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Introduction

This book is the third volume of a series of books concentrating on training reading skills. Each article is accompanied by six essential questions to help readers understand the article. These questions are within the framework of the following categories:

♦ **Main Idea** ♦ Readers will have to ask themselves, “What point is the writer trying to make?” By asking this question, they will be aware of looking for an answer during the reading process.

♦ **Subject Matter** ♦ The subject matter question can help readers focus on the articles they are reading. After reading the first few lines of the article, readers should ask themselves, “What is the subject matter of this article?” They will start concentrating instantly.

♦ **Supporting Details** ♦ The article is made up of details that support the main idea. Supporting details come in various forms, such as examples, explanations, descriptions, definitions, comparisons, contrasts, and metaphors.

♦ **Inference** ♦ Inference questions ask the readers to find the inferences and assumptions made in the article. The main goal of the question is to train readers’ abilities of critical and logical thinking.

♦ **Words in Context** ♦ Words in Context are important in understanding an article. Mistaking the meanings of some Key Words or phrases can lead to a gross misunderstanding of the author’s message.

♦ **Others** ♦ Other reading skills include:

Clarifying Devices The author might use similes and metaphors to capture readers’ attention and spark their imaginations. The most widely used clarifying devices are signal words (*first, second, next, last, finally*), and transitional words or phrases (*in brief, in conclusion, above all, therefore*). Organizational patterns are also clarifying devices, including the chronological pattern, in which events are ordered by the time at which they occurred.

Text Form A text form refers to a type of writing such as fantasy, autobiography, or newspaper article. Knowing the text form can help readers achieve a better understanding of the purpose of the article and determine how to interpret the article.

Cause and Effect Cause and effect questions are concerned with why things happen (causes) and what happens as a result (effects). Understanding cause and effect relationships can guide readers to understand how one event or action caused another to occur. Words like *so, because, and as a result*, are good clues that help readers recognize a cause-and-effect relationship.

Fact or Opinion A fact is something that is true and is supported by evidence. An opinion is something you believe or feel. Being able to identify facts and opinions can help readers differentiate between what is real and what is someone’s point of view or thought, and explore their knowledge or opinions on a topic.

Author’s Tone An author’s tone is the attitude the author takes on the subject he or she is writing about. It gives readers clues as to how the author feels about his or her subject. This type of question is usually described using an emotion word such as *serious, humorous, or hopeful*.

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In our reading plan, the 100 articles are divided into 16 weeks. Readers should read 6–7 articles each week. By following the plan, the readers will make steady progress in mastering English reading skills.

Walking on the Moon

Cappadocia has a **landscape** unlike anything you've seen before. Located in central Turkey, this region is famous for its natural rock **formations**. Some visitors say that visiting Cappadocia is like visiting the moon.

How did Cappadocia become so **exceptional**? Both nature and **humanity** had a hand in it. Take the "fairy chimneys" that the region is famous for. These are **pillars** of rock that have been **eroded** by thousands of years of wind and rain. They can stand as high as 40 meters tall. Some of them have a cone of harder rock at the top. It can look a bit like a hat sometimes. This cone takes longer to erode than the softer rock **underneath**.

Now, here's where **humanity comes into play**.


Tourists can take a 1-2 hour ride and **soak** in the sights from high in the sky. These tours can be very **fancy**. Some even offer buffets and **champagne** toasts. If you want something more private, there are tours focusing on special occasions like honeymoons or marriage proposals. Wouldn't it be romantic to have such a great surprise up in the air?

