

Book 1, Lesson 1 Test

Choose the **BEST** way to complete each sentence or answer each question. Circle the letter of your answer.

1. Hail is
 - a light snow.
 - b frozen rain.
 - c heavy rain.
 - d light rain.

 2. When you complete a job, you
 - a finish it.
 - b agree to do it.
 - c do it well.
 - d fail to do it.

 3. Which is a sufficient amount of food?
 - a too much food
 - b almost enough food
 - c enough food
 - d food that is left over

 4. A patriot is someone who
 - a lives in a certain country.
 - b was born in a certain country.
 - c loves his or her country.
 - d leaves his or her country.

 5. When you hail someone, you
 - a laugh at him or her.
 - b vote for him or her.
 - c greet him or her.
 - d send him or her a package.
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Book 1, Midterm Test 1 (Lessons 1–10)

Read the passage. Choose the BEST answer for each sentence or question about an underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

NADIA COMANECI'S PERFECT TENS

It was 1976 in Montreal, Canada. Nadia Comaneci, a fourteen-year-old gymnast, was representing Romania at the Olympic Games. The strong, graceful teenager with the perky ponytail wasn't even five feet tall. She weighed only eighty-six pounds. Yet Nadia achieved a record matched by no other Olympian.

On the first day of the gymnastics competition, Comaneci showed off her skill on the uneven parallel bars. She seemed to have limbs of steel. Her muscular yet flexible arms and legs let her swing around the bars as effortlessly as a bird swooping in flight. At the end of her routine, she descended to the floor mat in a flawless landing. Her feet were together and her arms were beautifully extended. Her performance dazzled everyone, including the judges. Amazed, they awarded Nadia the highest score possible—a perfect ten. The audience applauded wildly when they saw her score.

But this was just the beginning. Nadia Comaneci continued to astonish judges, spectators, and television viewers around the globe. She earned six more perfect scores. She was awarded three Olympic gold medals: in the uneven bars, the balance beam, and the all-around competition.

Of course, Nadia Comaneci did not become such a spectacular athlete without practice. It took her many years to prepare for the Olympic Games. When she was only six years old, the famous gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi spied her playing on a playground in Onesti, Romania. Apparently Nadia's talent was clear even then. Karolyi asked her family's permission to take the little girl to his classes. Soon he began training her for competition. Besides grace, strength, and flexibility, little Nadia had a strong desire to compete and win. At the Montreal Olympics, her many years of hard work finally paid off.

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Book 1, Midterm Test 2 (Lessons 1–10)

Read the passage. Choose the *BEST* answer for each sentence or question about an underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

PRAIRIE DOGS

Prairie dogs are not really dogs. They are short-tailed squirrels that live in underground burrows. Their habitat is the North American prairie. Prairie dogs got their name from the way they communicate with one another in barks and yips. The animals reminded French explorers of their pets back home, and the explorers named them *petits chiens*, or “little dogs.”

Prairie dogs live in large colonies. They watch out for one another by posting sentries. These are prairie dogs that sit upright atop a mound of earth to spot predators. From this little hill the sentry can spot approaching predators before they get too close. The sentries feel uneasy if they cannot see all around them, so prairie dogs keep the grass near their homes clipped short.

If a sentry spots an intruder, it warns the community with a special warning bark. All prairie dogs in the open scurry underground to safety. Sometimes a predator will follow prairie dogs underground, but the prairie dogs have a solution. They respond by quickly plugging up their tunnels with dirt. While the predator is digging itself out, the prairie dogs have a chance to escape.

When danger has passed, prairie dogs give an “all clear” signal. Scientists who observe prairie dogs have named this the “jump-yip” sign. This behavior can be entertaining to watch. Yipping excitedly, the prairie dog flips its front legs into the air and jumps right off its hind legs. It looks like an enthusiastic sports fan doing “the wave” in a stadium.

Prairie dog communities are organized into families, larger groups called wards, and even larger ones called towns or colonies. In the past, some prairie dog towns were huge. A single town in Texas exceeded 20,000 square miles!

Today, numbers of prairie dogs are dropping. Some wildlife groups want prairie dogs to be protected by law. Prairie dogs are a “keystone” species. This means that their survival affects many other animals and plants. One prairie dog predator, the black-footed ferret, came dangerously close to dying out. Wildlife workers are struggling to save this rare animal, a cousin of the weasel. Predators such as coyotes, rattlesnakes, and eagles also depend on prairie dogs as part of

Name: _____

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Book 1, Final Test 1 (Lessons 1–20)

Read the passage. Choose the *BEST* answer for each sentence or question about an underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

OLD SAYINGS AND EXPRESSIONS, PART 1

English and other languages are filled with old sayings, expressions, and odd ways of putting words together. The meanings of some sayings are easy to figure out. For example: *It is better to be safe than sorry.* This means that people should be cautious. If they don't do their best to ensure their own and others' safety, they may be sorry later.

The meanings of other sayings are less apparent. For example: *It's a small world.* We all know that the world is a vast place. Why call it small? People use this saying to remark on amazing coincidences. For instance, let's say that your cousin Monique gets engaged to be married. Then you discover that Monique's husband-to-be is your best friend's Uncle Bill! You say, "Wow, it's a small world!" In other words—it turns out that we are more closely connected than we thought we were.

Many old sayings and expressions have to do with food. *Don't bite off more than you can chew*, for example. This means that if you are not capable of doing something, you shouldn't promise that you will. Then there's *Don't cry over spilled milk*. This means that you can't alter an event after it has already happened. It is no use grieving over something that you cannot change.

For some reason, eggs are a popular topic in old sayings and expressions. *He's a good egg means* "He's a good, reliable person." *Don't put all of your eggs in one basket means*, "Don't depend on just one person or just one solution to all of your problems." Have you ever heard someone say, "*There I sat with egg on my face?*" In other words, they felt humiliated.

Imagine trying to tread on eggs without breaking their fragile shells. This will help you to understand another egg-related expression. Someone might say, "Around Aunt Roberta, I'm always *walking on eggshells*." In other words, "I have to watch everything I say and do around Aunt Roberta! The slightest little thing could make her furious!"