

• Reading Comprehension 2 Level 5

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

Have you ever heard someone use the phrase “once in a blue moon?” People use this **expression** to describe something that they do not do very often. For example, someone might say that he tries to avoid eating sweets because they are unhealthy, but will eat chocolate “once in a blue moon.” Or someone who does not usually like to go to the beach might say “I visit the shore once in a blue moon.” While many people use this phrase, not everyone knows the meaning behind it.

The first thing to know is that the moon itself is never actually blue. This is just an expression. The phrase “blue moon” actually has to do with the shape of the moon, not the color.

As the moon travels around the earth, it appears to change shape. We associate certain names with certain shapes of the moon. For example, when we can see a small part of the moon, it is called a **crescent** moon. A crescent is a shape that looks like the tip of a fingernail. When we cannot see the moon at all, it is called a new moon. When we can see the entire moon, it is called a full moon. Usually, there is only one full moon every month. Sometimes, however, there will be two full moons in one month. When this happens, the second full moon is called a “blue moon.”

Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons. As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event. This fact has led people to use the expression “once in a blue moon” to describe other very rare events in their lives.

Questions

- 1) Which of the following would be a good example of someone doing something “once in a blue moon”?
 - A. Mary likes to go to the mountains every weekend. Mary goes to the mountains once in a blue moon.
 - B. Tom rarely remembers to take out the trash. Tom takes out the trash once in a blue moon.
 - C. Cindy hates to wash the dishes. Nevertheless, she does it every day. Cindy washes the dishes once in a blue moon.
 - D. Ming sometimes forgets to do his homework. Ming forgets to do his homework once in a blue moon.

- 2) When does a blue moon happen in nature?
 - A. when there are two full moons in one month
 - B. when the moon has a blue color
 - C. when we cannot see the moon at all
 - D. when we can only see a small part of the moon

- 3) Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that which of the following sentences does not contain an **expression**?
- A. Thomas has lost his mind.
 - B. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
 - C. I'll mow the grass after I finish my homework.
 - D. It's never a bad time to start something new.
- 4) As described in paragraph 3, what is another example of something that has a **crescent** shape?
- A. your thumb
 - B. a distant star
 - C. the letter "C"
 - D. the letter "H"
- 5) In the final paragraph, the author states: "Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons." This means that over the next 20 years, a blue moon will happen
- A. once a year
 - B. less than once a year
 - C. more than once a year
 - D. not enough information is provided
- 6) As used in the final paragraph, which is the best antonym for **rare**?
- A. common
 - B. strange
 - C. colorful
 - D. infrequent
- 7) In the final paragraph the author writes, "As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event." The purpose of this statement is to
- A. answer an earlier question
 - B. provide an example
 - C. support an upcoming conclusion
 - D. challenge a previous statement

Homophones: Words that have the same pronunciation, but different spelling and different meanings.

Directions: Choose the correct word.

Example: Please try not to (waste, *waist*) paper.



1. Can I go to the party (*to, too, two*)?
2. This is my favorite (*pare, pair, pear*) of jeans.
3. I (*sent, scent, cent*) a letter to my aunt in Vietnam.
4. The children got (*bored, board*) during the lecture.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez like to work in (*there, they're, their*) garden.
6. Alec is going to (*wear, ware*) his work boots today.
7. Do you think it is going to (*rein, rain, reign*) this afternoon?
8. I saw a restaurant just off the (*rode, road*) about a mile back.
9. David's brother is in a (*band, banned*) which plays Russian music.
10. Juana wants her socks because her (*tows, toes*) are cold.
11. The teacher walked down the (*aisle, isle*) between the rows of desks.
12. Hadil has a (*pane, pain*) in her shoulder.
13. The school (*principal, principle*) spoke to a group of parents.
14. The clerk wants to (*sell, cell*) as many TVs as possible.
15. I don't want to talk about the (*passed, past*) anymore.
16. Nobody (*knows, nose*) what you are thinking.
17. I have (*for, four, fore*) dollars in my pocket.
18. I need to take a (*break, brake*) from this exercise!
19. Humans have hands. Dogs have (*paws, pause*).
20. (*He'll, Heel, Heal*) be here in a few minutes.

Homonyms, Homographs, and Homophones

Homonyms: Words that have the same spelling and same pronunciation, but different meanings.



Directions: Choose (a) or (b)

- Example:** I hope you are not *lying* (a) to me. (a) telling a lie
 My books are *lying* (b) on the table. (b) being in a horizontal position
- The kids are going to *watch* ___ TV tonight. (a) small clock worn on the wrist
 What time is it? I have to set my *watch* _____. (b) look at
 - Which *page* _____ is the homework on? (a) one sheet of paper
 Please *page* _____ the doctor if you need help. (b) to call someone on an electronic pager
 - Let's *play* ___ soccer after school. (a) participate in a sport
 The author wrote a new *play* _____. (b) theater piece
 - Ouch! The mosquito *bit* ___ me! (a) a tiny amount
 I'll have a little *bit* ___ of sugar in my tea. (b) past tense of bite
 - My rabbits are in a *pen* ___ outside. (a) a writing instrument which uses ink
 Please sign this form with a black *pen* _____. (b) an enclosed area

Homographs: Words that have the same spelling, but different pronunciations and meanings.



Directions: Choose (a) or (b)

- Example:** The *wind* (a) is blowing hard. (a) moving air (rhymes with *pinned*)
 I have to *wind* (b) my clock. (b) turn the stem (rhymes with *find*)
- The singer made a low *bow* ___ to the audience. (a) decorative ribbon (rhymes with *so*)
 Maria placed a red *bow* ___ on the birthday gift. (b) bend at the waist (rhymes with *how*)
 - All the students are *present* ___ today. (a) here (rhymes with *pleasant*)
 The boss will *present* ___ the award at 10:00. (b) give (rhymes with *resent*)
 - Please *close* ___ the door. (a) near (rhymes with *dose*)
 The boy sat *close* ___ to his uncle. (b) shut (rhymes with *toes*)
 - The rope was *wound* ___ around his ankles. (a) tied around (rhymes with *pound*)
 The soldier received a *wound* ___ in the battle. (b) an injury (rhymes with *moon*)
 - I don't know if I will *live* ___ or die. (a) to have life (rhymes with *give*)
 Last night I saw the band play *live* ___ in concert. (b) in real time performance (rhymes with *hive*)