

“Wanga”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



I, Nancy Norris, believer of nothing, order my spell kit on the Internet.

This might sound crazy, but I have run out of more **sane** ideas.

I have looked in the want ads. I have sent my resume to a million companies. I have gone to businesses up and down my block asking for work.

I need a job. I need money. I need these things fast. I am **desperate**.

I am about to lose my house. I am about to lose my car. I have been out of work for 8 months.

The Internet is free at the library. This is a very good thing. I see a site that sells witch doctor spell kits.

WARNING: Do not ask for something unless you truly want it to **come true!**

There are Love Kits. These get someone to love you back. There are New Life Kits. These make you happy. There are Money Kits. These bring you money, riches and an easy life.

Of course, I choose the Money Kit. This is what I need. I truly want it to come true.

I have \$20 left on my credit card. I use it all to order my spell kit. Don't laugh.

I order the kit on Monday. It says it should arrive in two days. So I wait. Wednesday passes. I wait and wait. Finally it gets here after four days. I am kind of upset it took so long. I hope it doesn't take that long for the spell to work.

Like a wild animal, I tear open the box. Inside is the kit with a Wanga doll. The doll has been blessed by an actual witch doctor and is a very important part of making my spell come true. That is what the box says, anyway.

Wanga is about 6 inches tall. He has bushy black hair. He is dressed in a furry outfit that looks like a bathrobe. Hopefully, he will be my new best friend.

There are three different powders in the kit. Each has its own separate bag.

The kit also comes with a set of **detailed** instructions. I am to follow them exactly.

I spread the powders out on the floor and place my Wanga doll next to them. I hope for the best. My mortgage is due tomorrow.

Questions:

1) As used at the beginning of the story, what does **sane** mean?

- A. absurd
- B. powerful
- C. rational
- D. foolish

2) Why does Nancy order a spell kit?

- I. She needs a cure.
- II. She needs a job.
- III. She needs money.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

3) Given what is said in the passage, what is another way to write the following sentence?

*"I am **desperate**."*

- A. I am crazy.
- B. I full of hope.
- C. I am willing to try anything.
- D. I am not sure about anything anymore.

4) What can be said about Nancy from this passage?

- A. She is well read.
- B. She is very serious.
- C. She was once very wealthy.
- D. She can make fun of herself.

5) If something **comes true**, it

- A. happens
- B. tells the truth
- C. brings money
- D. is fantastic

6) Which kit does Nancy order?

- A. the Love Kit
- B. the New Life Kit
- C. the Money Kit
- D. the New Job Kit

7) What does the Wanga doll look like?

- I. It is black.
- II. It is six inches tall.
- III. It has bushy hair.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

8) Which sentence from the story is most likely an exaggeration?

- A. "I need a job."
- B. "Wanga is about 6 inches tall."
- C. "Finally it gets here after four days."
- D. "I have sent my resume to a million companies."

Questions (continued):

9) According to the story, why would a person buy the New Life Kit?

- A. to have a baby
- B. to become happy
- C. to move to a new town
- D. to be cured from sickness

10) The Wanga doll is special because

- A. it has a furry outfit
- B. it comes with detailed instructions
- C. it is given to Nancy by her best friend
- D. it has been blessed by a witch doctor

11) The kit arrives on

- A. Monday
- B. Wednesday
- C. Thursday
- D. Friday

12) As used at the end of the story, which would be the opposite of **detailed** instructions?

- A. many instructions
- B. vague instructions
- C. specific instructions
- D. funny instructions

13) How does Nancy pay for her spell kit?

- A. with cash
- B. with a check
- C. with a credit card
- D. with a money order

14) "*Like a wild animal, I tear open the box.*" This is an example of

- A. simile, meaning a comparison using like or as
- B. metaphor, meaning a comparison in which one thing is represented as another
- C. hyperbole, meaning the use of exaggeration to emphasize an idea
- D. allusion, meaning a passing or casual reference

Are you superstitious? Why or why not?

Five horizontal lines for writing, which are crossed out by a large blue scribble.

“A Day Like No Other”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Frank Wilcox has been Chief of Police in Lansett County for 25 years. He took the job when he had just turned 30.

