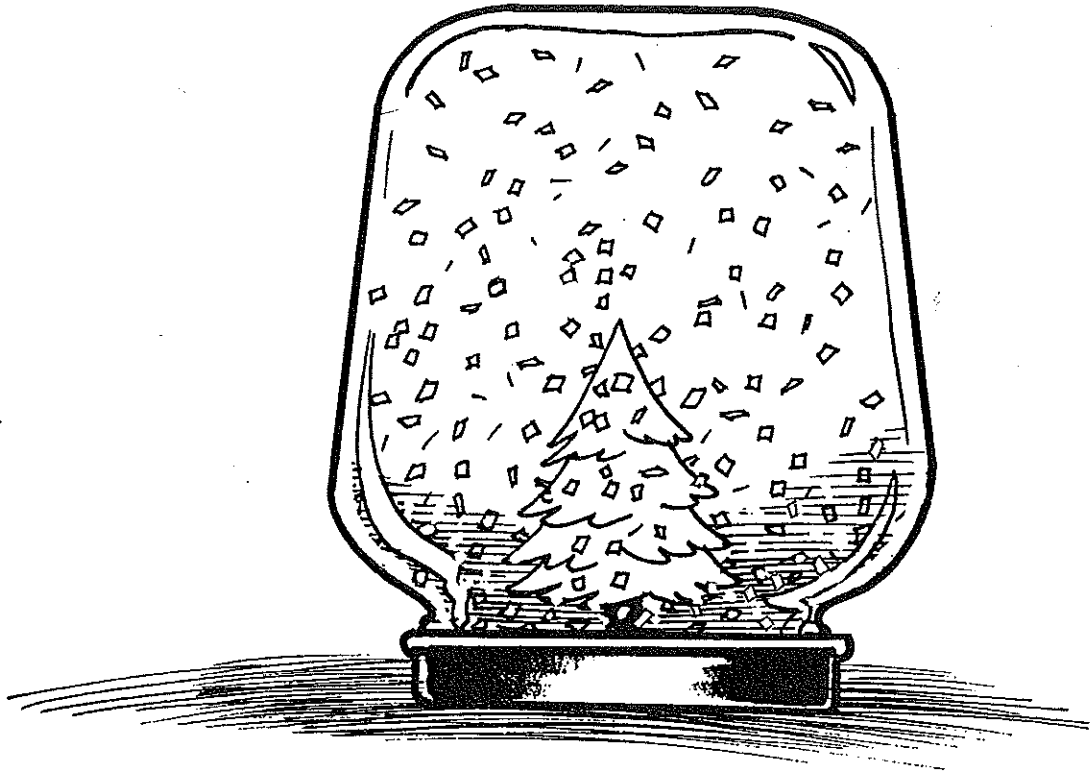


PART 1: COMPREHENSION

Directions

What do you do when you live in California and there is no snow in December? Read about how one family solved the problem. Then do Numbers 1 through 11.

Let It Snow



Late last summer, the Young family moved. They left their small town in Maine and went to San Diego, California. San Diego was warm and sunny. There were wonderful beaches and parks. The three children liked their new school. The parents had great new jobs. Everybody seemed happy.

Some time in December, ten-year-old Emily saw that her mother seemed a little sad. "All this sunshine is getting me down," her mother said. "I know San Diego has 360 days a year of good weather. That's too many for me. I miss stormy days and skies. How can it be December without any snow? I really miss the snow."

Emily wanted to cheer her mother up. She talked it over with her older brother, Jacob, and her younger sister, Morgan. They knew that they could not take their mother to the snow. It was too far away. But maybe they could bring the snow to her.

Emily had the idea of making a snow globe. A snow globe is a glass container with a winter scene inside it. When you shake the globe, it looks like snow is falling. Their father helped them find what they needed: glitter, glue, baby oil, and an empty baby food jar. Jacob offered a tiny pine tree from his train set.

They glued the tree to the inside of the baby food jar's cap. To help it stick better Jacob first sanded a spot in the center of the cap. Next, Emily filled the jar with baby oil. Morgan added a bit of glitter. Dad spread some glue along the rim of the cap. Then he carefully screwed the cap on the jar.

