

Temporary Employment

by ReadWorks

What I speak is the truth—the whole truth and nothing but the truth. You can believe what you'd like.

I was working at a restaurant—a regular Italian restaurant, nothing too fancy. They hired me as a busboy, and I intended to work my way up. I had just set out on my own, and I was full of plans, big plans, plans that all ended up in the same place: a swimming pool full of money—metaphorically speaking, of course.

They had me doing all kinds of work, none of it pretty. There were the standard busboy duties: clearing plates off tables, taking out the trash, and hauling the dirty dishes back to be washed. But I think they noticed my zeal and desire to please and decided to take advantage of it. Because whenever a job popped up that was too difficult, too boring, too gross, or just "plain beneath the other employees," well, they gave it me.

And you know what I said? "Yes, sir. Thank you, sir."

Franco was the manager. He was nice enough, but he was terrified of Debra, who owned the place. Debra only popped in once in a while, but when she was coming, we'd know. First Franco's eyes would get really wide. He'd start to tremble, and then he'd start yipping like a Chihuahua, except instead of barks he would yip orders. "Wash the bathroom!" he'd say, even though it was spotless. "Double-check the menus! Clean the sinks! Polish the table bases! Polish the silverware! Polish the countertops and the tabletops and the tops of the heads of the bald men!"

Maybe I made that last one up.

But the rest is true. He'd work himself up into a frenzy. Debra was intimidating, I give her that. Her eyes were like lasers, and her voice was sharp.

It was even worse when she didn't speak. Franco would say something dumb and she'd just glare, which made him so nervous he'd say something even dumber, and the situation would continue like this until she spun around on her heels and strode through the double doors, pushing both open at once like some frontier desperado. She made people cower. Except for me, but as a busboy it wasn't hard to stay out of her path.

That is, except for this one time, the time I'm trying to tell you about. Like I said, I was the designated dirty work go-to guy. Someone threw up in the bathroom? I'm on it. Garbage is piling up in the basement? Boxes and boxes of inventory need counting and restocking? Those boxes are infested with spiders? I'm your man.

On the fateful afternoon in question, I was on something of a cleaning spree. Franco had asked me to clean the staff toilets, which were tucked away in a damp corner of the basement, out of the customers' sight, and for good reason. The situation called for a wagon full of cleaning supplies. I went to the supply closet only to find cleaning supplies so grimy and full of spider webs that they couldn't even be used without a good scour and scrub.

I needed cleaning supplies for my cleaning supplies.

whole cleaning enterprise. I was ready to give that basement the makeover of its long and foul-smelling life. Was I overly enthusiastic? Was I overly passionate?

It wasn't as though I stormed wild-eyed through the doors, frothing at the mouth. I didn't yell out a war cry or start spraying all-purpose cleaner with bleach above my head like some sort of lunatic. There was no chanting, no war dance.

I filled a shopping cart with cleaning supplies. Thinking the lunch hour was over, I used that shopping cart to barrel through the doors, and that shopping cart crashed into someone eating lunch, and that person-seated with her back to me, whose face I couldn't see until she rose from the carpeted floor with penne a la vodka in her lap and a nightmare from the depths of the inferno in her eye-was Debra.

She said nothing at first, but rose with dignity and fury to her feet. She didn't wipe the pasta from her blouse, but let it fall of its own accord. It did, with a splatter. She stared into my eyes. I could feel my mouth opening and closing. I couldn't stop it-open, close, open, close. Without thinking I said something. I said, "How fortunate, I have cleaning supplies." And I whirled around and grabbed a spray-on fabric cleaner from the cart's heaping bounty and whirled back around to see Debra's shoulders rising as she inhaled, falling as she exhaled. She breathed heavily, and the rise and fall of her shoulders reminded me of the engine movements of an old-fashioned steam locomotive, one that would shortly flatten me.

Debra raised one trembling finger and pointed it between my eyes, looking as though she wished it were the barrel of a gun. She opened her mouth but I cut her off with a raised finger of my own. "Hold that thought," I said. And without so much as a sidelong glance, I strode past her to Franco, who thought he could hide behind a large bushy ficus plant. I threw down my apron and simply said, in the angriest voice I could muster, "I quit."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where does the narrator of the story work?

- A. a supermarket
- B. an office
- C. an Italian restaurant
- D. an ice cream parlor

2. After filling a shopping cart with cleaning supplies, the narrator barrels through the restaurant doors with the shopping cart. What is the result of the narrator's actions?

