



“Chocolate”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages



Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Chocolate — there’s nothing quite like it, is there? Chocolate is simply delicious. What is chocolate? Where does it come from?

Christopher Columbus was probably the first to take cacao beans from the New World to Europe in around 1502. But the history of chocolate goes back at least 4,000 years! The Aztecs, who lived in America, thought that their bitter cacao drink was a **divine** gift from heaven. In fact, the scientist Carolus Linnaeus named the plant *Theobroma*, which means “food of the gods.”

The Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez went to America in 1519. He visited the Mexican emperor Montezuma. He saw that Montezuma drank cacao mixed with vanilla and spices. Cortez took some cacao home as a gift to the Spanish King Charles. In Spain, people began to drink Cortez’s chocolate in a drink with chili peppers. However, the natural taste of cacao was too bitter for most people. To sweeten the drink, Europeans added sugar to the cacao drink. As a sweet drink, it became more popular. By the 17th century, rich people in Europe were drinking it.

Later, people started using chocolate in **pastries**, like pies and cakes. In 1828, Dutch chocolate makers started using a new process for removing the fat from cacao beans, and getting to the center of the cacao bean. The Dutch chocolate maker Conrad J. van Houten made a machine that pressed the fat from the bean. The resulting powder mixed better with water than cacao did. Now, some call van Houten’s chocolate “Dutch chocolate.”

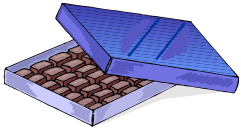
It was easy to mix Dutch chocolate powder with sugar. So other chocolate makers started trying new **recipes** that used powdered chocolate. People started mixing sweetened chocolate with cocoa butter to make solid chocolate bars. In 1849, an English chocolate maker made the first chocolate bar. In the 19th century, the Swiss started making milk chocolate by mixing powdered milk with sweetened chocolate. Milk chocolate has not changed much since this process was invented.

Today, two countries - Brazil and Ivory Coast - account for almost half the world’s chocolate. The United States imports most of the chocolate in the world, but the Swiss eat the most chocolate per person. The most chocolate eaten today is sweet milk chocolate, but people also eat white chocolate and dark chocolate.

Cocoa and dark chocolate are believed to help **prevent** heart attacks, or help keep them from happening. They are supposed to be good for the circulatory system. On the other hand, the high fat content of chocolate can cause weight gain, which is not good for people’s health. Other health claims for chocolate have not been proven, but some research shows that chocolate could be good for the brain.

Chocolate is a popular holiday gift. A popular Valentine’s Day gift is a box of chocolate candies with a card and flowers. Chocolate is sometimes given for Christmas and birthdays. Chocolate eggs are sometimes given at Easter.

Chocolate is **toxic** to some animals. An ingredient in chocolate is poisonous to dogs, cats, parrots, small rodents, and some livestock. Their bodies cannot process some of the chemicals found in chocolate. Therefore, they should never be fed chocolate.



Questions:

1) How did people first consume chocolate?

- A. As a sweet drink
- B. As a bitter drink
- C. As a chocolate bar
- D. In cakes and pastries
- E. As a white chocolate bar

2) Why did Linnaeus name the plant *Theobroma*?

- A. Because he believed it to be a “gift from heaven.”
- B. Because he believed it to be “food of the gods.”
- C. Because he thought chocolate to be toxic.
- D. Because chocolate was so rare.
- E. Both B and C are correct.

3) Who was Montezuma?

- A. He was an explorer from Mexico.
- B. He was the emperor of Mexico.
- C. He was an explorer from Spain.
- D. He was the king of Spain.
- E. He was a baker in Spain.

4) Who made the first powdered chocolate?

- A. Cortez
- B. Linnaeus
- C. Columbus
- D. van Houten
- E. King Charles

5) Which people eat the most chocolate per person?

- A. The Dutch
- B. The Swiss
- C. The English
- D. The Mexicans
- E. The Brazilians

Vocabulary:

1) A *divine* gift is...

- A. a chocolate gift.
- B. a gift from God.
- C. a delicious gift.
- D. a bitter gift.
- E. a dangerous gift.

