

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

1 Read the paragraph.

The cake was baked, decorated, and presented by Elizabeth. The eggs, flour, sugar, milk, oil, and baking powder were measured and mixed expertly. The cake was assembled into three layers once it cooled. The cake was frosted with homemade buttercream frosting. Finally, the cake was presented to the party, and it was enjoyed by all of the guests.

Which of the following correctly changes all of the verbs in the paragraph into active voice?

- The cake was baked, decorated, and presented. The eggs, flour, sugar, milk, oil, and baking powder were measured and mixed. The cake was assembled into three layers. The cake was frosted with buttercream frosting. Finally, the cake was presented to the party, and it was enjoyed.
- Elizabeth baked, decorated, and presented the cake. She expertly measured and mixed the eggs, flour, sugar, milk, oil, and baking powder and then assembled the cake into three layers after it cooled. After that, Elizabeth frosted the cake using homemade buttercream frosting. Finally, all of the guests enjoyed the cake Elizabeth presented at the party.
- The cake is baked, decorated, and presented by Elizabeth. The eggs, flour, sugar, milk, oil, and baking powder are measured and mixed expertly. The cake is assembled into three layers once it cools. The cake is frosted with homemade buttercream frosting. Finally, the cake is presented to the party, and it is enjoyed by all of the guests.
- Baking, decorating, and presenting the cake was important to Elizabeth. Measuring and mixing the eggs, flour, sugar, milk, oil, and baking powder expertly was important. Assembling the cake into three layers once it cooled and frosting it with homemade buttercream frosting was amazing. Presenting the cake to the party was fun, and all of the guests enjoyed it.

2 Which sentence is best written in a vivid style appropriate for a realistic fiction novel?

- The harder he tried to fix it, the worse it became.
- Maria could not believe her mother bought her an orange kitten for her birthday.
- Mike did not realize that he left his baseball bat and glove at home until after he arrived at practice.
- The cherry red race car flew through the crisp autumn air as it finished its last lap around the oval track.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

3 A student is writing a report about early Native Americans' use of gourds. Read both sources and the directions that follow.

Source 1: Educational online encyclopedia entry

Native Americans found many uses for gourds. The cucumber, squash, zucchini, and pumpkin are gourds. Melons such as watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew are also gourds. One obvious use of gourds was food. The hearty flesh and the seeds in the middle are nutritious. Because of their tough thick shells, gourds also made excellent bowls, pitchers, and other containers. Native Americans made kitchen utensils and tools out of them. They even used gourds to make decorations, jewelry, and musical instruments.

Source 2: Article in a history journal

Some Native Americans relied on finding gourds that grew in the wild. Some discovered the secrets of agriculture and were able to plant and harvest their own gourds. Others learned that they needed to plant gourd seeds in the spring in order to harvest the gourds in the fall. Many understood the importance of having plenty left over for the winter. Who can you think of that still plants gourd seeds in the spring in order to harvest gourds in the fall? Just think of all the farmers who must remember to plant pumpkin seeds in the spring in order to have fully grown pumpkins by the end of October.

The student took notes about information in both sources. Choose the notes that correctly paraphrases, or restates, information from both sources.

- It is amazing how many things Native Americans made out of gourds—everything from kitchen utensils to musical instruments.
- Because of their hard, tough shells, gourds were used for food and containers, such as pitchers and bowls.
- In order to benefit from the nutritional flesh and seeds of gourds throughout the winter, some Native Americans planted gourd seeds in the spring.
- Native Americans, who grew gourds such as melons, cucumbers, and squash had discovered the secrets of agriculture and were able to plant and harvest their own gourds.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 4 Veronica is writing an argumentative speech for her debate class about a community bike-sharing program. She wants to revise the draft to improve the transition between ideas. Read this section of the draft of her speech and complete the task that follows.

I think our community should adopt a free bike-sharing program. A bike-sharing program makes bicycles available for free to all citizens who want to ride them to and from work or school. The bikes are parked in several locations throughout town including the school and several workplaces. They remain unlocked and are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

The program has several advantages. For example, once you return the bike to a designated location, you do not have to worry about what happens to it after that. The program also saves citizens money. Students and employees do not have to purchase the bikes. Best of all, they are provided with free transportation. There are critics who will try to point out the program's possible disadvantages, but we can make the program a success.

So, in spite of what the critics say, our community should definitely adopt a free bike-sharing program. I am confident that citizens in this great community will be responsible using the bicycles. Please consider all the good that will come with a free bike-sharing program.

Choose the transitional sentence that would improve the link between the second and third paragraph.

- A. Although critics warn that people will take advantage of the program by keeping the bikes overnight, the program has been very successful in several surrounding communities.
- B. Clearly, anyone who criticizes this program does not know much about bike-sharing programs.
- C. Of course there will be some people who criticize the program, but you just have to remember that there will always be critics.
- D. The program is wonderful, so every taxpayer should be happy their taxes are being used to pay for the program.

- 5 A student is writing an essay about the history of natural disasters in her city. Read the following paragraph.

Most of the people in the city were unprepared for the earthquake. They had no idea their homes were built on a major fault line. The local government had never discussed any plans or procedures to follow in the event of an earthquake. In fact, they never mentioned earthquakes at all. Fortunately, after the devastating earthquake, the government took a more active role in educating the population. They promised to support them during an earthquake.

The student found information in sources. Which piece of information best supports the claim in the student's paragraph?

- A. The mayor who took office after the earthquake had the "Earthquake Preparedness Resource Center" built in the center of the city.
- B. The federal government sent investigators to the city where the earthquake occurred to see what plans and procedures were in place.
- C. It is inexcusable and irresponsible for a government to know that its citizens are at risk but not tell them about it.
- D. Five years after the earthquake, the government was back to its old ways and did not discuss the possibility of earthquakes with the citizens.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 6 Read the following paragraph.

Kathy was planning a surprise party for her best friend, Jasmine, and Kathy wanted the party to go by without a single problem. The day of the party, Kathy set up all the decorations, and the cake was made by Kathy's mom. When the time got closer to the surprise, Kathy began to get nervous; however, when Jasmine's and Kathy's friends began to gradually arrive, Kathy's nerves calmed. As their last friend arrived to Kathy's house, Kathy heard Jasmine's car arrive, Jasmine's footsteps became louder the closer she got to the door. Kathy signaled everyone to get ready, and when Jasmine opened the door they all yelled "Surprise!" Jasmine was surprised to see all of her friends when she walked into Kathy's house.

Choose the correct way to change passive verb voice to active verb voice in the underlined sentence.

- A. The cake was made by Kathy's mom, and Kathy set up all the decorations the day of the party.
- B. Kathy set up all the decorations the day of the party, and the cake was made by Kathy's mom.
- C. The day of the party Kathy set up all the decorations, and Kathy's mom made the cake.
- D. Kathy set up all the decorations, but the cake was made by Kathy's mom.

- 7 Read the following paragraph.

As he left the game store with the newly released video game he had been anticipating for months, James was exhilarated to get home. He made sure nothing stopped him while he was rushing home. He ran upstairs after he frantically entered the house. He stumbled over his brother's skateboard that was recklessly placed on the stairs, but made sure the video game was safe. After entering his room, he immediately approached his video game system. When James turned it on, he entered the video game and an ear-splitting noise was heard. His heart sank because he knew something was wrong with his video game system.

Choose the correct way to edit the verb voice error in the underlined sentence.

- A. James turned it on, he entered the video game and an ear-splitting noise was heard.
- B. An ear-splitting noise was heard when James turned it on, he entered the video game.
- C. When James turned it on, he entered the video game and an ear-splitting noise he heard.
- D. When James turned it on, he entered the video game and he heard an ear-splitting noise.

- 8 Which sentence uses only the active voice?

- A. This year, 85 percent of the high school exit exam was passed by seniors.
- B. This year, 85 percent of the seniors passed the high school exit exam.
- C. By 85 percent of the seniors, 85 percent of the high school exit exam was passed.
- D. This year, the high school exit exam was passed by 85 percent of the seniors.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 9 A student is writing a narrative for her creative writing class about a young girl's first time jumping off a high diving board. The student wants to revise the draft to include a strong opening that adequately describes the main character. Read the draft and complete the task that follows.

As she approached the ladder to the high diving board, Sally's stomach was full of butterflies. Nonetheless, she grabbed the bars and climbed until she reached the top step. Carefully, she placed one hand on the board and lifted herself onto it. Her knees wobbled, Sally stood up. She quickly grabbed the bars on either side of the board and looked around to get her bearings. Down on the side of the pool, her mother smiled and waved, encouraging Sally to jump off. With that rallying cry on, Sally carefully made her way down the board, holding on tightly. When the bars ended, Sally hesitated, knowing that she would have to walk out to the end of the board unassisted by the comfort of the bars. She took a deep breath and let go, putting her arms straight out to her sides for balance. Sally took two small steps and found herself at the end of the board. She slowly counted down from ten and leaped off the board, through the air, and into the pool. When she surfaced, her pride at having jumped off the high diving board was written all over her face.

Choose the paragraph that would best introduce the narrative by providing a clear description of the main character.

- A. Sally Bright was always up for a challenge. She never turned down a dare, making her one of the most popular kids on her block. People were always daring her to do crazy things, like knocking on people's doors and running, climbing up electrical poles, and chasing birds. Sally loved the thrill of all these challenges.
- B. Sally Bright, a sweet six-year-old, had a very large family. The youngest of all her siblings, Sally had the smallest bed, a closet full of hand-me-downs, and the worst clothes. One thing that made them all equal, though, was their love of visiting the neighborhood swimming pool. Her parents, three sisters, and four brothers really liked to swim and jump off the high diving board.
- C. Six-year-old Sally Bright was afraid of heights. Because she was only three feet tall, she was used to living life close to the ground. From the time she was a baby, Sally's big blue eyes widened and her tiny voice howled whenever her father tossed her into the air. It was no wonder, then, that when her mother challenged her to jump off the high diving board, Sally's heart dropped. If one thing trumped Sally's fear of heights, though, it was her stubbornness. If her mother challenged her, she would do it.
- D. Sally Bright, a six-year-old, was nice to animals, whether they were pets or wild animals. No one was ever allowed to step on a bug in her presence or her big blue eyes would swim with tears. Because of her love of animals, Sally was in charge of their family dog, Buster. Despite her small build, Sally was always up for the challenge of caring for the giant St. Bernard. Every day, no matter the weather, Sally could be found walking Buster through the neighborhood. When she was not caring for him, she liked to go off the high diving board at the pool.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 10 Read the following paragraph.

Physical activity helps improve the overall health of individuals. It assists with circulation, increases blood flow to the brain, and can raise endorphin levels. Essentially, all of these things help reduce stress, improve mood, and can help students achieve more academically. Studies have shown that providing students with a designated time for physical activity in school can lead to better concentration, reduce disruptive behaviors, and help students achieve higher test scores in reading, math, and writing. Despite all the positives that physical education may have, only 8% of elementary schools, 6.4% of middle schools, and 5.8% of high schools provide daily physical education to their students. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education recommends students engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day; however, it is more likely that students will only engage in 16–18 minutes.

Which opinion could be generated using the evidence the author included?

- A. States should enforce stricter physical education requirements in their schools.
- B. Students should spend more time in the classroom to ensure higher achievement.
- C. Students should steer away from physical activity and spend time studying.
- D. Parents should require their children to exercise at home every day.

- 11 Read the sentence below.

Adrian drove to the mall after work buying a coat that was on sale.

Which of the following keeps the same meaning and correctly uses an infinitive?

- A. Adrian drove to the mall after work and bought a new coat that was on sale.
- B. Buying a coat that was on sale is why Adrian drove to the mall after work.
- C. Adrian drove to the mall after work to buy a coat that was on sale.
- D. Leave as is.

- 12 What is the mood of the sentence below?

