

# READING COMPREHENSION



1 Read the following text and answer the questions.

## Grocery Store or Farmers' Market?

When most people decide to buy food, they go to a grocery store. **Grocery** stores sell many different kinds of food in just one store. Some grocery stores also carry **household** goods such as aluminum foil, **cleaning supplies**, and diapers. A grocery store is a convenient place to shop for the kitchen and beyond.



**Despite** the ease of shopping in a **grocery** store, some people decide to buy their food from other places. Farmers' markets are one alternative to grocery stores. At a farmers' market, local

farmers sell the foods they grow to **customers**. The foods they sell often include fruits, vegetables, and meats. Most of these foods are **freshly harvested** with no artificial additions.

There are several ways in which farmers' markets are less convenient than grocery stores, **however**. For example, **packaged** foods usually are not sold at farmer's markets. Many farmers do not accept credit cards or checks as **payment** for their goods. What is more, most farmers' markets are only open for business once or twice each week. While this often deters some shoppers, others are willing to accept these **inconveniences** in exchange for the fresh and local food found at farmers' markets.

Deciding **whether** to shop for food at grocery stores or at farmers' markets is a personal choice. This choice reflects a person's values about life and about food. Those who value convenience and variety will probably choose to shop at a grocery store. People who value freshness and enjoy supporting local farmers probably will prefer the farmers' market. **Fortunately**, most communities provide options for **both kinds** of shoppers.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to

- a compare two places where people buy food
- b convince readers that farmer's markets are superior to grocery stores
- c explain why the smartest people shop at grocery stores
- d show that people should be judged based on where they buy their food

2. Based on information in the passage, which of the following is LEAST likely to be sold at a farmer's market?

- a tomatoes
- b cucumbers
- c noodles
- d beef

3. Based on information in paragraph 3, it can be understood that grocery stores are

- a able to accept credit cards
- b open on Sundays
- c accessible to handicapped people
- d willing to package foods

4. In paragraph 3 the author writes, "Many farmers do not accept credit cards or checks as payment for their goods." Which of the following conjunctions would best be used to begin this sentence?

- a In addition
- b However
- c As a result
- d Although

5. As used in the final paragraph, which is the best synonym for prefer?

- a love
- b choose
- c accept
- d adore

6. Would you prefer to shop at a farmer's market or a grocery store? Why? Be sure to use evidence from the passage in your answer.

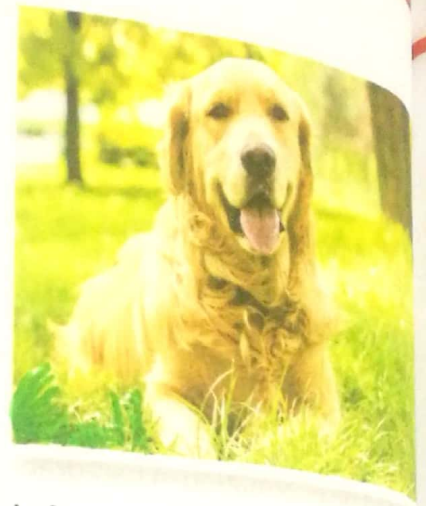
I would prefer a farmers market because they are the ones who bring the freshest vegetables and fruit

2 Read the following text and answer the questions.

### Allergic to Dogs?

The Airedale Terrier, the Cockapoo, and the Italian Greyhound—if you are allergic to dogs, but would love to have one, these are names you need to know.

Anyone who has ever longed for a pooch and has been told by his or her doctor not to get one because of an allergy to dogs knows how devastating that news can be. For example, a few years ago, my neighbor's son wanted a dog and after a while his family decided to get him one. They all went to the kennel and after the boy had held a number of dogs, he became especially attached to one: a handsome German Shepherd puppy.



The boy's parents bought him the dog and took it home with them. Days later, the boy noticed a shortness of breath, an itchy rash that would not go away, and eyes that would not stop watering. While at a routine checkup at the doctor, the boy was informed that he had a dog allergy. His parents told the boy that he would have to find a new home for his new puppy. Tears streamed down the child's face.

While some people simply accept the idea that they cannot have a dog because of their allergies, others decide to get one anyway and live with the negative side effects. But having a dog when you are allergic to it can be a bittersweet experience. On one hand you love your dog. On the other hand, the itchy eyes and runny nose make you feel miserable. But don't worry. There is hope.

Experts say that the Airedale Terrier, Cockapoo, and Italian Greyhound are among the many breeds of dogs that can be considered hypoallergenic, meaning they are far less likely to cause allergic reactions in their owners than other breeds. The worst dogs for allergy sufferers are the German Shepherd, Springer Spaniel, and Dachshund. Experts recommend that dog owners who have allergies stay away from these dogs.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not a dog's hair that causes problems for people with allergies. It is a dog's saliva and the tiny specs of dander found on a dog's hair. Not surprisingly, experts recommend that those with allergies get dogs that don't produce a lot of dander and don't drool so much.

The choice for dog lovers with allergies has often come down to having a dog and feeling sick or not having a dog and feeling, well, not complete. But not anymore. An entire dog industry has sprouted up to promote, breed, and cross breed dogs that are not likely to cause their owners problems.

1. Which of the following statements best describes the main idea of this passage?

- a A dog's saliva and dander are what cause allergic reactions in humans.
- b Having a dog allergy can be problematic, but there are solutions.
- c German Shepherds are among the worst dogs to own if you have a dog allergy.
- d Most people believe that a dog's hair causes people to sneeze and have itchy eyes.

2. As used in paragraph 2, which is the best definition for devastating?

- a very annoying
- b very frightening
- c very maddening
- d very upsetting

3. The author includes the story about the boy to

- a illustrate an earlier point
- b provide a general overview
- c introduce a new idea
- d conclude an argument

4. Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that which of the following are symptoms of a dog allergy?

- I. shortness of breath
- II. itchy rash
- III. watery eyes

- a I only
- b I and II only
- c II and III only
- d I, II, and III

5. The main purpose of paragraph 5 is to

- a clarify a common misconception
- b explain a previously mentioned idea
- c cite an example
- d refute a popular argument

## Grocery store or Farmers' Market?

Grocery Tienda de comestibles

household familiar

Despite A pesar de

cleaning limpieza

Supplies suministros

Customers clientes

Freshly recién

however sin embargo

packaged empacquetado

payment pago

whether ya sea ~~ya sea~~

fortunately afortunadamente

## Allergic to dogs?

Cockapoo cockapoo

wanted deseado

checkup chequeo

shepherd pastor

streamed transmitido

simply simplemente

anyway de todas formas

belief creencia

water, water everywhere?

Britain Bretaña

bigger mas grande

drought sequia

behavior comportamiento

brushing cepillado

obviously obviamente

machine maquina

washing lavado

fingers dedos

ways formas

across a través de