- A. The narrator crashes into the restaurant owner, Debra.
- B. The narrator is fired for making a mess.
- C. The narrator breaks the doors down and gets in trouble.
- D. The narrator is able to clean the basement.

3. The narrator's job is dirty and unpleasant. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?

- A. He counts and restocks boxes of inventory.
- B. He cleans up vomit and takes out the trash.
- C. He polishes silverware and countertops.
- D. He is assigned the boring duties.

4. Read the following sentences: "I had just set out on my own and I was full of plans, big plans, plans that all ended up in the same place: a swimming pool full of money- metaphorically speaking, of course."

Based on this information, what can you conclude about the narrator?

- A. He is cheerful.
- B. He is practical.
- C. He is loyal.
- D. He is ambitious.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. Debra, the owner of the Italian restaurant
- B. the relationship between Debra and Franco
- C. the life of a busboy at an Italian restaurant

6. Read the following sentences: "But I think they noticed my **zeal** and desire to please and decided to take advantage of it. Because whenever a job popped up that was too difficult, too boring, too gross, or just 'plain beneath the other employees,' well, they gave it me. And you know what I said? 'Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.'"

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**zeal**" most nearly mean?

- A. hesitation
- B. enthusiasm
- C. anger
- D. laziness

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

_____ the narrator has to do the dirty work in the restaurant, he does his job with zeal.

- A. Even though
- B. Moreover
- C. As a result
- D. Particularly

8. What does the narrator tell his manager at the end of the story?

9. What motivates the narrator to do his job as busboy with "zeal and desire to please"?

10. Based on the story, explain whether or not the narrator is a good employee. Support your answer using information from the story.

Complete the circled problems

Day 9

Subtract Decimals—Skills Practice

Name: _____

Subtract.