Questions

- Which sentence is closest in meaning to the main point?
 - ☐ Cappadocia was once on the ancient Silk Road.
 - ☐ Several natural wonders can be found in Cappadocia.
 - ☐ Cappadocia is a desert like landscape without any trees.
 - ☐ Fairy chimneys are pillars of rock with cones on top.
- What's another possible title for this article?
 - ☐ Traveling Turkey in a Balloon.
 - ☐ Erosion—Nature's Sculptor.
 - ☐ An Unforgettable Landscape.
 - ☐ My Life in a Cave.
- Why did settlers in Cappadocia build their homes in caves?
 - ☐ There were no building materials available.
 - ☐ It was the only way to beat the desert heat.
 - ☐ For protection against passing soldiers.
 - ☐ There was fresh water in the caves.
- Which of the following is probably true about Cappadocia?
 - ☐ Hot air balloon rides are popular with tourists there.
 - ☐ It will disappear within the next 10 years.
 - ☐ It's a very dangerous place to live.
 - ☐ There is no electricity there.
- What does the phrase **have a hand in** mean in the second paragraph?
 - ☐ To delay something.
 - ☐ To leave something.
 - ☐ To contribute to something.
 - ☐ To shrink something.
- Which of the following statements is a fact?
 - ☐ Cappadocia has a landscape that's truly jaw-dropping.
 - ☐ Cappadocia is unlike anything you've seen before.
 - ☐ Cappadocia was located on the ancient Silk Road.
 - ☐ Fairy chimneys can look a bit like a hat sometimes.

The articles are written about various kinds of topics: culture, mystery, business, people, arts & literature, and more. Readers will learn English as they explore their world.

Culture



▲ La Tomatina in Buñol, 2013

► The street are flooded with hurled tomatoes.

09

When the Streets Turn Red

On the last Wednesday in August, the streets of Buñol, Spain, **run red with ... tomato juice**. It's the world's biggest annual food fight, and it involves 160 tons of squashed tomatoes being thrown by 22,000 very messy participants. In previous years up to 50,000 people, mostly tourists, took part! Nowadays, to control numbers, tickets must be bought in advance.

At 10 a.m., anxious shopkeepers **frantically** cover their storefronts. Fire trucks are at the ready with **hoses** to wash away the slippery tomato **residue** that will soon cover everything in sight, and the **immense** crowd dances and cheers in **anticipation**.

They are waiting for the "palo jabón"—the **greasy** pole. Unlike most events, La Tomatina does not start with a **pistol** shot. A long pole is **erected** in the town and a ham is placed on the very top. Members of the crowd then race to climb the pole, **scrambling** over each other, **desperate** to be the first one to the top. When the ham is knocked to the ground, the tomato throwing can begin.

Trucks empty the mass of **overripe** vegetables into the town square, and the frantic food fight explodes into action. In no time at all, the streets are flooded with the soft, wet guts of thousands upon thousands of **hurled** tomatoes.

After an hour, exhausted, **soaked** from head to toe, and glowing bright red, the crowd slowly begins to **disperse**. The battered food fighters make their way down to the river to wash the seeds out of their hair and the slime from their faces.

No one knows quite when or why La Tomatina began. It's usually dated to the mid-1940s, and there are many theories about what started off the first tomato fight.

Key Words:

- frantically 狂怒的 (adv.)
- hose 水管 (n.)
- immense 巨大的 (adj.)
- anticipation 预期 (n.)
- greasy 油腻的 (adj.)
- pistol 手枪 (n.)
- erect 竖立 (v.)
- scramble 攀爬 (v.)
- desperate 绝望的 (adj.)
- overripe 过熟的 (adj.)
- hurled 抛 (v.)
- enak 结束 (v.)
- disperse 解散; 驱散 (v.)

▲ La Tomatina workers preparing the greasy pole (by pinkbeauty)

Some say it was just a playful fight between friends, while others claim it began as an attack on city council members. Some even say it began after a lorry accidentally spilled its produce on the street, and people just couldn't contain themselves.

The festival has become so popular that other nations have even tried to hold **identical** events. Some governments, however, are a little stricter than the fun-loving Spanish. The Indian version of the event in Bangalore was **banned** after tomato growers complained that throwing such a large amount of produce would be an unacceptable waste of food.

Questions

- Which of the following best summarizes the article?
 - How to take part in La Tomatina.
 - The future of La Tomatina.
 - The history of La Tomatina.
 - The spectacle of La Tomatina.
- What is the subject of this passage?
 - Festivals in India.
 - A Spanish food fight.
 - Tomato growing worldwide.
 - The problem of wasting food.
- Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - La Tomatina starts with a pistol shot.
 - The food fight lasts for one hour.
 - La Tomatina has been copied in other countries.
 - The origins of the festival are uncertain.
- Why is La Tomatina still celebrated to this day?
 - It attracts food lovers from all over the world.
 - It's an opportunity to exhibit Spanish culture.
 - It's fun and attracts many tourists to the town.
 - It tells the history of the town of Buñol.
- What does the word **residue** in the second paragraph mean?
 - Remains.
 - Fertilizer.
 - Produce.
 - Dirt.
- The phrase **run red with ... tomato juice** in the first sentence is a deliberate play on the phrase "run red with blood". Why did the writer use the phrase in this way?
 - To offend the reader.
 - To frighten the reader.
 - To calm the reader.