2) *Pastries* are...

- A. sweet baked goods.
- B. bitter-tasting drinks.
- C. chocolate candy bars .
- D. chocolate candies.
- E. Both C and D are correct.

3) What are *recipes*?

- A. Herbs and Spices
- B. Countries
- C. Machines
- D. Food ingredients
- E. Chocolate powders

4) When you *prevent* something, you...

- A. do not let it happen.
- B. do not discuss it.
- C. do not allow it.
- D. do not stop it
- E. Both A and C are correct.
- F. Both A and B are correct.

5) If something is *toxic* it is...

- A. poisonous.
- B. disgusting.
- C. emotional.
- D. popular.
- E. harmless.

• Intermediate Critical Reading - Photography

5 In 1760, a man named Tiphaigne de la Roche made a bizarre prediction. In an imaginary story called Giphantie, mirror images of scenes from nature could be captured permanently on a canvas covered with a sticky material. After the material dried in darkness, the image would remain on the canvas forever. At the time, the idea was unheard of. It was not until the following century that the concept of photography was born, starting with some experiments by Nicéphore Niépce.

10 Nicéphore Niépce, who was a French inventor, was interested in lithography, which is a printmaking technique. He was experimenting with lithography when he found a way of copying etchings onto glass and pewter plates using a chemical that changes when it is exposed to light. He learned to burn images onto the plates and then print the images on paper. He shared his findings with Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, who improved the process and announced it to the French Academy of Sciences in 1839. The Daguerreotype, the photography method named after Daguerre, met with great success. It was so successful, in fact, that French newspapers said the French public had an illness called *Daguerreotypomania!* Daguerreotypes were inexpensive and were suitable for portraiture. People called the Daguerreotype a “mirror with a memory.” Some portrait artists went out of business when Daguerreotypes came into vogue. Others became Daguerreotypists, now known as photographers.

20 Photography took off and today includes You Tube fans, I-Reporters, and everybody with a cell phone camera. Today photography captures life around the globe. The bizarre prediction of Mr. de la Roche has come true, and then some.

But how was the prediction of mirror-image pictures made in the first place? Was de la Roche’s prediction of mirror-image photography just a lucky guess? Or was the Daguerreotype a picture-perfect case of life imitating art?

Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are true?
 - I) Photographic images were shown in de la Roche's book *Giphantie*.
 - II) Nicéphore Niépce experimented with printmaking.
 - III) Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre invented photography.
 - A) I only
 - B) II only
 - C) III only
 - D) I and II only
 - E) II and III only
2. In line 1, *bizarre* most closely means
 - A) common
 - B) humorous
 - C) obvious
 - D) popular
 - E) strange
3. In the context of the passage, which of the following best articulates the author's opinion?
 - A) It is hard to know how de la Roche predicted a photographic-type process a full century before photography was invented.
 - B) It is hard to draw a comparison between early Daguerreotypists and modern-day photographers.
 - C) It was inaccurate to say that the Daguerreotype was a "mirror with a memory," since the images were not reversed.
 - D) It is difficult to understand why the French public preferred Daguerreotypes to painted portraiture.
 - E) It was difficult for portrait artists to acquire the skills necessary to become Daguerreotypists.