Form A

1 $0.09 - 0.072 =$ _____

2 $82.456 - 50.03 =$ _____

3 $53.5 - 0.094 =$ _____

4 $12.091 - 0.132 =$ _____

5 $0.8 - 0.341 =$ _____

6 $54.784 - 23.8 =$ _____

7 $25.76 - 4.213 =$ _____

8 $27.261 - 18 =$ _____

9 $10.002 - 0.004 =$ _____

10 $6.365 - 0.245 =$ _____

11 $4.598 - 2.46 =$ _____

12 $36.7 - 0.062 =$ _____

13 $68 - 6.218 =$ _____

14 $18.25 - 6.342 =$ _____

15 $1.087 - 0.3 =$ _____

16 $0.076 - 0.02 =$ _____

17 $48.1 - 9.354 =$ _____

18 $56.285 - 7.293 =$ _____

19 $2.89 - 0.089 =$ _____

20 $82.138 - 6.4 =$ _____

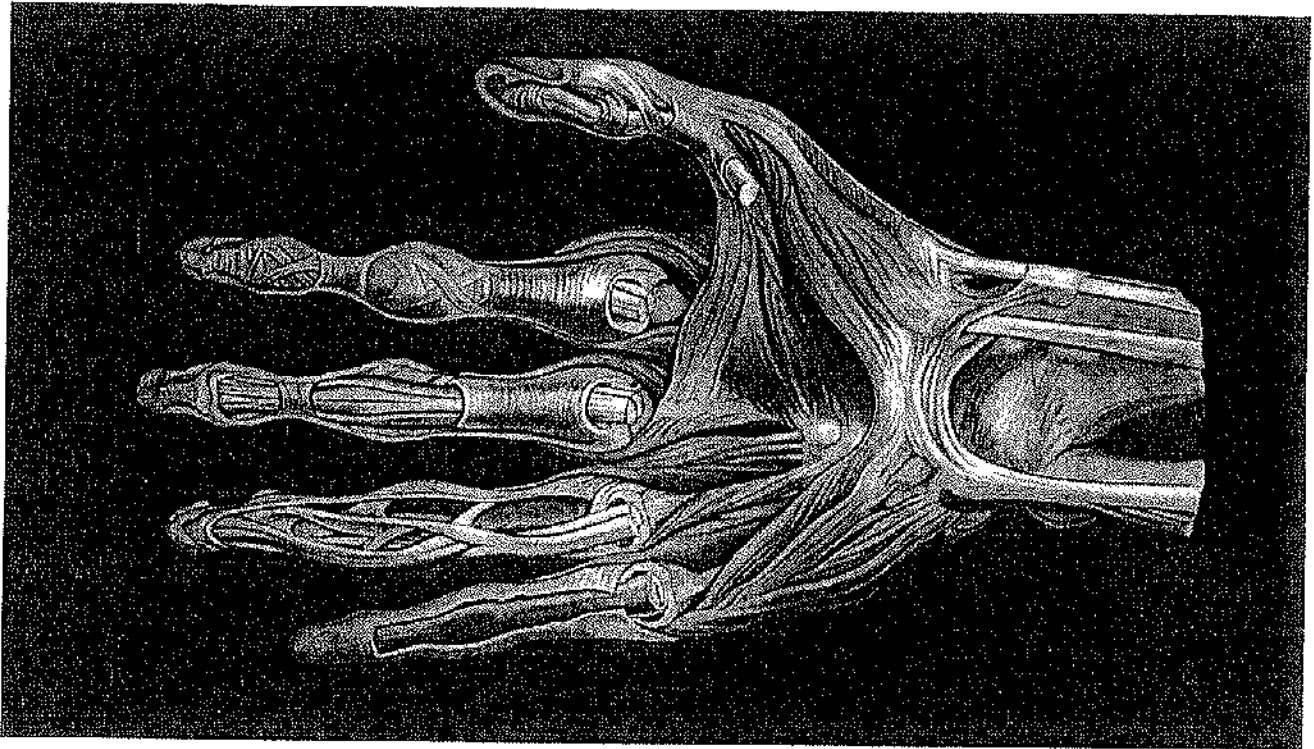
21 $21.98 - 13.761 =$ _____

Learning how the bones and muscles work together

By Gale, Cengage Learning, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.13.17

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Level 960L



A drawing of the muscles of the hand and wrist from the 1900s. Image by: Elisa Schorn/Double-M/Wikimedia. Image by: Elisa Schorn/Double-M/Wikimedia.

Whenever you run, sit, walk or even stand, your bones and muscles are working together. Bones provide the shape and protection for our bodies. Our bones also produce our much-needed supply of daily blood cells — about 200 billion a day! They are the holding places for minerals and other key substances.

Many muscles are attached to bones and they pull the bones for movement. Other muscles play important roles in daily life, allowing you to breathe, swallow, smile and move your eyes. The heart muscle powers your entire body by pumping blood cells through it.