Morgan giggled at the sight of the tree hanging upside down in the jar. "Let's give it to Mom right away," she begged. Everyone agreed. They turned the globe right side up. Then they wrapped it in bright paper.

Singing "Let It Snow," the three children walked out to their mother, who was working in the garden. "Surprise!" they shouted as Morgan handed her the package.

1 The author wrote this selection to

- A persuade the reader to make a snow globe.
- B express personal feelings about snow.
- C entertain the reader with a story about a family.
- D explain how to help family members.

2 What was the biggest difference between the Youngs' former home and their new one?

- F The schools were better at their new home.
- G The parents preferred their new jobs to their old ones.
- H Their new house was bigger than their old house.
- J The weather was sunnier at their new home.

3 Instead of a pine tree inside the snow globe, the children could have used

- A a sail boat.
- B a palm tree.
- C a pair of skis.
- D a surf board.



4 What was the first step in making the snow globe?

- F** sanding the lid
- G** adding the glitter
- H** washing out the jar
- J** finding the materials

5 The mother most likely thanked them by

- A** taking them to the beach.
- B** fixing hot chocolate for them.
- C** buying them a real snow globe.
- D** planting their favorite flowers.

6 Why did the children make the snow globe?

- F** to cheer up their mother
- G** to have fun making something
- H** to complete a school assignment
- J** to spend some time with their father

7 From her actions in the story, you can tell that Emily

- A** does very well in school.
- B** has a lot of friends.
- C** is good at sports.
- D** has a kind heart.

8 Which event happened last in the selection?

- F** Emily had an idea.
- G** The children gave their mother a gift.
- H** The family moved from Maine to San Diego.
- J** The children's father found supplies.

9 The children probably chose to sing "Let It Snow" because this song

- A** gave a hint about the gift.
- B** was their favorite winter song.
- C** was playing on the radio at the time.
- D** had been taught for the school concert.

10

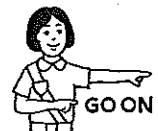
This selection is an example of a

- F** fantasy.
- G** realistic story.
- H** newspaper article.
- J** biography.

11

Based on the selection, which of these activities most likely came first for the Young children?

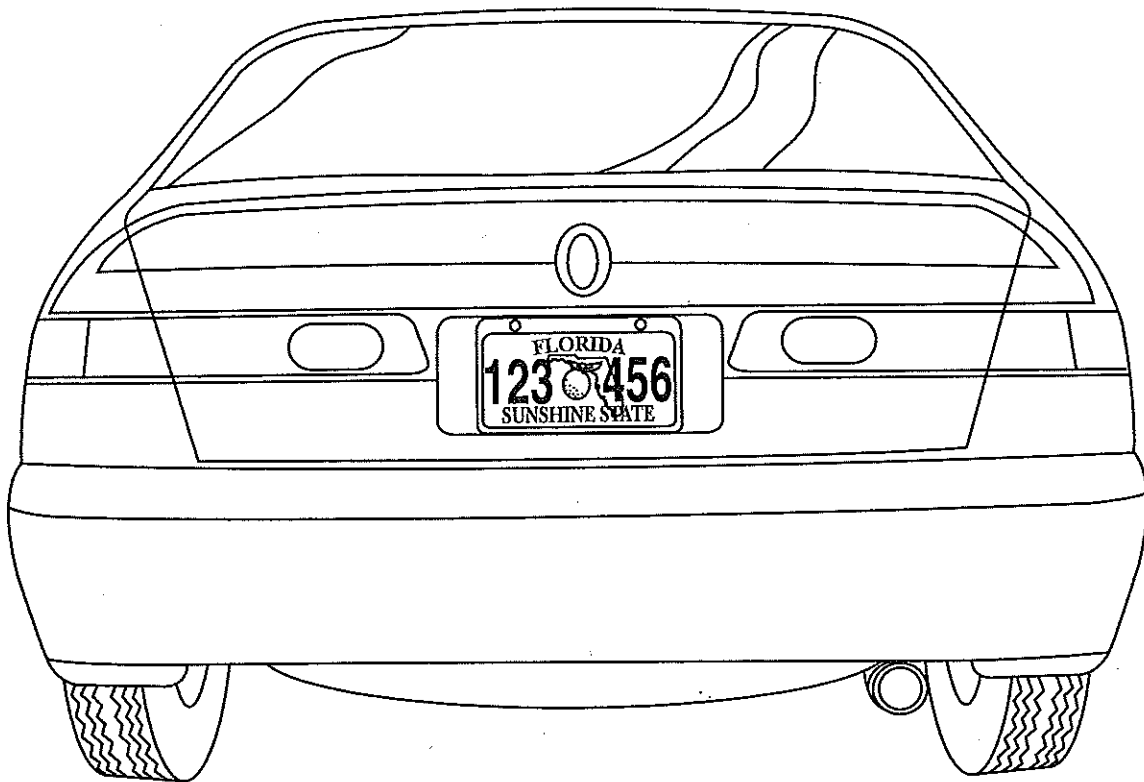
- A** They went to California beaches and made sand castles.
- B** They packed their things and moved to San Diego.
- C** They made a snowman in their back yard.
- D** They received thanks from their mother.



Directions

Read about how some states' license plates tell a little about that state. Then do Numbers 12 through 22.

State License Plates



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Each state in our country is special. A state's license plates are one way for a state to show how it is special.

Some states have simple plates. California has the state name written in what looks like bold handwriting. Connecticut has a state outline and says, "Constitution State." Similarly, Delaware says, "The First State."

Some states show goods that come from the state. Georgia has a peach. Florida shows a flowering orange tree branch. Idaho plates say, "Famous Potatoes." Wisconsin calls itself "America's Dairyland."



Some states feature state birds or flowers. Others show special places in the state. New Hampshire's shows the Old Man of the Mountain. South Dakota's plate has Mount Rushmore. Utah plates show the Centennial Arch. Vermont, Colorado, and Oregon have mountain peaks on their plates. Rhode Island, the Ocean State, has a large wave.

Some states teach history lessons. The Virginia plate celebrates the settlement of Jamestown 400 years ago. Illinois' plate says, "Land of Lincoln," with President Lincoln's picture. Texas celebrates its past and present. It shows a cowboy, oil wells, and the space shuttle. Some states even disagree a little over history. The Wright brothers were born in Ohio. Those plates say, "Birthplace of Aviation." However, they first flew in North Carolina. Those plates say, "First in Flight."

Alabama is the only state to use a song on its plate. The song is, "Stars Fell on Alabama." The title is shown with stars and musical notes.

Some plates promote their states. Maine's says, "Vacationland." Kentucky's says "It's that friendly."

It is possible to print attractive pictures on plates. New Mexico shows a balloon rising over the desert. Nebraska has birds flying above the plains.

In 2000, Pennsylvania became the first state to put its Web site on its plate. West Virginia, Florida, and Georgia followed Pennsylvania's lead. The trend is likely to continue.

Why all the variety around the country? It's because people are generally proud of their state and want to draw attention to it. These days a license plate does lots more than identify a car.

12

What is the main idea of the selection?

- F** Every state has its own license plate.
- G** Many states have added Web sites to their plates.
- H** State license plates are as varied as the states themselves.
- J** Some state license plates are better-looking than others.

13

What was the first state to take advantage of the popularity of computers?

- A** West Virginia
- B** Florida
- C** California
- D** Pennsylvania

14 Which statement from the selection expresses an opinion rather than stating a fact?

- F** Each state in our country is special.
- G** Some states show goods that come from the state.
- H** Idaho's plates say, "Famous Potatoes."
- J** Alabama is the only state to use a song on its plate.

15 The author wrote this selection to

- A** entertain the reader with funny stories about license plates.
- B** persuade the reader that each state is special.
- C** provide information about states and their license plates.
- D** express personal feelings about state slogans.

16 How does the author organize his examples?

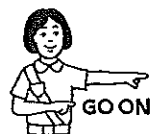
- F** by listing states in alphabetical order
- G** by grouping together all the states in a given region
- H** by giving the oldest plates first and then moving to newer ones
- J** by grouping states that have similar content on their plates

17 The author did not include every state. The most likely reason is that

- A** some states do not have license plates.
- B** the states not included are similar to those that are included.
- C** there was no information available about some states' plates.
- D** some states are more interesting than others.