1. Her husband is ill in ____ hospital, so she has to stay at ____ home to look after ____ children instead of going to work.
A) _ / _ / _ C) the / the / the
B) _ / the / the D) _ / _ / the
2. Because ____ sun was so strong, they decided to sleep during ____ day and travel by ____ night.
A) the / the / _ C) the / the / the
B) the / _ / _ D) _ / _ / _
3. Here is a picture of ____ village where I was born. It is about ten minutes by ____ car from Wellington, ____ big town.
A) the / _ / a B) the / the / _
B) _ / the / _ D) the / _ / _
4. The two kinds of ____ dog that I detest most are ____ snow dogs and ____ lap dogs.
A) the / _ / _ C) _ / _ / _
B) _ / the / the D) the / _ / _
5. Do you think that I could ever learn to speak ____ Japanese ____ way ____ Japanese speak it?
A) _ / the / the C) _ / _ / _
B) the / the / the D) _ / the / _
6. This is ____ toughest steak I have eaten. It is ____ last time I eat in this restaurant.
A) _ / _ C) _ / the B) the / _ D) the / the
7. I would like ____ there yesterday.
A) being C) to have been
B) having to be D) to be
8. I can't find my sister. Do you know ____?
A) where is she B) where she is
C) somewhere she is D) is she anywhere
9. Mr. Green has a ____ vacation.
A) two weeks B) two-week's
C) two weeks' D) two-week
10. Have you heard ____ weather forecast?
A) yesterday B) tomorrow's C) for today's D) next week
11. She ran in a ____ race.
A) ten kilometer B) ten-kilometer
C) ten kilometer's D) ten-kilometers
12. ____ weather will be great.
A) Tomorrow B) Yesterday's C) Yesterday D) Tomorrow's
13. I wish my car ____ make so much noise.
A) won't B) can't C) didn't D) doesn't
14. "Are you leaving, Sam?" asked Mabel. She asked Sam if he ____.
A) is leaving B) leaves C) was leaving D) would leave
15. Alice said that ____.
A) I'm at my office B) she was at her office
C) I'm at her office D) you have been at your office
16. Jack ____ to Tom.
A) says that he had spoken B) said that he had spoken
C) say that he speaks D) had spoken that he will say
17. "How have you been, Mona?" asked Fred. He asked Mona how ____.
A) she was B) she had been
C) was she D) had she been
18. He hoped that they ____ that question.
A) don't ask B) will ask C) would ask D) can't ask
19. The new system is more productive and ____.
A) cheap B) less dangerously
C) less expensive D) costing less
20. It was foolish ____ your advice.
A) to be forgotten B) for her forgetting
C) of her to forget D) to listen
21. She gave me a very nice book ____.
A) reading B) read C) to read D) will read
22. He can climb trees ____ a monkey.
A) as though B) like C) as D) as if
23. ____ poverty in the world.
A) There are always B) It has always
C) It has always been D) There has always been
24. ____ the children for me while I'm out.
A) Look after B) Take care C) Look at D) Care
25. Robert seems ____ ready.
A) it is B) to be C) being D) of being
26. He was working at the office when the telegram ____.
A) was arriving B) has arrived C) arrived D) arrives
27. This is the first time I ____ tennis this month.
A) play B) have played C) was playing D) played
28. Tom ____ carefully when he had the accident.
A) hadn't been driving B) hadn't been
C) drives D) driving very
29. The Browns family ____ about moving for several months.
A) thinking B) had been thinking
C) been thinking D) are thinking
30. We ____ for only a few minutes before you came.
A) will wait B) have to wait
C) have been waiting D) had been waiting
31. Julia ____ our visit.
A) hadn't been expecting B) was very surprised
C) hadn't been to expect D) had expected for
32. Tom: Have you seen that film?
Bob: Yes, I have.
Tom: When?
Bob: I ____ it a week ago.
A) would see B) had seen C) saw D) have seen
33. He ____ the rent last Friday.
A) pays B) has paid C) was paying D) paid
34. Has Nick finished his work yet? Yes, he ____ half an hour ago.
A) has finished B) had finished C) was finishing D) finished
35. At eight o'clock last night I ____ a book.
A) was reading B) have read C) read D) am reading
36. They would have gone home if we ____ here.
A) aren't B) won't be C) hadn't been D) are
37. If Bruce had been careful, he ____ had an accident.
A) has B) have C) wouldn't D) wouldn't have
38. Wilma ____ called if she had forgotten her keys.
A) had B) was C) would D) would have
39. If they ____ harder, they would succeed.
A) could try B) try C) tried D) had tried
40. If Bruce ____ to a small country, his vacation would have been better.
A) went B) have gone C) has gone D) had gone
41. If I ____ a politician, I would never tell lies.
A) was B) were C) am D) cooked
42. ____ been made?
A) Have the arrangements B) When the invitations
C) The urgent steps D) A good salary was
43. "The letter ____ last week", Lola said.
A) is sent B) was sent C) will be sent D) sent
44. When the door ____ Frank was very surprised.
A) opens B) is opened C) was opened D) shuts
45. I'm teaching ____ to speak English.
A) himself B) yourself C) us D) myself
46. The work had ____ under extremely difficult conditions.
A) for them B) completed C) to be done D) slightly
47. Traffic was bad because the highway ____ repaired.
A) will be B) was being C) is D) being
48. ____ mountains that we climbed were high.
A) All B) All of C) Of the D) All of the
49. Do you know the man ____ lives across the street?
A) which B) there C) who D) what