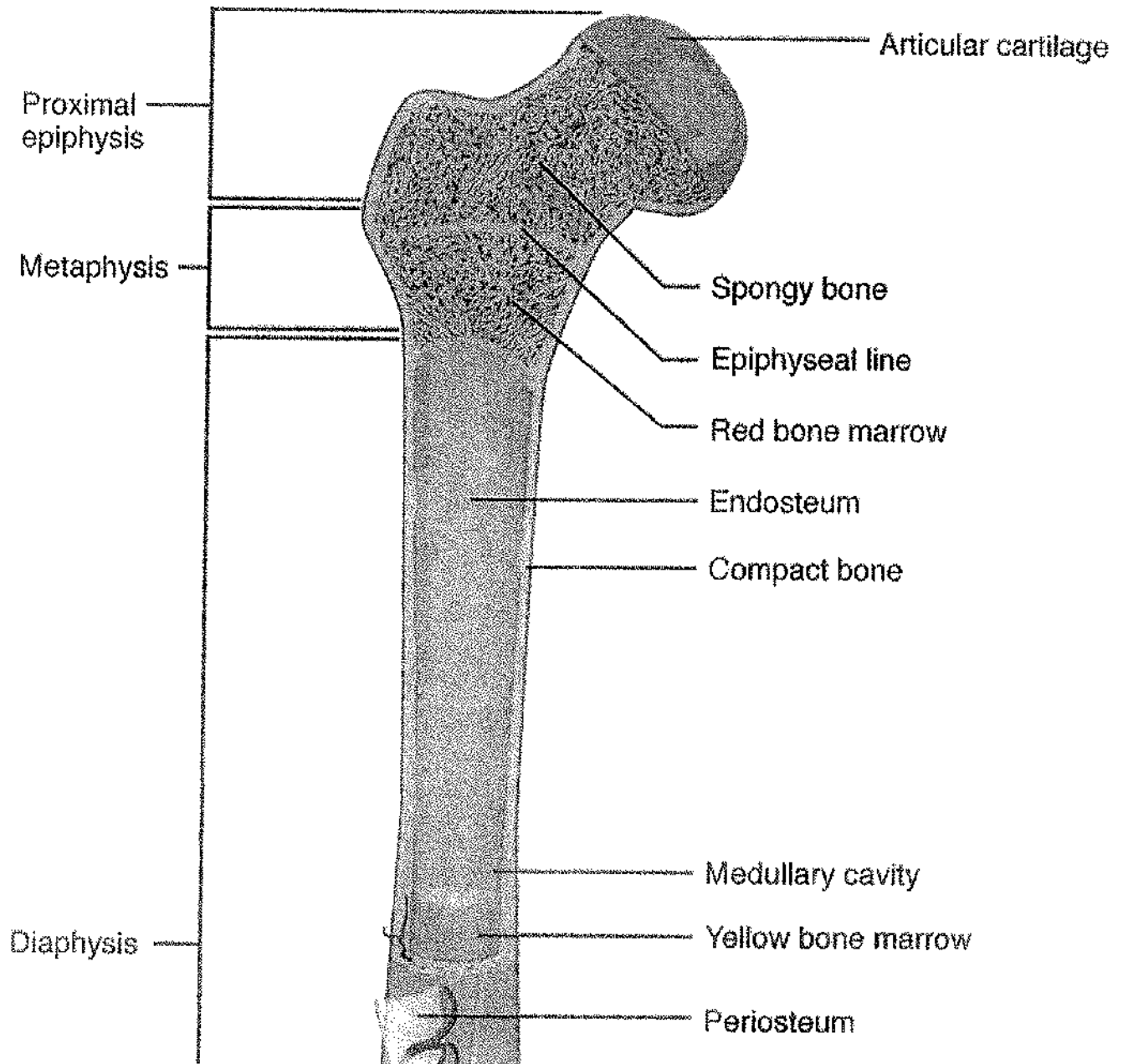
Bones, Bones, Bones

An adult body has about 206 bones. Some bones are responsible for movement, including bones in the hands, feet and limbs. Other bones, like your skull or ribs, primarily give protection to internal organs.

Bones are full of activity, and they grow and change along with a person. About 70 percent of an adult's bones are composed of minerals, and the remaining part is bone tissue, or groups of similar cells with the same behavior. Humans are made of millions of cells, which all do different things. The cells in bone tissue constantly make new bone, essentially making a whole new skeleton about every seven years.

Wherever two bones meet, there is a joint. Most joints are movable and are coated with fluid. Ligaments are a tough connective tissue that link bones together at the joints. Cartilage is another connective tissue found at the end of the bones and in the joints. This is a smooth and bendable tissue that lets one bone slide smoothly over another.

Hard And Spongy



The outside of the bone is a hard layer of living cells called compact or hard bone. Holes run through the compact bone, carrying blood vessels and nerves to its inner parts. Inside this layer is cancellous bone or spongy bone. Cancellous bone has cells with large spaces in between them like a honeycomb. The spaces in this network are filled with a jellylike red-and-yellow bone marrow. Red bone marrow, found mainly at the ends of bones, makes most of our body's blood

cells. This includes red blood cells, which carry oxygen around the body. It also includes white blood cells, which help fight infection. Finally, red bone marrow makes platelets, which help blood clump together to form scabs. Yellow bone marrow stores fat and releases it as needed.

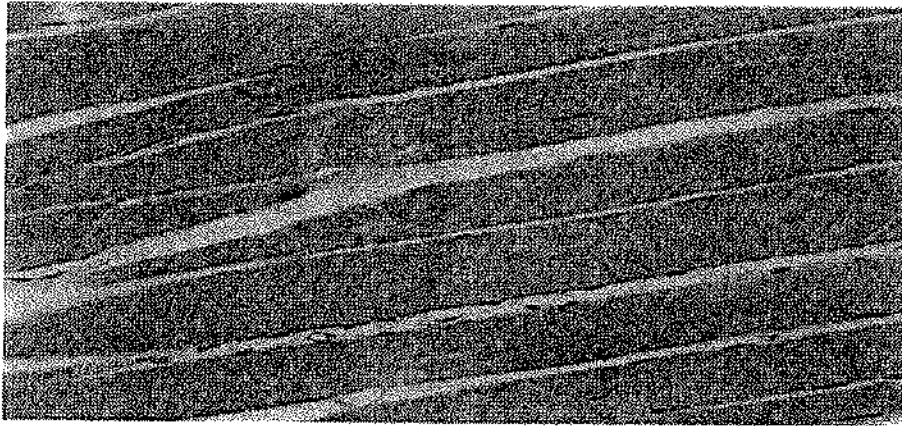
Bones contain large amounts of a protein called collagen, which gives them their stretchiness. Bones also contain many minerals. One important mineral, calcium, gives bones their strength.

As a person gets older, bones can become weak. Osteoporosis is a disease in which bone tissue becomes breakable and thin. This disease is most common among older people. Getting enough calcium as a young adult can help prevent or delay this disease.