He has seen murders. He has seen robberies. He has seen cats stuck in trees. He has found missing children.

But today would be like no other day on the job.

It is 11:00 at night. Chief Wilcox begins putting together his things. He is tired. He wants to go home.

“Chief Wilcox,” calls an officer walking quickly into his office. It is Officer Simpson. He looks nervous. He looks like he would like to be anywhere else but there.

“What is it, Simpson?” asks the Chief.

“Holman’s Grocery was just held up at gunpoint,” Simpson says. His voice is **shaky**. He coughs to clear his throat.

“Was anyone hurt?” asks Chief.

Lansett is a very small county. The Chief knows just about everyone who lives there. If anyone was hurt, there is a good chance he knows the person. Maybe that’s why Officer Simpson looks nervous.

“No one was hurt,” says Simpson. “But we caught the suspect.”

“Ah, well, Simpson. You guys can take care of that. I’m—” Chief Wilcox stops in mid-sentence.

He understands what is wrong. From behind Officer Simpson, the Chief sees his youngest daughter, Devon. She is in handcuffs.

Chief Wilcox gets a lump in his throat. He sits in his chair, stunned. “How could it be?” he thinks.

“Devon, will you please tell me what is going on?” the Chief demands.

Devon does not look at him. The Chief can feel anger growing inside of him. He **refuses** to let that anger show.

“Take her back for questioning,” the Chief says to Officer Simpson in a calm voice.

“Devon, whatever you do, tell the truth,” the Chief says. “I’m your dad. I love you. We will figure this out.”

Questions:

- 1) What is the main problem in this story?
- A. Devon won't look at her dad.
 - B. Officer Simpson is nervous.
 - C. The Chief's daughter has been arrested.
 - D. The Chief is tired and wants to go home.
- 2) For how long has Wilcox been Chief of police?
- A. 15 years
 - B. 25 years
 - C. 30 years
 - D. 35 years

- 3) What can the reader tell about Chief Wilcox?
- I. He wants the truth.
 - II. He has seen a lot in his job.
 - III. He is 30 years old.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and II
 - D. I, II, and III
- 4) Why does the Chief want to go home?
- A. He is hungry.
 - B. He is tired.
 - C. He does not want to see Devon.
 - D. He is worried about his family.

- 5) Why is Officer Simpson nervous?
- A. He is scared of Chief Wilcox.
 - B. He has just been held up at gunpoint.
 - C. He has just arrested the Chief's daughter.
 - D. He has just found an important piece of evidence in a new case.
- 6) If someone's voice is **shaky**, it is
- I. loud
 - II. unsure
 - III. unsteady
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

- 7) When does the Chief discover what is wrong with Officer Simpson?
- A. when he sees the gun
 - B. when he stands up
 - C. when Officer Simpson tells him
 - D. when he sees his daughter
- 8) "He **refuses** to let that anger show." Which sentence below means the same thing?
- A. He is forced to let that anger show.
 - B. He is about to let that anger show.
 - C. He wants to let that anger show.
 - D. He decides not to let that anger show.

Questions (continued):

9) When Chief Wilcox asks Devon what is going on, Devon

- A. does not look at him
- B. starts crying
- C. takes off the handcuffs
- D. runs away

10) How do the Chief's feelings change during the story?

- A. from tired, to surprised, to angry, to loving
- B. from tired, to loving, to surprised, to angry
- C. from tired, to loving, to angry, to surprised
- D. from tired, to angry, to surprised, to loving

11) How old is Chief Wilcox?

- A. 30
- B. 45
- C. 55
- D. 60

12) What crime is Devon suspected of?

- A. being missing
- B. holding up a grocery.
- C. murder
- D. having a gun

How do you think Chief should handle this case? Explain.

A set of ten horizontal lines for writing, crossed out with a large red X.