Each article is followed by six essential questions to help readers understand the content.

Damien Hirst and His Works



▲ Damien Hirst presents his new exhibit, Requiem.

▲ The Golden Calf (by Sir Uffindell)

▲ In the name of the father (by Sir Uffindell)

▲ Saint Bartholomew's, Exquisite Pain (by Sir Uffindell)

▲ The Promise of Money

▲ Temple

Bountiful pictures that provide additional information related to the articles will enhance readers' pleasure in reading.

Animals

01

The Sweetest Poison

When it comes to chocolate **additions**, dogs are no different from humans. They love the sweet and delicious taste. But did you know that chocolate can be a death sentence for man's best friend? Chocolate contains **caffeine** and **theobromine**. These two ingredients are **poisonous** to dogs. In fact, chocolate is **toxic** to dogs. So, keep your dog safe by keeping chocolate away from them.

Science

25

Not the Only You?

You've just sat down and opened your textbook. It's time to improve your English reading skills and learn some new vocabulary. But maybe there's...

Nature

46

A Beautiful Menace Under the Ice

While exploring the Canadian north, photographer Paul Zika came across a wonderful sight. It wasn't the snow-capped mountains, the pine trees, or the tranquil lakes. Rather it was some bubbles that caught Paul's eye. These bubbles were visible just under the icy surface of sea. There were hundreds of them, all frozen in place. They looked like strange sea creatures, maybe even **alien** life.

What the photographer had discovered is actually a gas called **methane**. Methane is a **greenhouse** gas that's far more powerful than carbon dioxide. By some **estimates**, it's 25 times more powerful. It's also highly **flammable** and can explode when released. Methane bubbles are formed by **bacteria** at the bottom of lakes. These bacteria **consume** plant matter and release methane as part of their **digestion** process. You might say it's a bacterium's way of **farting** in warmer weather. These methane bubbles float to the surface and are released into the **atmosphere**. But when the water is frozen, the bubbles get trapped in the ice.

But methane bubbles are far more than just a pretty picture. In actual fact, they're a serious threat to all of us. Methane is a gas that **contributes** to global warming. Some parts of the planet are frozen all year round. It's called...

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01



The Sweetest Poison



▲ Dogs can have serious reactions to chocolate.

- 1 When it comes to chocolate **addictions**¹, dogs are no different from humans. They love the sweet and delicious taste. But did you know that chocolate can be a death sentence for man's best friend?
- 2 Chocolate contains **caffeine**² and **theobromine**³. These two ingredients are why it's almost impossible to fall asleep if you eat a candy bar before bedtime. Although they can make our hearts race, they aren't particularly harmful to us. A person would have to eat a lot of chocolate before he or she got seriously sick.
- 3 Dogs on the other hand are a completely different story. Their bodies cannot **metabolize**⁴ theobromine as quickly as we can. This means that it stays in their system for a very long time. While our chocolate **buzz**⁵ lasts for about 20 to 40 minutes, theobromine can remain in a dog's system for days.



▲ Caffeine and theobromine can create a chocolate buzz.

- 4 The **symptoms** of chocolate poisoning are very serious. Early symptoms include **vomiting**⁶, **excessive**⁷ **urination**⁸, and the inability to sit still. As the theobromine continues to **be absorbed into**⁹ the dog's bloodstream, more serious symptoms begin to appear. These include **dizziness**¹⁰, muscle **twitching**¹¹, and **seizures**¹². If the dog doesn't get to a **veterinarian**¹³ quickly, it could fall into a **coma**¹⁴ and eventually die.