18 Which state's plate has the picture of a famous person?

- F** Maine
- G** Illinois
- H** Kentucky
- J** North Carolina



19 According to the selection, which two states take credit for the same historical event?

- A** Ohio and North Carolina
- B** Connecticut and Delaware
- C** Virginia and Illinois
- D** Maine and Kentucky

20 How are the plates of Nebraska and New Mexico alike?

- F** They have scenic pictures.
- G** They show famous landmarks.
- H** They are very simple.
- J** They are the same color.

21 The author's purpose is achieved mainly by

- A** quoting several experts.
- B** interviewing ordinary people.
- C** building suspense.
- D** providing many examples.

22 You would be most likely to see a selection like this in

- F** an encyclopedia.
- G** a magazine.
- H** a journal.
- J** a local newspaper.

PART 2: VOCABULARY

Directions

Mark your answer choice for Numbers 23 through 32.

- 23** Which word has a suffix?
- A along
 - B away
 - C Emily
 - D friendly
- 24** Some states show *goods* that come from the state on their license plates. What is a synonym for *goods* in this sentence?
- F machines
 - G citizens
 - H products
 - J fruit
- 25** Which word has a suffix that is like *-ful* in *pitiful*?
- A fuller
 - B fullback
 - C unfulfilled
 - D cheerful
- 26** Connecticut's license plate has a state *outline* and says, "Constitution State." The *outline* shows
- F the most important facts about the state.
 - G the location of the state.
 - H the earliest history of the state.
 - J the shape of the state.
- 27** Which word could best replace *generally* in the following sentence?
- It's because people are generally proud of their state.*
- A totally
 - B bravely
 - C mostly
 - D secretly

28

On Alabama's license plate, a song title is shown with stars and *musical* notes. Which word has a suffix like that in *musical*?

- F almost
- G altogether
- H comical
- J dismal

29

Which of the following is the meaning of the word *stick* as used in this sentence?

To help it stick better, Jacob first sanded a spot in the center of the cap.

- A to attach to something
- B to be noticed somewhere
- C to remain somewhere
- D to push into something

30

It is possible to print *attractive* pictures on license plates. What does *attractive* mean?

- F colorful
- G lasting
- H tiny
- J appealing

31

Which meaning of the word *miss* is used in the following sentence?

I miss stormy days and skies.

- A to fail to hit
- B to remember with sadness
- C to fail to see or notice
- D to leave out

32

Which word has a suffix like that in *inventive*?

- F creative
- G lively
- H forgive
- J drive



PART 3: GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS

Directions

Mark your answer choice for Numbers 33 through 40.

In Numbers 33 through 36, read each sentence. Mark the answer that best describes the sentence.

- 33** I really miss the snow!
- A declarative sentence
 - B interrogative sentence
 - C exclamatory sentence
 - D imperative sentence
- 34** Some license plates teach history lessons.
- F declarative sentence
 - G interrogative sentence
 - H exclamatory sentence
 - J imperative sentence
- 35** They all shouted as Morgan handed her the package.
- A simple sentence
 - B complex sentence
 - C compound sentence
 - D compound-complex sentence
- 36** Some states feature state birds or flowers.
- F simple sentence
 - G complex sentence
 - H compound sentence
 - J compound-complex sentence

37

Which of the following sentences is a compound sentence?

- A** Emily filled the jar with baby oil, and Morgan added a bit of glitter.
- B** Mrs. Young was sad because she missed the snow.
- C** The Young family left Maine and moved to San Diego, California.
- D** A snow globe is a glass container with a winter scene inside it.

38

Which of the following sentences is a complex sentence?

- F** Maine's plates show a chickadee, and Mississippi's plates show a magnolia.
- G** Both New Hampshire and South Dakota have special places on their plates.
- H** States can now print pictures on their license plates.
- J** After Pennsylvania put its Web site on its plate, other states did too.

39

What is the simple subject of this sentence?

Rhode Island, the Ocean State, has a large wave.

- A** Rhode Island
- B** Island
- C** Rhode Island, the Ocean State,
- D** has

40

What is the complete predicate of this sentence?

The title is shown with stars and musical notes.

- F** The title
- G** is
- H** is shown
- J** is shown with stars and musical notes