50. I know a man _____ wife is a taxi driver.
A) who's B) his C) the D) whose
51. A special computer had _____ for use in space.
A) to be B) to be designed
C) been used D) developed
52. Jack's always reading books. He _____ like to read.
A) will B) must C) would D) can
53. He _____ buy a car so he could drive to work.
A) has to B) has had to C) will have to D) had to
54. The phone is ringing. _____ I answer it?
A) Will B) Would C) Shall D) Won't
55. They _____ rather see a larger apartment.
A) had B) have C) would D) will
56. When _____ the best time to call?
A) it is B) they would C) have you D) would be
57. Tom hasn't been working here since he came to Turkey, _____ ?
A) did he B) has he C) didn't he D) hasn't he
58. Coffee beans are picked by hand and then _____.
A) drying B) dried
C) which are dried D) by drying
59. Ray and Ida were not at work today, _____ ?
A) weren't they B) they were C) they weren't D) were they
60. Ramon and Jorge weren't angry, _____ ?
A) have they been B) did they
C) have they D) were they
61. The European countries didn't stop the war, _____ ?
A) could they B) did they C) would they D) didn't they
62. Sandy likes the green dress. She's _____ now.
A) trying for it. B) trying it on
C) trying them on D) trying on it
63. We were at the train station _____ meet our father.
A) to B) for C) in D) on
64. Albert has gone to the market _____ some eggs.
A) for buying B) for buy C) to buy D) buy
65. It's no use _____. Nobody will take any notice of you.
A) you complain B) complaining
C) to complain D) complain
66. Isn't it about time _____ taking life seriously?
A) you started B) starting C) you start D) start
67. I'd rather _____ in tonight. There is too much pollution outside.
A) stay B) to stay C) staying D) stayed
68. There's no point _____ with him.
A) to argue B) you argue C) in arguing D) of arguing
69. _____ you stop that noise or I will.
A) Either B) If C) Or D) Rather
70. _____ Gordon or Sam will help you.
A) Both B) Because C) Either D) Neither
71. _____ you leave now, or you'll miss the bus.
A) Neither B) Nor C) Either D) Or
72. _____ the child nor her mother could play the violin.
A) Either B) Although C) Both D) Neither
73. Neither of the boys brought _____ lunch.
A) his B) its C) their D) he
74. Each of the countries sent _____ representative to the international conference.
A) their B) its C) some D) official
75. Please tell us about some of the dangers a detective _____ to face in his work.
A) will B) can C) has D) have
76. His choice of words _____ very good.
A) is B) are C) will D) being
77. _____ does Helen behave foolishly.
A) Always B) Sometimes C) Usually D) Never
78. _____ to become a film star.
A) Every child want B) Not every child wants
C) Not every child want D) Not children want
79. Next month you _____.
A) will be as old as I am B) will be so old as I am
C) will be very old as me D) will be so old as me
80. They need some envelopes. They don't have _____ left.
A) some B) any C) a few D) much
81. She runs _____ than her brother.
A) faster B) fastest C) as fast D) more fast
82. Ships are fun, but _____ to travel by plane.
A) also faster B) they were faster
C) it is faster D) they aren't as fast as
83. Peter's essay was different _____ Paul's.
A) between B) to C) for D) from
84. They live _____ than we do.
A) comfortable B) more comfortably
C) comfortably D) very comfortably
85. She isn't _____ to run a big business.
A) so old B) enough old C) very old D) old enough
86. Men _____ work is good receive high wages.
A) whom B) who C) whose D) of whom
87. Children _____ behavior is bad may be punished.
A) who B) of whom C) whom D) whose
88. Is that the man _____ sells newspapers?
A) who is known B) that is sometimes
C) whose brother I know D) who
89. Now that I've bought a car, I _____ walk to work.
A) mustn't B) must C) needn't D) hadn't
90. They are giving away _____ of their old furniture.
A) any B) many C) few D) some
91. The author still works hard, but not quite as _____ as he used to.
A) hardly B) - C) hard D) more
92. The film was _____ boring that we walked out in the middle.
A) such B) so C) too D) because
93. He drove so _____ that he lost his job.
A) badly B) quick C) cowardly D) worse
94. After _____, I washed my face.
A) got up B) getting up C) can get up D) gotten up
95. How _____ from Leeds to Liverpool?
A) far is there B) far is it C) long is there D) long is it
96. Don't you think he's still _____ young to stay out so late?
A) enough B) very much C) far too D) extremely
97. Jimmy took a book from the shelf a few minutes ago. He's putting _____ now.
A) it on B) back it C) it back D) them back
98. Tom has never been to Turkey. _____.
A) Neither is Helen B) Nor is Helen
C) Neither has Helen D) Helen isn't, either
99. It would be polite _____ to write and thank Martha for the gift.
A) your letter B) of you
C) of you a letter D) a short letter
100. It was good _____ to return my tools.
A) for you B) about you C) of you D) you come

20. ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Exercise 117. Choose the correct word in the parentheses.

