

## Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage in which some of the words you have studied in Units 1-3 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer the questions on page 43.

*This passage discusses the llama, an amazing and extremely useful animal.*

(Line)

For thousands of years, the llama has been a working animal. In fact, in the **barren**, rugged highlands of Peru, this **unique** animal has for centuries proved to be a reliable beast of burden, carrying heavy packs to lowland markets. Then, about one hundred years ago, the llama was brought to the United States. In this country, however, the llama has added to its **résumé** by gaining some unusual work experience, so strange in fact that here its "odd job" has all but replaced its **customary** use as a pack animal.

- (5) Because of its tendency to work hard, eat cheaply, go many miles without water, and get along well with people and other animals, the llama has proved to be a match for many other working animals. Yet it is not just in **trivial** matters, such as carrying golf bags (although llamas do serve as caddies) or in maintaining hiking trails (they do work for the National Park Service), that llamas have distinguished themselves in this country. In fact, in the United States the llama's true calling seems to be in "predator protection," acting as a kind of fantastic "sheepdog."

- Interestingly, llamas make good "guard dogs" for the following reasons: They are quick studies, learning in a few days what it might take a dog a year to master. Also, llamas and sheep get along famously. Most important, llamas have a natural distaste for coyotes, the sheep's main predator, and they don't get frazzled in the face of danger. When brazen predators approach the herd, llamas aggressively chase away the intruders.

- So serious is this problem that in the United States **vicious** predators have killed millions of dollars worth of sheep in the past few years. Although efforts have been under way to destroy the coyotes, the thinking now is to focus on protecting the sheep. It would seem that the best way to do that is to "hire" a llama. In fact, when interviewed in an Iowa study, half the llama-owning sheep farmers reported sheep losses down to zero since getting a llama, which just goes to show that there's nothing like having a good guard dog, especially when it's a llama.

1. The main purpose of the passage is to
  - a. explain the difference between llamas and sheepdogs
  - b. inform the reader about a nontraditional use of llamas
  - c. persuade the reader of the benefits of raising llamas
  - d. describe the physical characteristics of a llama
  - e. describe a typical day in the life of a llama
2. The meaning of **barren** (line 3) is
  - a. lush
  - b. productive
  - c. boring
  - d. arid
  - e. fertile
3. **Unique** (line 4) most nearly means
  - a. singular
  - b. friendly
  - c. aggressive
  - d. commonplace
  - e. docile
4. **Résumé** (line 11) is best defined as
  - a. story
  - b. experience
  - c. job history
  - d. regime change
  - e. qualifications
5. **Customary** (line 15) most nearly means
  - a. legal
  - b. traditional
  - c. untraditional
  - d. reliable
  - e. eccentric
6. **Trivial** (line 23) is best defined as
  - a. trifling
  - b. entertaining
  - c. important
  - d. profitable
  - e. exceptional
7. From paragraphs 1 and 2 (lines 1-33), you can infer that a llama's usual work is
  - a. to climb mountains
  - b. to maintain hiking trails
  - c. to carry golf bags
  - d. to protect sheep
  - e. to carry heavy burdens
8. From lines 34-36, you know that paragraph 3 contains several
  - a. reasons
  - b. contrasts
  - c. comparisons
  - d. descriptions
  - e. explanations
9. The meaning of **vicious** (line 49) is
  - a. hungry
  - b. savage
  - c. dangerous
  - d. rabid
  - e. natural
10. The author refers to an Iowa study (lines 58-64) in order to support the preceding sentence with
  - a. an explanation
  - b. a theory
  - c. a description
  - d. a statistic
  - e. an anecdote
11. The tone of this passage is
  - a. ironic
  - b. frivolous
  - c. informal
  - d. biased
  - e. philosophical
12. With which generalization would the author likely agree?
  - a. Sheepdogs are the best protectors of sheep.
  - b. Llamas protect sheep more effectively than sheepdogs.
  - c. Coyotes are part of a natural plan and need no intervention.
  - d. Coyotes are an endangered species and should be protected.
  - e. Government efforts to destroy coyotes have proved useless.



# Two-Word Completions

Select the pair of words that best completes the meaning of each of the following sentences.

1. Running our country is full of all kinds of hidden \_\_\_\_\_ and traps for the unwary. For that reason, no president, no matter how alert or cautious, ever leaves office entirely \_\_\_\_\_ by the experience.
 

a. regimes . . . lubricated	c. orations . . . animated
b. firebrands . . . poised	d. hazards . . . unscathed
  
2. Though crabmeat is the \_\_\_\_\_ ingredient in the classic recipe for a New Orleans fish stew, it isn't always in season. Accordingly, professional chefs often replace it with whatever shellfish is \_\_\_\_\_ at the time, without any noticeable damage to the dish.
 

a. humdrum . . . adjacent	c. customary . . . available
b. unique . . . indispensable	d. upright . . . transparent
  
3. The speaker showed complete \_\_\_\_\_ to the record heat and heavy downpour. He was \_\_\_\_\_, however, when hecklers interrupted his speech for the fourth time.
 

a. recompense . . . indispensable	c. constituent . . . poised
b. indifference . . . indignant	d. oration . . . literate
  
4. Winds fanned the flames, and the fire on the upper floors of the factory quickly spread to \_\_\_\_\_ buildings. Though firefighters worked valiantly to \_\_\_\_\_ its progress, the blaze soon engulfed the entire block.
 

a. available . . . goad	c. miscellaneous . . . animate
b. upright . . . germinate	d. adjacent . . . hinder
  
5. At one point in last night's hockey game, home-team fans became so angry with the referee that they began to \_\_\_\_\_ him with refuse. Programs, paper cups, and even a dead fish \_\_\_\_\_ through the air and landed at his feet.
 

a. pelt . . . hurtled	c. indulge . . . loomed
b. disrupt . . . droned	d. singe . . . trickled
  
6. When I was very young, I truly \_\_\_\_\_ a life of excitement, adventure, and danger. But now that I'm a good deal older, I'm perfectly content with my rather \_\_\_\_\_ existence.
 

a. brooded about . . . interminable	c. alighted on . . . trivial
b. hankered for . . . humdrum	d. indulged in . . . peevish
  
7. When the new \_\_\_\_\_ took office, its first order of business was to pacify the country by arranging a \_\_\_\_\_ with the rebel forces that had been waging all-out war against the previous administration.
 

a. dynasty . . . plague	c. firebrand . . . résumé
b. drone . . . homicide	d. regime . . . truce