- 5 Obviously, all chocolate is toxic to dogs. However, some types of chocolate are more dangerous than others. White chocolate has very low levels of theobromine. A 20-pound dog would have to eat 55 pounds of it to cause serious symptoms. Baking chocolate on the other hand is far more **toxic**¹⁵. It only takes two ounces of baking chocolate to cause serious symptoms

Key Words

1 addiction 成瘾 (n.) 2 caffeine 咖啡因 (n.) 3 theobromine 可可碱 (n.) 4 metabolize 代谢 (v.)

5 buzz 興奮 (n.) 6 vomit 嘔吐 (v.) 7 excessive 過度的 (a.) 8 urination 排尿 (n.)

9 be absorbed into 被...吸收 10 dizziness 暈眩 (n.) 11 twitch 抽搐 (v.) 12 seizure 癲癇 (n.)

13 veterinarian 獸醫 (n.) 14 coma 昏迷 (狀態) (n.) 15 toxic 有毒的 (a.) 16 suffering 受苦 (n.)

► White chocolate is relatively less toxic for dogs to eat.

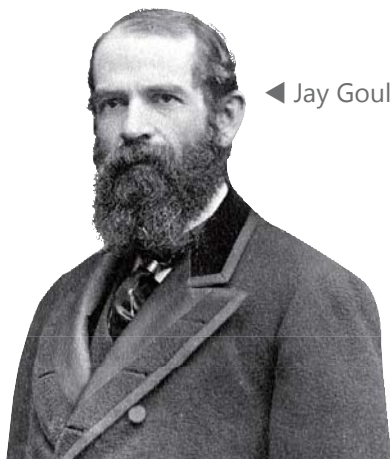


in a 20-pound dog. Generally speaking, the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for dogs to eat.

- 6 You would think that dogs would stay away from something so harmful, but that is not the case. Dogs love eating chocolate as much as we do. They don't seem to care too much about the pain and **suffering**¹⁶ that come afterward. That's why it's extremely important to make sure that your dog never eats even the smallest amount of chocolate. It doesn't take much for it to develop a taste for chocolate.

Questions

- ____ 1. What would you say is the main topic of the article? ♦Main Idea♦
- a A food that is safe for humans is deadly for dogs.
 - b Tips on maintaining a good diet for pet dogs.
 - c Reasons why dogs love to eat sweet foods.
 - d Symptoms of food poisoning in dogs.
- ____ 2. What is this article about? ♦Subject Matter♦
- a Dogs.
 - b Chocolate.
 - c Caffeine.
 - d Theobromine.
- ____ 3. Which of the following is true? ♦Supporting Details♦
- a Chocolate is harmless for dogs to eat.
 - b Dogs hate the taste of chocolate.
 - c Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine.
 - d White chocolate is the most harmful kind of chocolate for dogs.
- ____ 4. According to the article, which of the following is probably true? ♦Inference♦
- a Dogs used to be able to eat chocolate.
 - b White chocolate is less harmful to dogs.
 - c It's better to have some chocolate before bedtime.
 - d Most dogs are not interested in chocolate.
- ____ 5. What does the word **symptom** in the fourth paragraph most likely mean? ♦Words in Context♦
- a A sign that you are sick.
 - b A natural talent.
 - c Something that interests you.
 - d A physical activity performed outside.
- ____ 6. What tone does the author take in this article? ♦Author's Tone♦
- a A mocking tone.
 - b A concerned tone.
 - c A tragic tone.
 - d An indifferent tone.



◀ Jay Gould (1836–1892)