1. George is a (careless / carelessly) writer. He writes (careless / carelessly).
2. Frank asked me an (easy / easily) question. I answered it (easy / easily).
3. Sally speaks (soft / softly). She has a (soft / softly) voice.
4. I entered the classroom (quiet / quietly) because I was late.
5. Ali speaks English very (good / well). He has very (good / well) pronunciation.
6. This math problem looks (easy / easily). I'm sure I can do it (easy / easily).
7. That chair looks (comfortable / comfortably).
8. I looked at the problem (careful / carefully) and then solved it.
9. I felt (sad / sadly) when I heard the news.
10. Susan smiled (cheerful / cheerfully). She seemed (cheerful / cheerfully).
11. I tasted the soup (careful / carefully) because it was hot. The soup tasted (good / well).
12. The room got (quiet / quietly) when the professor entered. The students sat (quiet / quietly) at their desks.
13. The sky grew (dark / darkly) as the storm approached.

Exercise 118. Decide whether the underlined words are right (R) or wrong (W).
Correct those which are wrong.

1. Give my best wishes to your parents. I hope they are well.
2. The children behaved themselves very good.
3. I tried hardly to remember his name but I couldn't.
4. The company's financial situation is not well at present.
5. Jack has started his own business. Everything is going quite good.
6. Don't walk so fast. Can't you walk more slowly?
7. See you soon! Don't work too hard.

Exercise 119. Choose the right word, *an adjective or an adverb*.

1. Please, shut the door (quiet / quietly).
2. Can you be (quiet / quietly), please?
3. This soup tastes (nice / nicely).
4. Tom cooks very (good / well).
5. Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look (safe / safely).
6. We were relieved that he arrived (safe / safely) after his long journey.

25. ENOUGH WITH ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS AND NOUNS

Exercise 139. Complete these sentences using *enough* with one of the following words:

big old warm well cups
money room time qualifications

Example: She can't get married yet. She's not old enough.

1. Tom would like to buy a car but he hasn't got ___ .
2. I couldn't make coffee for everybody. There weren't ___ .
3. Are you ___ ? Or shall I switch on the heating?
4. It's only a small car. There isn't ___ for all of you.
5. George didn't feel ___ to go to work this morning.
6. I didn't finish the examination. I didn't have ___ .
7. Do you think I've got ___ to apply for the job?
8. Try this jacket and see if it's ___ for you.

Exercise 140. In the following sentences choose the correct form in parentheses.

1. It's not (enough warm/warm enough) to sit in the garden.
2. I haven't got (enough money/money enough) to go on holiday this year.
3. He doesn't speak (English enough/enough English) to make himself understood.
4. This coat is not (enough warm/warm enough) for me to wear in winter.
5. That chair isn't (strong enough/enough strong) for you to stand on.
6. This bed is not (enough wide/wide enough) for two people to sleep in.
7. I don't have (enough time/time enough) to do it.
8. He didn't run (fast enough/enough fast).
9. Is this coffee (enough strong/strong enough) for you?
10. He is not (old enough/enough old) to get a driver's license.
11. Do we have (enough drinks/drinks enough) for the party?
12. The director thought the man was not (heavy enough/enough heavy) for the role.
13. There were not (enough people/people enough) to form a dance group.
14. Are there (chairs enough/enough chairs) in the room?

Exercise 141. Correct mistakes in the following sentences.

1. I need to buy a lamp because I don't have enough the light in my room.
2. Her little car isn't big enough as to seat more than two people comfortably.
3. Virginia doesn't have the enough information to make a decision.
4. That excuse isn't enough good.
5. Do we have hamburgers enough as for the party?
6. He should be as strong enough to get out of bed in a few days.
7. Without enough the sleep, you won't be able to do well on the examination.