2. If your teacher has told you it is out of the question for you to turn in your term paper late, you ____ .
 - (A) must turn in your paper on time
 - (B) have extra time to work on your paper
 - (C) don't have any more questions to ask your teacher

3. If Johannes finally got rid of his old football, he ____ .
 - (A) is saving it for the future
 - (B) no longer has it
 - (C) loaned it to a friend for a short time

4. If Mai was the one who got the ball rolling on your group science project, she ____ .
 - (A) put off working on the project
 - (B) rolled a ball around as part of the project
 - (C) started work on the project

5. If you gave your neighbor a hand with her groceries, you ____ .
 - (A) helped her
 - (B) avoided her
 - (C) shook hands with her

6. Stanley used a bit of wire to fix his car door for the time being. Stanley ____ .
 - (A) permanently fixed the car door
 - (B) temporarily fixed the car door
 - (C) didn't know how to fix the car door

7. Carl and Monica are keeping their fingers crossed that the weather will be nice on their wedding day. They ____ .
 - (A) are wishing for nice weather
 - (B) have been told the weather will be nice
 - (C) don't really care about the weather

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences or dialogues with idioms from the list.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>1. once in a blue moon</i> | <i>6. do without</i> |
| <i>2. come down with</i> | <i>7. say that again</i> |
| <i>3. be on the safe side</i> | <i>8. every other</i> |
| <i>4. well worth the trouble</i> | <i>9. inns and outs</i> |
| <i>5. under the weather</i> | <i>10. as a rule</i> |

1. Although it's warm today, I think you should take a sweater, just to 3 .
2. A: What do you usually do on weekends, Fred?

- B: 10 I stay at home, but next weekend I'm going to San Francisco with a friend.
3. I forgot my notebook for class but I think I can 6 it.
4. A: You're looking a bit tired today.
B: Well, I think I'm 2 the flu.
5. I don't have physics every day. I have it 8 day.
6. Reynaldo is an excellent tour guide because he knows all 9 of travelling.
7. Since Alberto does not like the ballet we only go 1 .
8. A: The weather is absolutely perfect today.
B: You can 7.
9. I'm sorry I won't be able to go to the art exhibit with you tonight, I'm feeling 5.
10. A: Did you have a hard time finding grandmother's birthday present?
B: Yes, but when I saw her expression when she opened it, I knew it was 4.

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences or dialogues with idioms from the list.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <i>as a rule</i> | 6. <i>come up with</i> |
| 2. <i>get in touch with</i> | 7. <i>a fish out of water</i> |
| 3. <i>come up with</i> | 8. <i>at all</i> |
| 4. <i>Think nothing of it</i> | 9. <i>as a matter of fact</i> |
| 5. <i>get rid of</i> | 10. <i>few and far between</i> |

1. A: Thank you so much for helping me get my car started.
B: 4. It was no problem at all.
2. A: Do you get pay raises where you work?
B: Yes, but they are 10.
3. Michael felt like 7 because he was the only man in a room full of women.
4. A: I've got a great idea for our class reunion.
B: I knew you'd 6 something.
5. A: Is this story boring you?
B: Not 8. I find it fascinating.
6. 1, Carlos is very punctual, but he was late tonight.

7. A: You're probably too tired to play another game of racquetball, right?
B: I'm not that tired, really. 9, I'd enjoy another game.

8. How did you 3 such a strange idea?

9. A: That old paint that you have stored in your garage is a fire hazard.
B: You're right. I should 5 it.

10. A: Has Fred 2 you lately?
B: No, he hasn't. I don't think he has my new telephone number.

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences or dialogues with idioms from the list.

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <i>right away</i> | 6. <i>make a point of</i> |
| 2. <i>give a hand with</i> | 7. <i>take it easy</i> |
| 3. <i>out of the question</i> | 8. <i>for the time being</i> |
| 4. <i>make up one's mind</i> | 9. <i>in the long run</i> |
| 5. <i>few and far between</i> | 10. <i>for good</i> |

1. There are so many interesting dishes on the menu that it's hard for me to 4 which one I want.

2. A: I'm nervous about my interview.
B: 7. You'll make a better impression if you're relaxed.

3. A: Why do we need to get gas now? We have quite a bit left.
B: This highway goes through some empty country, and gas stations are 5

4. A: Are you moving to Baltimore 10?
B: No, just 8. I'll be back here in a month or two.

5. Can you 2 me this luggage? It's too heavy for me to carry myself.

6. The company may lose some money now, but 9, this is a good investment.

7. Write down your ideas 1. If you wait to write them down, you may forget them.

8. A: You did a fine job on this research paper, especially on the bibliography.
B: Thanks. I 6 getting the bibliography exactly right.

9. A: What did Professor Spencer say when you asked him if the final exam could be postponed?
B: He said that it was 3 because there's no time to reschedule the test.

9. I **gather from** your remark that you are angry.
(A) hear
(B) understand from
(C) ignore
10. **To tell you the truth**, we're starving.
(A) to be honest
(B) to explain why
(C) in other words
11. Oh, **come on**, Michael, we know you're over thirty!
(A) stop saying something that isn't true
(B) hurry
(C) come with us
12. She didn't want to go to the party as she **made up** a good excuse.
(A) asked for
(B) wrote
(C) invented
13. During the press conference, the President **touched on** the unemployment problem.
(A) discussed fully
(B) discussed briefly
(C) avoided
14. He wanted to buy a Cadillac but his son **talked him into** buying a Porsche.
(A) convinced
(B) asked
(C) told
15. He **made a deal with** his client.
(A) discussed it with
(B) agreed to do business with
(C) produced something with
16. After a few minutes of social talk, we **got down to business**.
(A) sat down
(B) talked about our jobs
(C) began to talk seriously

17. It was impossible for him **to make a living** by acting.
(A) **support himself financially** by
(B) live without
(C) have an interesting life by
18. As a salesman, he had **to deal with** the public.
(A) **have contact with**
(B) play cards with
(C) convince
19. When I was cleaning out my desk drawer, I **came across** this old picture.
(A) looked for
(B) **found**
(C) ripped
20. Everything in this kitchen **is up to date**.
(A) is old
(B) is used
(C) **is modern**

Exercise 9. Choose the best meaning.

1. If you **get rid of** these doors, you will have much more room.
(A) open
(B) **remove**
(C) close
2. The robbers **broke in**.
(A) needed money
(B) got hurt
(C) **forced their way in**
3. He **put the blame** on Perry.
(A) forgave
(B) **accused**
(C) attacked
4. The young salesman **came up with** a money-saving idea.
(A) bought
(B) exchanged
(C) **found**

5. Everyone was surprised when the president **showed up** in blue jeans.
(A) bought
(B) displayed
(C) **appeared wearing**
6. He quit his job because he couldn't **cope with** all the pressure.
(A) **overcome**
(B) avoid
(C) enjoy
7. We're **fed up with** the weather here.
(A) enjoying
(B) **tired of**
(C) pleased with
8. It's better not to talk to him. He **got out of bed on the wrong side** this morning.
(A) was in a bad mood when he went to sleep
(B) hurt himself when he got up
(C) **has been in a bad mood since he got up**
9. I don't **feel like** going out in the rain. Let's stay home.
(A) **want to**
(B) feel well enough to
(C) enjoy
10. If you don't **cut out** smoking three packs of cigarettes a day, you will die before you are fifty.
(A) think about
(B) **stop**
(C) limit yourself to
11. The cleaning lady **objected to** washing windows.
(A) avoided
(B) liked
(C) **expressed a negative attitude about**
12. If you want to discuss the matter, you must **calm down** first.
(A) **become quiet, more relaxed**
(B) make an appointment
(C) explain your position