippery eel.
- The bar of soap was a slippery eel.
- The bar of soap was a slippery eel.
- The bar of soap was a slippery eel.

21) Which of the following is a metaphor?

- Ted was as nervous as a cat.
- Ted was as nervous as a cat.
- Ted was as nervous as a cat.
- Ted was as nervous as a cat.

22) Which of the following is a simile?

- General Marsh, it seemed to me, trusted only one or two people.
- General Marsh, it seemed to me, trusted only one or two people.
- General Marsh, it seemed to me, trusted only one or two people.
- General Marsh, it seemed to me, trusted only one or two people.

How Much Do You Know About How To Write An ESSAY ?

An introduction should contain some comment on the topic of the essay - perhaps definitions are needed, or some explanation of what you understand by the title. This section should also state which aspects of the topic you intend to deal with and why. Remember you are not writing a book, so you need to select a few main arguments to support your answer to the question. Your introduction should consist of a guide to the essay giving the reader a clear idea of what will follow and making it clear to your tutor that you are going to answer the question set.

IT (Information Technology) does more harm than good. Do you agree ?

Here is an example introduction for the above essay question about IT:

The last two decades have seen enormous changes in the way people's lives are affected by IT, with many advances in this field. However, while these technological advances have brought many benefits to the world, it can be argued that these developments in IT will result in more negative impacts than positive.

The body of the essay will take each of these main points and develop them with examples and illustrations, using clearly defined paragraphs. This is where you will need to think about the structure of your essay and make sure you follow a clear path through to your conclusion. This section is where most writers go wrong, but if you plan carefully you should have a direction for your essay before you start writing.

Here is the first body paragraph:

To begin, email has made communication, especially abroad, much simpler and faster, resulting in numerous benefits for commerce and business. Furthermore, the World Wide Web means that information on every conceivable subject is now available to us. For example, people can access news, medical advice, online education courses and much more via the internet. It is evident that these improvements have made life far easier and more convenient for large numbers of people and will continue to do so for decades to come.

The controlling idea in this first paragraph is the 'benefits of IT', and there are two supporting ideas, which are underlined. No drawbacks are discussed as the paragraph would then lose coherence.

Most of the essay will focus on the negative aspects of IT, as the writer says there are more negative effects in the introduction. So the next two paragraphs are about these.

The topic sentence in the next paragraph therefore tells us we are changing the focus to the negative points:

Nevertheless, the effects of this new technology have not all been beneficial. For example, many people feel that the widespread use of email is destroying traditional forms of communication such as letter writing, telephone and face-to-face conversation. This could result in a decline in people's basic ability to socialize and interact with each other on a day-to-day basis.

The final body paragraph gives the last negative effect:

In addition, the large size of the Web has meant that it is nearly impossible to regulate and control. This has led to many concerns regarding children accessing unsuitable websites and viruses. Unfortunately, this kind of problem might even get worse in the future at least until more regulated systems are set up.

Your conclusion will summarise your main ideas. It might also be appropriate to give a firm or tentative answer to the question. Or you may have chosen a question where you need to suggest wider implications, or future trends. You could also suggest areas worthy of further consideration. It is in this section that you can introduce your own views - as long as they are based on the arguments you have developed earlier.

The conclusion only needs to be one or two sentences, and you can do the following:

- Re-state what the essay is about (re-write the last sentence of your introduction in different words)
- Give some thoughts about the future

Here is an example:

In conclusion, developments in IT have brought many benefits, yet I believe developments relating to new technology are likely to produce many negative effects in the future that must be addressed if we are to avoid damaging impacts to individuals and society.

Now It's YOUR Turn!

Complete the essay "My favorite outdoor game" in your own words :

Soccer is my favorite game. Ever since I joined the school, I have been playing soccer. The lush green grass field is very much suited to run, to roll over and kick.

The game is played between two teams of eleven players each though sometimes lesser number like six or seven may be there in a team.

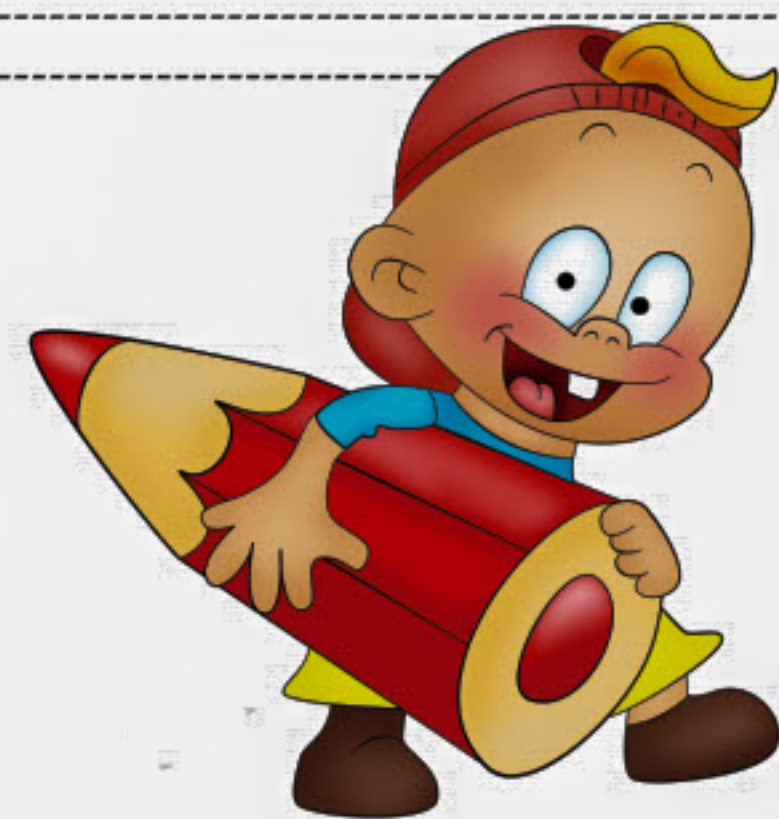
As it is a team game, all must cooperate. The forwards must be fast, able to take the ball through the legs of the opponent. The midfielders help not only in defense but also help the