Upon hearing the fire alarm, walk calmly to the nearest exit.

- A. indicative
- B. imperative
- C. interrogative
- D. subjunctive

- 13 How can the sentence below be rewritten so that it is in the passive voice?

Scientists found that the light coming from the galaxy had a higher frequency than they expected.

- A. Scientists found light coming from the galaxy with a higher frequency than they expected.
- B. The light coming from the galaxy had a higher frequency than scientists expected.
- C. Scientists found that the light from the galaxy had a higher frequency than they expected.
- D. The light coming from the galaxy was found to have a higher frequency than scientists expected.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

14 How can the sentence below be rewritten so that it is in the active voice?

- At the party, paper plates and cups were put into the wrong recycling bin.
- A. At the party, paper plates and cups were thrown into the wrong recycling bin.
 - B. Paper plates and cups were put into the wrong recycling bin by careless partiers.
 - C. At the party, people put paper plates and cups into the wrong recycling bin.
 - D. Paper plates and cups were being thrown into the wrong recycling bin during the party.

15 Which of these sentences is written in the passive voice?

- A. Susanna has a new, green bicycle.
- B. Marco is running for student council president.
- C. The fire department sits around the corner from the library.
- D. The ball was thrown to the quarterback.

16 Read this sentence.

Running through the mossy meadow, two deer were seen by us.

What is the best way to rewrite the sentence?

- A. Seen by us were two deer running through the mossy meadow.
- B. We saw two deer running through the mossy meadow.
- C. Two deer were seen by us as they ran through the mossy meadow.
- D. Two deer, running through the meadow, and seen by us.

17 Mia is presenting an oral report on grizzly bears to her science class and wants to focus on how the species survives in its habitat. Which is the BEST medium for Mia to use when presenting her report?

- A. a map indicating all of the areas where grizzly bears live
- B. a video of grizzly bears catching fish from a stream
- C. a sound clip of grizzly bears calling to their cubs
- D. a list of reasons why grizzly bears are a threatened species

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

18 Read this sentence from a narrative.

From the rock, Bradley watched the otter play.

Which revision BEST uses sensory details to describe Bradley's actions?

- A. From the distant rock, Bradley used binoculars to watch the otter playfully splash in the water.
- B. Bradley carefully crouched on the granite boulder, then quietly watched as the otter bobbed up and down in the river.
- C. Bradley got quietly on the rock so that he would not disturb the young otter playing in the river.
- D. While he was on a large boulder, Bradley saw that the otter enjoyed sliding from the riverbank into the waters below.

19 Read this excerpt from a narrative.

The students in Bridgetown eagerly anticipated the upcoming event. Never before had such a famous person performed in their small town. Everyone wondered what it would be like to actually see a celebrity in person.

There was certainly much to do to get ready for such an occasion. There were decisions that each person must make. "Who to go with to the performance?" "What to wear?" Everyone was in a flurry of decision making and planning. Everyone, that is, except for Blake Stevens. Blake Stevens was new to Bridgetown.

Which narrative technique would MOST likely follow this excerpt?

- A. setting
- B. character description
- C. dialogue
- D. story climax

20 Read this sentence.

"Remember to put the roast beef in the oven by 3:00 p.m., start the vegetables at 3:45 p.m., and then set the table using the new dinnerware," his sister instructed.

Which verb form is used above?

- A. indicative
- B. conditional
- C. imperative
- D. subjunctive

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

21 Read this sentence.

My teacher, Mr. Grayson, suggested that he would clarify the major differences between reptiles and amphibians in a speech he plans to give at the science club next Friday.

Which verb form is used in this sentence?

- A. subjunctive
- B. conditional
- C. imperative
- D. indicative

22 Read this sentence.

Doug Martin writes songs about everyday life, and listeners are charmed by the pleasing sound of his voice.

Which of these corrects the change in voice?

- A. Doug Martin wrote songs about everyday life, and listeners were charmed by the pleasing sound of his voice.
- B. Doug Martin writes songs about everyday life, and he charms listeners with the pleasing sound of his voice.
- C. Doug Martin's songs were written about everyday life, and the pleasing sound of his voice has charmed listeners.
- D. Doug Martin writes songs about everyday life, and with the pleasing sound of his voice, listeners are charmed.

23 Which sentence uses a gerund as the subject of the sentence?

- A. Brian has canceled his plans for today since it will be too cold for swimming lessons.
- B. The group that was meeting after school decided to create signs for the student elections.
- C. Advertising is a great way to create interest in a newly manufactured product.
- D. I will be attending school in a different state this coming school year.

24 Which sentence uses a gerund phrase as a noun?

- A. To find the correct answer to any math problem, a student must first determine what question is being asked.
- B. The teacher asked Todd if he was carefully calculating the outcome of the competition.
- C. Having finished their homework early, the boys met at the field to practice baseball.
- D. Listening to the announcements at the end of the school day made Sarah aware that the newspaper club was cancelled.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

25 Which sentence contains a participle used as an adjective?

- A. Singing is a great hobby because it can be enjoyed almost everywhere.
- B. Worrying about the late hour, Mr. Henderson hurried home.
- C. Robert continued down the street while whistling a happy tune.
- D. Nicole felt confident after practicing her lines from the play with Jodie.

26 Which verbal form is usually introduced by the word to and may be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb?

- A. a gerund
- B. a participle
- C. an infinitive
- D. an auxiliary

27 Which verbal form ends in -ing and is used as a noun?

- A. a gerund
- B. an infinitive
- C. a participle
- D. an auxiliary

28 Read this sentence.

Allow me to explain my reasons for eating vegetables.

In which mood is the sentence written?

- A. indicative
- B. interrogative
- C. imperative
- D. subjunctive

29 Alan wrote a paper on alligators for his semester project. He used Internet sources as well as sources from the library. What type of paper did Alan write?

- A. persuasive paper
- B. expository paper
- C. narrative paper
- D. research paper

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 30] Jenni wants to write a research paper on the origins of pizza. Which magazine article should give her the BEST information for her paper?
- A. "Pizza: America's Most Popular Food"
 - B. "Little Sicily's Again Voted Best Pizza"
 - C. "Want to Make a Great Pizza?"
 - D. "How Pizza Became American"

- 31] Geoffrey wants to write a research paper on the rules and history of chess. Which source will give him the BEST information for his paper?

- A. an encyclopedia article on chess
- B. a novel entitled *They Played Chess*
- C. a newspaper article entitled "Rensselaer Takes Second Straight Chess Tournament"
- D. a magazine article entitled "Chess in the 22nd Century: Why It Isn't Going Away"

- 32] Why is it important to document each source used in a research paper?

- A. to show the reader that the paper presents a logical argument
- B. to let the reader know how many sources were used to write the paper
- C. to give credit to the person who wrote the information cited
- D. to explain to the person who wrote the cited information how it was used

- 33] According to MLA, which is the correct format for listing the newspaper article "Fourth of July Celebrations," from the *Needlepoint Newspaper*, in a bibliography?

- A. "Fourth of July Celebrations." Tom Storm, July 5th, 2000. *Needlepoint Newspaper*
- B. Storm, Tom. "Fourth of July Celebrations." *Needlepoint Newspaper* 5 July 2000.
- C. 2000 July 5. *Needlepoint Newspaper* "Fourth of July Celebrations." Storm, Tom.
- D. *Needlepoint Newspaper*, Storm, Tom, July 5, 2000. "Fourth of July Celebrations"

- 34] Read the documented source below.

Sinking Ship. Dir. writ., prod., ed Scott James. Prod. Landau Jones. Eighteenth Century Cat and Paramount, 1998.

According to MLA, what type of source is cited above?

- A. a movie
- B. a book
- C. the Internet
- D. an interview

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 35] According to MLA, which is the correct format for listing the book *Curving River, Endless Road* in a bibliography?
- A. 2012 Bookhouse: Chicago. Marnie Sandt. *Curving River, Endless Road*.
 - B. Chicago: Bookhouse. Curving River, Endless Road. Marnie Sandt. 2012
 - C. Curving River, Endless Road. Chicago: Sandt, Marnie. Bookhouse 2012
 - D. Sandt, Marnie. *Curving River, Endless Road*. Chicago: Bookhouse, 2012.

- 36] Read the documented source below.

Lee, Owen. "Teaching Jobs." *Time* 6 Nov. 2005: A14.

What type of source is cited in the entry above?

- A. a magazine
- B. an almanac
- C. an Internet interview
- D. a television interview

- 37] According to MLA, which is the correct format for listing the book *The Call of the Wild* in a bibliography?

- A. London, Jack. 1 Aug. 2005 <http://callthefwildinformation.org>
- B. London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*. 2nd ed. New York: Penguin Books, 1985.
- C. London, Jack. "The Call of the Wild." *Wall Street Journal* 1 Aug. 2005. Alt
- D. London, Jack. "The Call of the Wild." *Time* 1 Aug. 2005:23.

- 38] According to MLA, which of these is a bibliography entry in a book?

- A. Price, Jack, and Stacy Dollar. *The Long Lost ABC's*. Sillytown, Stateside: Random, 2001.
- B. Price, Jack — 15, 22, 45, 60, 111, 125
- C. Participle: a verbal form that may serve as an adjective, a preposition, and an element in verb phrases
- D. Chapter 10 . . . The Long Lost ABC's . . . 65

- 39] Read the sentences.

1. The petting zoo called to confirm the location for the party.
2. My mom planned to throw a surprise party for my little brother.
3. But, it appeared as though it was going to rain that day.
4. So my mom told them that we were going to have to reschedule the event.

What would be the MOST logical order for the sentences?

- A. 3, 4, 1, 2
- B. 4, 1, 2, 3
- C. 2, 1, 3, 4
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 40 Alice has been assigned to complete a paper on the first automobile and how it was built. She finds many articles and pieces of text that she uses to write her report. She uses the information in those articles and knows she must cite the sources. What should she add to her report to cite the sources?

- A. an index
- B. a table of contents
- C. a bibliography
- D. a glossary

- 41 If a teacher asked students to write a fictional story telling a tale about two animals, what type of paper would be the MOST appropriate to write?

- A. persuasive paper
- B. research paper
- C. narrative paper
- D. expository paper

- 42 A student is writing an argumentative essay for a class assignment on the high school math curriculum. The student wants to revise the conclusion of the essay to clarify the relationship between the claim and the reasons that support it.

In conclusion, money management classes should be taught in high school. Learning how to manage money is far more useful. A high school student who knows how to budget and track expenses has a great advantage in life. We should send our teenagers out into the real world not only ready to make money but ready to manage it.

- Choose the transition sentence that would *most* improve the link between the underlined sentences.
- A. What is more important: learning abstract geometry equations that may never be applied to real life or learning how to manage money in your everyday life?
 - B. What do you need more of: money or geometry equations?
 - C. You cannot make money in a geometry class, but you can make money by getting a part-time job.
 - D. You only need to know geometry equations if you become an architect or an engineer, right?

- 43 Read the following text.

Sylvie loves to climb the ladder to the treehouse in her backyard, but her mother disapproves of her doing so. Sylvie attempts to scale the ladder at least once each day. Every time, though, her mother catches her on the rungs and pulls her down, punishing her for climbing at all. Despite all her attempts to climb the ladder, Sylvie has yet to climb to the top because of her mother's watchful stare.

Which of the following sentences would be *best* to start off the paragraph to make it easier to understand?

- A. Sylvie enjoys climbing the ladder to the treehouse.
- B. Sylvie's mother is quite old but quite strong.
- C. Sylvie's father built a treehouse in their backyard.
- D. Sylvie is a very stubborn, very active, two-year-old girl.

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Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

The Dog Days of Summer

School was almost out for the summer and Jennifer was excited that her cousin Marlene was coming to stay with her family for two months. Summer was the one time of year she felt as though she had a sister. The girls were similar in that they were both thirteen years old and were the only girls in their families. Jennifer lived in a small town outside of Dallas, Texas and Marlene lived in San Diego, California. Whereas Jennifer was outgoing, Marlene was more on the quiet side.

For pretty much the whole first month of summer vacation last year, it seemed like their only topic of awkward conversation was about how their two home towns were different. By halfway through the summer, the girls discovered something they had in common that would bring them closer together and bring Marlene out of her shell. Thinking back on the memories of last summer, Jennifer got excited thinking about the summer to come.

Last summer was the first time Marlene had come to stay with Jennifer's family—Marlene's aunt, uncle, and cousins. At first, Marlene pretty much kept to herself in the guest room. She was almost unapproachable. Jennifer did not give up so easily. Jennifer enjoyed interacting with people, so she knocked on Marlene's door often and tried to spark conversation. That is when Jennifer sensed sadness in Marlene's voice. It was as if something were bothering her. Jennifer wondered what had been going on at Marlene's home and if maybe her parents were having troubles. Whatever it was, Marlene did not want to talk about it.

During Marlene's visit last summer, Jennifer's parents agreed the family could get a dog (due mostly to Jennifer's begging). Jennifer was quickly motivated to put all her research skills to use finding out which breeds of dog were hypoallergenic, the kind that do not cause allergies. Whenever she would see a particularly adorable picture of a dog, she headed to Marlene's room to show it to her. It confused Jennifer how Marlene turned away when she saw the pictures and seemed uninterested in Jennifer's research. Then, one day, Marlene broke down in tears and told Jennifer about how much she missed her dog that recently got lost and was never found. Jennifer felt terrible and did not bother her with dog photos anymore. After a few days, Marlene approached Jennifer and told her she wanted to help her find a dog to adopt. "And I've adopted a new attitude," said Marlene.

From that day on, Marlene joined Jennifer in her internet searches to find a hypoallergenic dog in a nearby animal shelter. They discovered that the animal shelters had very informative websites complete with pictures and information about each dog they currently had up for adoption. The girls sorted through many dog profiles before finding a few possibilities. Once the girls narrowed down their choices to a few dogs, they headed for the nearby animal shelter to meet them. It seemed like it was only minutes before the two felt they had found the perfect dog. Just to make sure, they took him for a walk and played with him. No one was sneezing, not even Jennifer. Jennifer's mom signed the paperwork and they took their new dog home.

After that, Marlene was out and about in the house often. She was especially happy to see the new dog, now going by the name of Pepper. Marlene helped feed, bathe, and walk Pepper. Every evening, Jennifer and Marlene took Pepper for a long walk. On those walks, Marlene opened up more and more to Jennifer and told her all about the things that were bothering her way back home.

Summer became even more fun when the girls decided to volunteer at the local animal shelter together. The girls had learned of the animal shelter's need for volunteers the day that they adopted Pepper. Jennifer and Marlene volunteered at the animal shelter three days a week—walking dogs. They had the time of their lives. Jennifer had never seen Marlene so happy. It was great!

After that summer, Jennifer and Marlene kept in touch during the school year working on a project together. They set up and maintained a website that helped showcase dogs up for adoption at their nearby animal shelters. The girls put their heart and soul into helping dogs in nearby shelters find homes.

So, with another summer once again approaching, Jennifer was so excited that Marlene was coming back to stay with her family for two months. They would get started volunteering at the shelter right away.

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Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Dog Days of Summer".

- 44 Which statement BEST describes how the relationship between Marlene and Jennifer changes over the course of the passage?
- A. In the beginning, Marlene was excited to visit her cousin, Jennifer. In the end, Marlene did not want to spend time with Jennifer and her family.
 - B. In the beginning, Jennifer was shy toward Marlene. In the end, Jennifer and Marlene became great friends.
 - C. In the beginning, Jennifer was mean toward Marlene. In the end, Jennifer and Marlene loved spending time together.
 - D. In the beginning, Marlene wanted to be alone and kept to herself. In the end, Jennifer helped Marlene to have a fun and enjoyable summer together.

- 45 This is a "Web Only" item and not designed for print administration.