

English

Comprehension – Retrieving Information

What do I do?



In a comprehension assessment, you will be given a text to read, followed by questions. This text could be from a wide range of styles. It could be a story, poem or a non-fiction passage, such as an information text. Depending on the style of exam paper, you may be asked to write a full answer or choose from a number of multiple options.

Top Tips!



- Read the passage first to get a feel of the text.
- Try to imagine the text in your head and picture what it might look like.
- If you have read the text before (it might be a famous story), try not to rely on what you have read previously. Just answer the questions given and rely only on the text in front of you.

What skills do I need to improve?



Doing lots of practice questions will help with becoming familiar with question types but what else can you do to improve in this area?

- READ, READ, READ! Reading a variety of different materials will help to prepare you for the exam.
- Try to include newspaper articles, poetry and pre-19th century texts in your list of materials to read.
- When you've read a chapter, ask someone to ask you questions about it – discussion about what you've read will help you to understand it better and will enable you to understand other opinions and ideas.
- Why not see if you can continue the story by writing your own ending?

Who Stole the Tarts?

An extract from *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

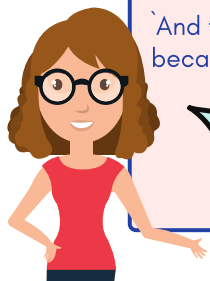
5 The King and Queen of Hearts were seated on their throne when they arrived, with a great crowd assembled about them--all sorts of little birds and beasts, as well as the whole pack of cards: the Knave was standing before them, in chains, with a soldier on each side to guard him; and near the King was the White Rabbit, with a trumpet in one hand, and a scroll of parchment in the other. In the very middle of the court was a table, with a large dish of tarts upon it: they looked so good, that it made Alice quite hungry to look at them--'I wish they'd get the trial done,' she thought, 'and hand round the refreshments!' But there seemed to be no chance of this; so she began looking at everything about her to pass away the time.

10 Alice had never been in a court of justice before, but she had read about them in books, and she was quite pleased to find that she knew the name of nearly everything there. 'That's the judge,' she said to herself, 'because of his great wig.'

The judge, by the way, was the King; and, as he wore his crown over the wig (look at the frontispiece if you want to see how he did it), he did not look at all comfortable, and it was certainly not becoming.

'And that's the jury-box,' thought Alice; 'and those twelve creatures,' (she was obliged to say 'creatures', you see, because some of them were animals, and some were birds,) 'I suppose they are the jurors.' She said this last word two or three times over to herself, being rather proud of it: for she thought, and rightly too, that very few little girls of her age knew the meaning of it at all. However, 'jurymen' would have done just as well.

Fancy a challenge? See if you can write the court scene from the perspective of the Judge/King.



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What do I do?

The following questions are all 'fact retrieval' questions. All of the answers that you need **will be mentioned in the text** and it's your job to find them.

Questions

1 When Alice arrived, where were the King and Queen of Hearts situated?

- A. following the Knave
- B. standing within the crowd
- C. seated on their thrones
- D. in the jury-box
- E. handing out refreshments

2 What two things was the White Rabbit holding?

- A. parchment and a trumpet
- B. chains and a trumpet
- C. a crown and a wig
- D. a pocket watch and a letter
- E. a bird and a beast

3 How did Alice pass the time in the courtroom?

- A. She sat with the birds and the beasts
- B. She talked to the creatures in the jury-box
- C. She ate the refreshments
- D. She began to sing
- E. She looked around at everything

4 How many creatures were there in the jury?

- A. nine
- B. ten
- C. eleven
- D. twelve
- E. thirteen



English

Comprehension - Meaning of Words in Context

What do I do?

The following questions are all about the meanings of the words within a text. They will test your vocabulary knowledge and whether you understand the definitions of selected words.

Questions

- 5 Where were the tarts situated?
- A. In the middle of the court, on a plate, on a table
 - B. In the middle of the court, in a dish, on a table
 - C. Near to the King and Queen
 - D. Being handed round the courtroom
 - E. There were no tarts in the courtroom
- 6 Alice has never been inside a courtroom before but she knew about them. How?
- A. Her older sister had told her about them
 - B. The White Rabbit had mentioned them to her
 - C. Her parents had told her about them
 - D. She had seen pictures in a newspaper
 - E. She had read about them in books
- 7 How did Alice recognise the judge in the courtroom?
- A. because it was the king
 - B. because he was seated at the front
 - C. because he introduced himself to her
 - D. because the Knave had told her
 - E. because he had a wig on



Did you try the challenge?
Share it with us!

English

Comprehension - Meaning of Words in Context

Answers

1 When Alice arrived, where were the King and Queen of Hearts situated?

C. seated on their thrones

2 What two things was the White Rabbit holding?

A. parchment and a trumpet

3 How did Alice pass the time in the courtroom?

E. She looked around at everything

4 How many creatures were there in the jury?

D. twelve

5 Where were the tarts situated?

B. In the middle of the court, in a dish, on a table

6 Alice has never been inside a courtroom before but she knew about them. How?

E. She had read about them in books

7 How did Alice recognise the judge in the courtroom?

E. because he had a wig on