6. ___ the storm warnings, we did not go out last night.
7. They went to the beach ___ it is cooler there.
8. She had to study ___ her exam next week.
9. Classes will be canceled tomorrow ___ a national holiday.
10. She was absent ___ her cold was worse.
11. John's family is very happy ___ his being awarded a scholarship.
12. She didn't buy it ___ the price.
13. It was difficult to see the road clearly ___ it was raining.
14. ___ cheese is essentially a concentrated form of milk, it contains the same nutrients as milk.

Exercise 144. Supply either *because* or *because of* as appropriate.

1. We were late to the meeting ___ the traffic was heavy.
2. ___ my parents' generosity, all of the children in our family have received the best of everything.
3. Bill has to do all of the cooking and cleaning ___ his wife's illness.
4. ___ Dr. Robinson's excellent research on wolves, we know much more today about the endangered species than we did even five years ago.
5. I couldn't get to sleep last night ___ it was noisy in the next apartment.
6. I regret to say that I cannot be present at our daughter's wedding ___ circumstances are beyond my control.
7. Jerry's in good shape physically ___ he gets a lot of exercises.
8. The letter was returned to the sender ___ it didn't have enough postage.
9. Our flight from Amsterdam to London was delayed ___ the heavy fog.
10. ___ the severe snow storm and the road blocks, the air force dropped food and medical supplies close to the city.
11. He has received several scholarships ___ his academic and artistic ability.
12. The professor was considering postponing the examination until the following week ___ the student's confusion.
13. ___ the residents had worked so diligently to renovate the old building, the manager had a party.
14. George did not do well in the class ___ he failed to study properly.
15. ___ its durability and economy, the best car is a Mercedes Benz.

Exercise 145. Combine the following sentences by using *so ... that* or *such ... that*.

Examples: This tea is good, I think I'll have another cup. — This tea is so good that I think I'll have another cup.
 This is good tea. I think I'll have another cup. — This is such good tea that I think I'll have another cup.

Exercise 40. TEST. Find the correct form of the verb.

1. How long ___ you ___ English?
(A) do ___ learn
(B) have ___ been learning
(C) are ___ learning
2. She ___ tennis since she was eight.
(A) has been playing
(B) plays
(C) is playing
3. Bob has a black eye and Bill has a cut lip. Bob and Bill ___.
(A) were fighting
(B) fought
(C) have been fighting
4. You have just arrived to meet your friend who is waiting for you. ___ he ___ long?
(A) has ___ been waiting
(B) has ___ waited
(C) does ___ wait
5. George smokes. He ___ for five years.
(A) is smoking
(B) has been smoking
(C) has smoked
6. We ___ with my model railway since early morning, — said Jim.
(A) are playing
(B) play
(C) have been playing
7. Linda is from Australia. Now she is travelling round Europe. She began her tour three months ago. She ___ six countries so far.
(A) has visited
(B) has been visiting
(C) visited
8. There is a strange smell in the kitchen. ___ you ___ something?
(A) Did ___ cook
(B) Have ___ cooked
(C) Have ___ been cooking

9. Tom's hands are very dirty. He ___ his car for the whole morning.
(A) has repaired
(B) was repairing
(C) has been repairing
10. Jim ___ tennis three times this week.
(A) has been playing
(B) has played
(C) is playing
11. Somebody ___ all my porridge. The plate is empty.
(A) has eaten
(B) has been eaten
(C) is eating
12. He ___ our family since we came to London.
(A) has been knowing
(B) knew
(C) has known
13. I ___ Ann for a long time.
(A) haven't seen
(B) didn't see
(C) has known
14. I was very tired when I arrived home. I ___ hard all day.
(A) was working
(B) had worked
(C) had been working
15. Tom was watching TV. He was feeling very tired. He ___ all day.
(A) was studying
(B) had been studying
(C) studying
16. I tried to call Jack but I couldn't. He ___ very fast.
(A) had been running
(B) ran
(C) was running