There are well established rules and foul play will be penalized. The referee's job is tough and there have been instances when the poor referee has been manhandled by the onlookers. It is the bane of the game that the audience turn partisan.

Among the great soccer nations Argentina, Brazil, England, Russia and Germany are a few. The name of Pelee,

Football is a manly game so I like it.

Those who do not know much about the game say it is a rough game. Of course there are cases of broken heads, muscle twisting and sometimes even fractures. But these are caused



Summary Time

Summarize the following article about Vitamin A in not more than 120 words.

Vitamin A is found only in yellow animal fats, in egg-yolk, milk and cheese. It is particularly plentiful in fish-liver oils, hence fish-liver oils are used for preventing and curing illness caused by lack of vitamin A. In a well-fed, healthy human being, the liver can store up sufficient vitamin A to meet the body's requirements for six months.

Although vitamin A itself is not present in plants, many plants produce a substance called carotene, formed from leaf-green which our bodies can convert into vitamin A. Carotene is the yellowish-red coloring matter in carrots. The greener a leaf is, the more carotene it usually contains. Hence the importance of green, leafy vegetables in the diet as a source of carotene. Tomatoes, papayas, mangoes and bananas contain more carotene than most other fruits. Red palm oil contains so much carotene that it is used instead of cod-liver oil. Thus, it is very valuable, both as a food-fat and for deep-frying.

Vitamin A and carotene are insoluble in water and they are not destroyed by heat unless oxygen is present. Boiling in water, therefore, does not destroy much vitamin A or carotene.

Vitamin A encourages healthy growth and physical fitness. Young animals soon stop growing and die if vitamin A is not present in their diet. This vitamin keeps the moist surfaces lining the digestive canal, the lungs and air passages healthy. It also helps keep the ducts of the various glands, the tissue that lines the eyelids and covers the front of the eyeball functional. As vitamin A helps these tissues build up resistance to infection, it is often called the anti-infective vitamin.

Some of the most common disorders in people are caused by a shortage of vitamin A, when the moist tissues become dry and rough. This often causes serious eye disease, followed by infection of the air-passages. The skin may also become flaky and rough. Another defect caused by shortage of vitamin A is 'night-blindness', when the affected person has distinct vision only in bright light.

As the body cannot produce vitamin A, it has to come from external sources. Thus a well-balanced diet is required and is usually sufficient to provide the necessary amount. There is therefore no need to supplement the need in the form of pills.



ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED APRIL 27, 2015)

WATER : KEY : 1. D , 2. A , 3. A , 4. C , 5. A , 6. C , 7. D , 8. B , 9. B , 10. D

A Now You Try This. Simile KEY :

A friend is like your soul.

Friendship is like a boat

When I am tired, I am as tired as a flat battery.

When I am sad, I am like an owl.

The dog was as fat as a pig.

Metaphor KEY :

A friend is a savior.

Friendship is a boat.

Feeling tired is a spent fire.

He was a rock through all their troubles.

B

1. The baby was like an octopus(Simile)

2. "This class is like a three-ring circus!" (Simile)

3. The giant's steps were thunder. (Metaphor)

4. The pillow was a cloud.(Metaphor)

5. I feel like a limp.(Simile)

6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod. (Simile)

7. The fluorescent light was the sun.(Metaphor)

8. he's a wet blanket.(Metaphor)

9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel. (Metaphor)

10. Ted was as nervous as a cat.(Simile)

C

Summary :KEY

In ancient times, man made use of animals like the horses to transport themselves and goods. The journeys usually took a long time. Trains were preferred to animals since its invention, as they carry more people and goods and travel faster. Motor vehicles proved more superior to trains as they do not run on rails. Hence, they are able to reach small towns and remote areas where tracks are not available. Traveling via waters man be slow but it is the cheapest form of bulk transportation. However, journeys by water are often characterized by the danger of meeting a storm. Traveling by plane is the most convenient but expensive way and thus we do not use it for daily purposes. (120 words)

D Rule 1 :

1. That wall clock looks expensive, but it doesn't work.

2. He likes to buy expensive clothes but hates to pay the bills.

3. The lights went out, so the guests had to leave early.

4. The store will have to stay open longer, or it will lose money.

5. John has a large garden, for he loves to grow vegetables.

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue