

1. Read the following passage then answer the questions:

Thomas Alva Edison lit up the world with his invention of the electric light. Without him, the world might still be a dark place. However, the electric light was not his only invention. He also invented the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and over 1,200 other things. About every two weeks he created something new.

Thomas A. Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, on February 11, 1847. His family moved to Port Huron, Michigan, when he was seven years old. Surprisingly, he attended school for only two months. His mother, a former teacher, taught him a few things, but Thomas was mostly self-educated. His natural curiosity led him to start experimenting at a young age with electrical and mechanical things at home.

When he was 12 years old, he got his first job. He became a newsboy on a train that ran between Port Huron and Detroit. He set up a laboratory in a baggage care of the train so that he could continue his experiments in his spare time. Unfortunately, his first work experience did not end well. Thomas was fired when he accidentally set fire to the floor of the baggage car.

Thomas then worked for five years as a telegraph operator, but he continued to spend much of his time on the job conducting experiments. He got his first patent in 1868 for a vote recorder run by electricity. However, the vote recorder was not a success. In 1870, he sold another invention, a stock-ticker, for \$40,000. A stock-ticker is a machine that automatically prints stock prices on a tape. He was then able to build his first shop in Newark, New Jersey.

Thomas Edison was totally deaf in one ear and hard of hearing in the other, but thought of his deafness as a blessing in many ways. It kept conversations short, so that he could have more time for work. He called himself a "two-shift man" because he worked 16 out of every 24 hours. Sometimes he worked so intensely that his wife had to remind him to sleep and eat.

Thomas Edison died at the age of 84 on October 18, 1931, at his estate in West Orange, New Jersey. He left numerous inventions that improved the quality of life all over the world.

1. The main idea of this passage is:

- a. Thomas Edison was always interested in science and inventions, and he invented many important things.
- b. Thomas Edison could not keep a job.
- c. Thomas Edison worked day and night on his experiments.
- d. Deaf people make good inventors because they can focus without the distraction of spoken conversation.

2. Thomas Edison did things in this order:

- a. he became a telegraph operator, a newsboy, and then got his first patent
- b. he became a newsboy, got his first patent, and then became a telegraph operator
- c. he got a patent, became a telegraph operator, and then became a newsboy
- d. he became a newsboy, a telegraph operator, and then got a patent

3. Edison considered his deafness:

- a. disadvantage
- b. a blessing
- c. something from a priest
- d. a necessity

4. Of all the inventions, _____ was probably the most important for civilization.

- a. the vote recorder
- b. the stock ticker
- c. the light bulb
- d. the motion picture camera

5. His mother, a former teacher, taught him a few things, but he was mostly self-educated.

- a. taught himself
- b. born a genius
- c. loved school
- d. thought of himself

6. His natural curiosity soon led him to start experimenting with electrical and mechanical things at home.

- a. inventing
- b. experiencing
- c. making tests and playing with
- d. ignoring

7. He left numerous inventions that improved the quality of life all over the world.

- a. numbered
- b. many
- c. none
- d. modern

8. Sometimes he worked so intensely that his wife had to remind him to sleep and eat.

- a. passionately and with great focus
- b. carelessly and with many distractions
- c. hard
- d. problems

2. Read the following passage then answer the questions:

Have you ever heard someone use the phrase “once in a blue moon?” People use this expression to describe something that they do not do very often. For example, someone might say that he tries to avoid eating sweets because they are unhealthy, but will eat chocolate “once in a blue moon.” Or someone who does not usually like to go to the beach might say “I visit the shore once in a blue moon.” While many people use this phrase, not everyone knows the meaning behind it.

The first thing to know is that the moon itself is never actually blue. This is just an expression. The phrase “blue moon” actually has to do with the shape of the moon, not the color.

As the moon travels around the earth, it appears to change shape. We associate certain names with certain shapes of the moon. For example, when we can see a small part of the moon, it is called a crescent moon. A crescent is a shape that looks like the tip of a fingernail. When we cannot see the moon at all, it is called a new moon. When we can see the entire moon, it is called a full moon. Usually, there is only one full moon every month. Sometimes, however, there will be two full moons in one month. When this happens, the second full moon is called a “blue moon.”

Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons. As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event. This fact has led people to use the expression “once in a blue moon” to describe other very rare events in their lives.

1. Which of the following would be a good example of someone doing something “once in a blue moon”?

- A. Mary likes to go to the mountains every weekend. Mary goes to the mountains once in a blue moon.
- B. Tom rarely remembers to take out the trash. Tom takes out the trash once in a blue moon.
- C. Cindy hates to wash the dishes. Nevertheless, she does it every day. Cindy washes the dishes once in a blue moon.
- D. Ming sometimes forgets to do his homework. Ming forgets to do his homework once in a blue Moon.

2. When does a blue moon happen in nature?

- A. when there are two full moons in one month
- B. when the moon has a blue color
- C. when we cannot see the moon at all
- D. when we can only see a small part of the moon

3. Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that which of the following sentences does not contain an expression?

- A. Thomas has lost his mind.
- B. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

- C. I'll mow the grass after I finish my homework.
- D. It's never a bad time to start something new

4. As described in paragraph 3, what is another example of something that has a crescent shape?

- A. your thumb
- B. a distant star
- C. the letter "C"
- D. the letter "H"

5. In the final paragraph, the author states: "Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons." This means that over the next 20 years, a blue moon will happen

- A. once a year
- B. less than once a year
- C. more than once a year
- D. not enough information is provided

6. As used in the final paragraph, which is the best antonym for rare?

- A. common
- B. strange
- C. colorful
- D. infrequent

7. In the final paragraph the author writes, "As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event." The purpose of this statement is to

- A. answer an earlier question
- B. provide an example
- C. support an upcoming conclusion
- D. challenge a previous statement