02



The Barons¹ Who Built America

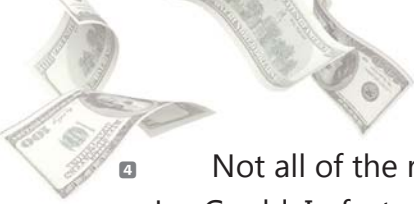
- 1 Imagine an era when people went from **rags**² to riches and then back to rags in mere weeks. Imagine politicians that could be bought and sold like **stock**³. This was America's **Gilded**⁴ Age of the 1870s and 1880s. It was the age of the robber barons.
- 2 Robber barons were American businessmen who became incredibly wealthy in the period following the American Civil War. They made their fortunes building the railroads, oil fields, banks, steel mills and ports that eventually helped America become a global economic power. As the "robber" in their name suggests, some of them were willing to **bribe**⁵, steal, and cheat in order to **squash**⁶ all of their **competitors**⁷ and establish **monopolies**⁸.
- 3 Jay Gould is one of the more **notorious**⁹ examples of a robber baron. He was born in 1836 and worked as a small-time businessman until his father-in-law **appointed**¹⁰ him manager of a struggling railroad. This opportunity marked the beginning of a career that was **characterized** by buying and selling railroad companies, often at the expense of the public. Mr. Gould was known to bribe public officials whenever his companies needed certain **legislation**¹¹ passed. In 1869, he and his notorious partner, Jim Fisk, **triggered**¹² a market panic by attempting to establish a monopoly on American gold. He was even involved in a **conspiracy**¹³ to **kidnap**¹⁴ a **shady**¹⁵ investor who had once accepted a bribe from him and then fled to Canada. According to a 2009 list on a popular American business Web site, Jay Gould is the eighth worst CEO in American history.



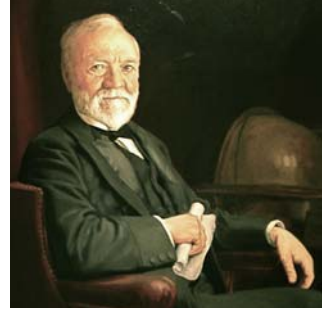
oil fields

Key Words

- 1 baron 大亨；巨頭 (n.) 2 rag 破布 (n.) 3 stock 股票 (n.) 4 gilded 鍍金的 (a.) 5 bribe 行賄 (v.)
 6 squash 壓扁 (v.) 7 competitor 競爭者 (n.) 8 monopoly 壟斷 (n.) 9 notorious 惡名昭彰的 (a.)
 10 appoint 任命 (v.) 11 legislation 立法 (n.) 12 trigger 引起 (v.) 13 conspiracy 陰謀 (n.)
 14 kidnap 綁架 (v.) 15 shady 不正當的；非法的 (a.) 16 disgrace 丟臉 (v.) 17 donate 捐獻 (v.)



► Andrew Carnegie
(1835–1919)



4

Not all of the robber barons were as shady as Jay Gould. In fact, some of them used their fortunes to improve society. Andrew Carnegie made a fortune in the steel industry and came to be regarded as the second-richest man in history. However, Mr. Carnegie believed that “a man who dies rich dies **disgraced**¹⁶.” This philosophy led him to **donate**¹⁷ most of his money to social causes before his death. Mr. Carnegie built public libraries in not just the United States, but Canada, Ireland, and Australia as well. He also donated large sums to schools and universities throughout America.

Questions

- ____ 1. Which of the following can summarize this article? ♦Main Idea♦
- a America's Gilded Age was characterized by the robber barons.
 - b America's Gilded Age was an era of construction and discovery.
 - c Robber barons built railroads, oil fields, banks, and steel mills.
 - d All of America's robber barons were generous.
- ____ 2. What is this article mainly about? ♦Subject Matter♦
- a Rich people.
 - b Railroads.
 - c Criminals.
 - d Monopolies.
- ____ 3. Which of the following statements is NOT true? ♦Supporting Details♦
- a The robber barons built railroads, steel mills, and oil fields.
 - b Jay Gould gave his fortune to the needy before he died.
 - c Robber barons wanted to establish monopolies to make money.
 - d Andrew Carnegie made his fortune in the steel industry.
- ____ 4. What can we infer from this article? ♦Inference♦
- a The robber barons and their associates were all eventually arrested.
 - b Andrew Carnegie and Jay Gould were friends.
 - c It was extremely difficult to make money during the Gilded Age.
 - d The American economy grew rapidly during the Gilded Age.
- ____ 5. What does the word **characterized** in the third paragraph most likely mean?
..... ♦Words in Context♦
- a Hated.
 - b Loved.
 - c Distinguished.
 - d Extremely prosperous.
- ____ 6. What caused the marketing panic in 1869? ♦Cause and Effect♦
- a Too many robber barons bribing public officials.
 - b Jay Gould attempting to establish a monopoly on American gold.
 - c Andrew Carnegie using his fortune to build public libraries.
 - d Jay Gould kidnapping an investor who had betrayed him.