Muscular Strength

Bones are moved by muscles. Small, thin tissues called tendons fasten muscles to bones and to other muscles.

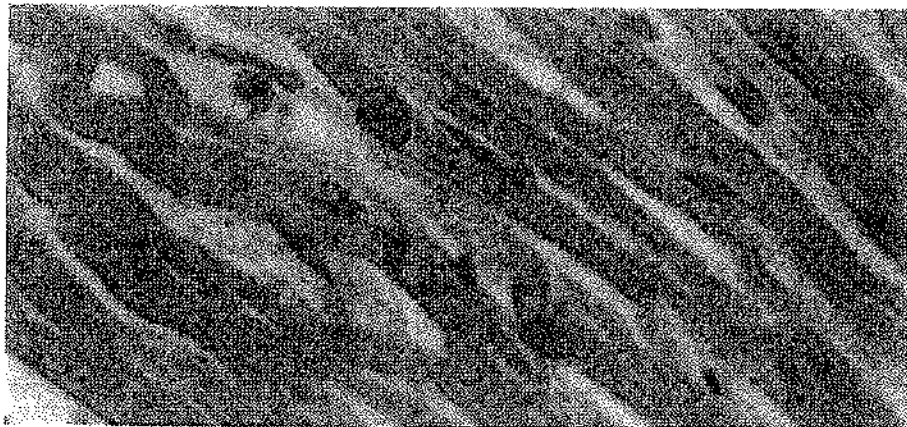
The human body has about 650 muscles, which come in all shapes and sizes. They are classified as voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary muscles are those you can control, like when you move your arm. Involuntary muscles act without you thinking about them, like your stomach muscles when they help break down food. Some muscles fit into both categories, such as the muscle used to blink your eyes.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Muscles are made of stacks of long, thin cells called muscle fibers. There are three types of muscle fibers, referred to as skeletal, smooth and cardiac. Skeletal muscle fibers, the most abundant and largest of the three, are attached to bone and are voluntary muscles. Most cells only have one nucleus, a structure that stores DNA, but each skeletal muscle fiber has several. Smooth muscle fibers are smaller than the skeletal muscles and are narrow at the ends. They are involuntary, and examples include the stomach and intestines. Cardiac muscles are also involuntary, and they are found only in the heart. These muscles have fibers that are tightly packed together and have branches.

Muscles work in pairs to move bones by contracting and relaxing. Whenever you bend your arm, for example, the bicep muscle in the front of the upper arm contracts. When the arm straightens, the bicep relaxes and the tricep muscle at the back of the upper arm contracts.

Muscles get energy from the food we eat. Exercise is also good for muscles. When a person exercises, the muscle fibers grow and blood flow increases. This helps avoid muscle fatigue, which happens when muscle cells run out of oxygen and cannot contract as much.

Quiz

- 1 Read the selection from the section "Bones, Bones, Bones."

About 70 percent of an adult's bones are composed of minerals, and the remaining part is bone tissue, or groups of similar cells with the same behavior. Humans are made of millions of cells, which all do different things.

Which phrase from the selection helps you understand the meaning of "composed"?

- (A) remaining part
 - (B) bone tissue
 - (C) similar cells
 - (D) made of
- 2 Read the paragraph from the section "Muscular Strength." Then, fill in the blank.

Muscles work in pairs to move bones by contracting and relaxing. Whenever you bend your arm, for example, the bicep muscle in the front of the upper arm contracts. When the arm straightens, the bicep relaxes and the tricep muscle at the back of the upper arm contracts.

The word "contracts" in this paragraph tells you:

- (A) the muscles are involuntary
 - (B) the muscles are aching
 - (C) the muscles become larger
 - (D) the muscles tighten inward
- 3 How do the image and text in the section "Hard And Spongy" develop a coherent understanding of bones?
- (A) by illustrating the importance of platelets to keeping bones healthy
 - (B) by illustrating the difference between the metaphysis and diaphysis
 - (C) by showing how the layers of bone are organized and work together
 - (D) by showing how the layers of bone protect the body in an accident

4. Which selection from the article is BEST illustrated by the image at the top of the article?
- (A) Other muscles play important roles in daily life, allowing you to breathe, swallow, smile and move your eyes.
 - (B) This is a smooth and bendable tissue that lets one bone slide smoothly over another.
 - (C) Small, thin tissues called tendons fasten muscles to bones and to other muscles.
 - (D) The human body has about 650 muscles, which come in all shapes and sizes.