Eating Out

- Q1 As there are so many dishes on the menu, would you like me to something to eat?
(a) decide (b) suggest (c) offer (d) consider
- Q2 They simply couldn't decide which restaurant to choose and so in the end they took a vote and the decided on a Chinese one.
(a) most (b) more (c) majority (d) main
- Q3 We waited one hour for the main dish to and then it was the wrong order.
(a) arrive (b) reach (c) deliver (d) send
- Q4 If you really want to enjoy the full flavour of that particular meal, you must remember to the right balance of sauces together.
(a) join (b) stick (c) attach (d) mix
- Q5 It is always more relaxing to eat in a restaurant where the faces of the staff are and know everyone by name.
(a) familiarized (b) familiar (c) familiarly (d) familiarity
- Q6 There was a great discussion about which particular type of cuisine the guests would choose and finally they reached a and settled on the set menu.
(a) compromising (b) compromised (c) compromise (d) compromisingly
- Q7 It doesn't matter how late you arrive at this restaurant you can always on a warm welcome from the owner.
(a) trust (b) confide (c) rely (d) believe
- Q8 The place was so full of people and tables that the waiter had to us through the crowds to our table.
(a) show (b) guide (c) conduct (d) enable
- Q9 The problem about writing on food is that however hard you try, you will say what you like and end up being
(a) subjective (b) objective (c) reflective (d) directive
- Q10 The success of a really good meal is that not only must it taste good but it should also look good and thus to your eye.
(a) attract (b) appeal (c) attend (d) appear

Leave me alone

- Q1 Alan: Excuse me but what are you doing?
(a) intervening (b) interviewing (c) interrupting (d) intercepting
- Q2 User: I should have thought it was pretty
(a) obvious (b) absolute (c) noticeable (d) accurate
- Q3 Alan: Well, I only asked — there's no need to bite my off!
(a) nose (b) head (c) arm (d) leg
- Q4 User: Sorry I didn't mean to be rude but I'm trying to
(a) deliberate (b) ruminate (c) concentrate (d) cogitate
- Q5 Alan: I see and what is the you are working on?
(a) duty (b) task (c) work (d) goal
- Q6 User: I'm working on those English tests, which I find very interesting.
(a) notorious (b) fabled (c) famous (d) infamous
- Q7 Alan: Oh, yes I've heard of them. Do they you with your English?
(a) aid (b) support (c) help (d) comfort
- Q8 User: Yes, they would do if you didn't in asking questions.
(a) continue (b) persist (c) insist (d) pursue
- Q9 Alan: If that's how you feel, I'll leave you
(a) lonely (b) lonesome (c) alone (d) apart
- Q10 User: What an excellent idea! Leave me in and go and write another test.
(a) piece (b) peacetime (c) peaceful (d) peace

What now?

- Q1 Did you hear the story about the woman who said she could tell the?
(a) coming (b) future (c) going (d) next
- Q2 I hope you haven't because I'm about to it to you now.
(a) restore (b) repeat (c) relate (d) regain
- Q3 Her name was Mary Smith and she had a for telling people what was going to happen.
(a) title (b) reputation (c) description (d) idea
- Q4 Somebody once used her advice and made a out of buying shares in a small company that did well.
(a) heap (b) gold (c) fortune (d) amount
- Q5 The strange thing was that she never actually used her to benefit herself.
(a) giving (b) gift (c) gave (d) given
- Q6 People started to be of her and thought that perhaps she had a secret source of information.
(a) suspect (b) suspecting (c) suspicion (d) suspicious
- Q7 Some others wanted to try and her out and prove that she didn't have this special ability.
(a) make (b) take (c) catch (d) do
- Q8 The plan was to pretend to her house late one night and see if she was really any good at knowing it was going to happen.
(a) steal (b) burgle (c) rob (d) enter
- Q9 Mike Andrews, whose idea it was, intended to give everything back but he just wanted to her ability.
(a) discover (b) try (c) test (d) examine
- Q10 As Mr Andrews was about to leave he found a note pinned to his door. It was from Mary Smith advising him to be careful because she has just bought a young guard dog.
(a) severe (b) ferocious (c) harsh (d) spiteful