

READING COMPREHENSION

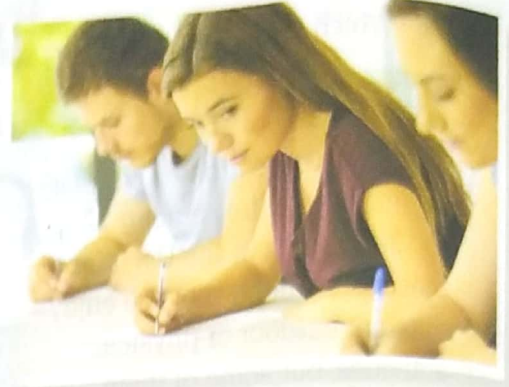


1 Read the following text and answer the questions.

Diligence and Perseverance

Elizabeth was brooding in her room. She had sought asylum there since spurious gossip about her began circulating at Seagrove Academy last week.

Not that Elizabeth had ever been considered a social butterfly; she had always had a rather reserved personality. Elizabeth preferred to live vicariously through the stories of her more brazen friends: late night partying, fraternizing with boys, childish pranks. Still, she had taken to being more by herself than usual since the allegations surfaced. You see, a student had given headmaster Billings an anonymous "tip" that Elizabeth had cheated on several tests this year. What made this allegation especially damaging was that Elizabeth had recently been nominated to receive the highly coveted Blauvelt Award, a scholarship recognizing "academic integrity and promise."



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The accusations were laughable. Elizabeth had long been a stellar student at Seagrove. She lacked a natural intelligence—this was true. However, she compensated for this deficit through diligence and perseverance; she was very thorough in her studies and exhibited an almost relentless determination.

Still, the accusations had given the recommendation committee pause. On Friday Elizabeth had been called to Mr. Billings's office, where she was questioned about her performance on recent exams. The experience was quite traumatic.

Seagrove was an elite school; most of its students came from privileged backgrounds. But this was not the case for Elizabeth. Her family had little money. She attended Seagrove on a full scholarship. The Blauvelt Award would help Elizabeth's family pay for her college.

So it was with the same diligence that she applied to her studies that Elizabeth planned to expose her accuser. She opened the school directory on her bed and began combing through the names.

Seagrove was such a small and insular community. A mere twenty-one kids would be in her graduating class. Elizabeth knew it was inevitable that the person spreading rumors about her would come to light. It was just a matter of time.

1 As used in paragraph 1, which is the best synonym for **spurious**?

- a hurtful
- b terrible
- c serious
- d untrue

2 It can be inferred that Elizabeth would have likely been disqualified from receiving the Blauvelt Award if caught cheating because

- a Mr. Billings said this was the case
- b awards are never given to cheaters
- c the Blauvelt Award is based on academic integrity
- d cheating would have made the award ineligible for college use

3 According to the passage, how is Elizabeth different than many of her classmates?

- a She is diligent.
- b She is dishonest.
- c She is not wealthy.
- d She is anti-social.

4 As used in the final paragraph, which is the best antonym for **inevitable**?

- a unlikely
- b unmistakable
- c possibly
- d unclear

5 Which of the following words best describes how Elizabeth feels after being accused of cheating?

- a frustrated
- b removed
- c discouraged
- d enraged

6 A character in a story who is opposed to, struggles against, or competes with another is called the antagonist. Using this information, it can be understood that the antagonist in this passage is

- a Elizabeth
- b Mr. Billings
- c Elizabeth's accuser
- d the recommendation committee

2 Read the following text and answer the questions.

The Truth About Coupons

Lots of people use coupons when they shop. Coupons are tickets that give people discounts on different items. For example, if a carton of eggs costs \$3, it might cost \$2 with a coupon. You can get coupons in the mail, from the newspaper, or even from a website. Many people use coupons because they think they will save a lot of money.



The truth is that coupons do not always save you money. People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it. Also, it takes time to find the coupons you want, cut them out, and organize them. Then you have to make sure you have the correct ones when you go to different stores. Spending hours cutting out coupons may not be the best use of your time.

Stores take the time and money to print coupons because they know a coupon can make a person come into a store. And once people are inside a store, they usually buy something. This means that coupons may help a store earn money without helping you save any.

1 The author of this passage argues that coupons

- a are an unfair trick stores use
- b never save people money
- c may not be worth using
- d take too much time to organize

2 Based on its use in paragraph 1, it can be understood that **discounts** belongs to which of the following word groups?

- a are an unfair trick stores use
- b never save people money
- c may not be worth using
- d take too much time to organize

3 In paragraph 2, the author writes, "The truth is that coupons do not always save you money." The purpose of this sentence is to

- a provide an example
- b introduce an idea
- c answer a question
- d solve a problem

- 4 In paragraph 2, the author writes, "People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it." An example of this is if a person
- a has a coupon for strawberry yogurt but really wants blueberry yogurt
 - b gets a coupon for a box of crackers that is buy one, get one free
 - c buys bread with a coupon even though he or she did not plan to buy bread
 - d plans to buy apples but once at the store decides to buy bananas and grapes, too

5 Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that the disadvantages of using coupons include

- I. buying things that you do not need because you have a coupon
- II. having to spend a lot of time to find and organize your coupons
- III. not getting coupons for the things you really want

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

6 According to the author, stores take the time and money to print coupons in order to

- a help people save money
- b force people to buy things they do not want
- c advertise the stores and the things they sell
- d make people come into a store

7 The passage suggests that coupons may not be as beneficial as they seem. However, there are ways that coupons can save you money. When do you think coupons actually are beneficial? Explain your ideas.

when a person needs to something from the store and the money is not enough you can use coupon