

Test Prep

Test-Taking Strategy: Following Directions

When you take a test, read the directions carefully so you know what you are supposed to do. You will have to answer different kinds of questions on a test. Following directions carefully will help you choose the right answers.

Following Directions

Here are some sample directions. Read them carefully. Think about what the directions are telling you.

Read the directions for this question carefully. Think about the answer.

Which two words have the SAME meaning?

- (A) angry, happy
- (B) late, busy
- (C) run, swim
- (D) small, tiny

The last answer is correct because *small* and *tiny* mean about the same thing. One answer is two words that are opposites, and another is two words that are sports. The best way to answer this question correctly is to read it carefully.

Whenever you take a test, be sure to read the directions carefully. The directions will help you answer the questions correctly.

Test-Taking Practice

Read the story “Friends for Life.” Then answer numbers 1 through 4.

“Oh Lu . . . cee. Oh Lu . . . cee. Can you come out to play?” This is what Dora called out every day after school.

Lucy and Dora were friends. Lucy had dark hair and looked very different from her friend. Dora had blonde hair and lived two houses away from Lucy.

Dora was shy but friendly. Lucy was loud and funny. Dora had four sisters. They each had different colored hair and eyes. Lucy liked them because they all looked very different from each other.

All of Lucy’s brothers and sisters were older. They were not often home to play with her. This made Lucy feel like an only child. She did not feel that way around Dora and her sisters. Dora’s family treated Lucy as if she were part of their family. The family took Lucy to the library, to the beach, and other places.

The best thing that Dora’s family did was help Lucy learn English. Lucy’s family spoke another language at home. Lucy could speak both languages. Even so, she wanted to speak English better.



Dora and her sisters would help Lucy say different words. They never made fun of her. One thing they did was play school. Lucy also learned not to be afraid to ask for help. Dora and her sisters helped Lucy feel good about herself.

One day, a sad thing happened. Dora and her family moved. Dora would be going to a different school. Lucy cried a lot when she heard the news.

After a few days, Lucy did not feel so gloomy any more. She missed Dora and her sisters, but she made more friends. Her English was very good now. She was even able to help some other girls and boys in school.



Lucy and Dora stayed friends for many, many years. They grew up and got married. Each of them had families. Their children became friends. Whenever Dora and her family came to visit, they did something funny. They would all say, “Oh Lu . . . cee. Can you come out to play?”



Use what you learned from the story “Friends for Life” to answer Numbers 1 through 4. Write your answers on a piece of paper.

1. Which would be another good title for this story?

- Ⓐ “Playing Outside”
- Ⓑ “Part of the Family”
- Ⓒ “Moving”
- Ⓓ “A Different School”

2. What made Lucy feel like part of Dora’s family?

- Ⓐ Dora’s sisters all looked different.
- Ⓑ Dora’s family helped her learn new words.
- Ⓒ Dora’s family took her with them to visit places.
- Ⓓ Dora’s sisters and Lucy played school.

3. Dora and her children say, “Oh Lu . . . cee. Can you come out to play?” because

- Ⓐ Dora is too shy to talk to Lucy by herself.
- Ⓑ Lucy only comes out to play if they ask her to.
- Ⓒ they do not know how to say Lucy’s name.
- Ⓓ that is how Dora has always called to Lucy.

4. Why did the author begin the story with “Oh Lu . . . cee”?

- Ⓐ To show how Dora called Lucy
- Ⓑ To help the reader remember her name
- Ⓒ To say something funny
- Ⓓ To get ready for the ending of the story

Test Tips

- Read the directions carefully.
- Look at each answer.
- Mark your answer carefully.

