



Comprehension

Before you start... COMPREHENSION TIPS	
1	Read through the text. Make sure you are concentrating and aware of what you are reading.
2	Look at the page as a whole – Are there pictures that can help me? What does the heading tell me about the text? Is there fine print – have I read it? Is it important?
3	Answer the following questions in your mind: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the text about? What is the main idea? 2. Is it fiction/ non-fiction? 3. What are the main points? 4. Who are the main characters, if any? 5. What do I know about this? Any previous knowledge I can think of? <p style="text-align: center;">*5 QUESTION WORDS* Who? What? Where? Why? When?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Get a clear understanding of the text.</p>
4	Read through the questions and look at the mark allocations to help you know how much detail to provide. Highlight important words in the questions.
5	Read through the text again – now highlight any possible answers you might find, make notes in the text for yourself. For example: if you find the answer for question 5, highlight it and write a little number 5 next to it.
6	Now you may start answering the questions: Always remember: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full sentences 2. Answer according to the mark allocation 3. Number your answers correctly 4. If you are stuck, leave it and move on to the next question. Don't forget to go back to it at the end.
7	The last, yet most important step, read through the questions and your answers again. Make sure you have answered exactly what was asked. Edit your work. Well done!

Practice 1: The main idea or theme

Read the following paragraphs and write one sentence, in your own words, to describe the main idea of the paragraph:

The French fry, may not actually be French. Some claim that fries originated in Belgium, where villagers along the River Meuse traditionally ate fried fish. In winter, when the river froze, the fish-deprived villagers fried potatoes instead. This dish was discovered by American soldiers in Belgium during World War I and, since the dominant language of southern Belgium is French, they named the tasty potatoes "French" fries.

NASA has released the most colourful image of the universe to date, a composite of images taken over a nine-year period by the Hubble Space Telescope and revealing around 10,000 galaxies spread across space. The latest image also combines ultraviolet light imagery to reveal stars we couldn't see previously and includes galaxies dating as old as ten billion years.

Have you ever heard the expression "once in a blue moon?" It means "not very often", or "very rarely", but exactly how often does a so-called blue moon occur? A blue moon normally occurs once every two years, but in 2018, two blue moons will rise within two months of each other. What is even more unusual about the blue moon on 31 January, is that it is coupled with a total lunar eclipse for the first time in more than 150 years. It is called a blue moon if there are two full moons in one calendar month.

Practice 2: Vocabulary

Try to find the meaning of the words in **Bold Italics** by reading the words in context.

1. A **composite** of images has been taken over a period of nine years. This resulted in the most colourful image of the universe yet.

2. Many of the volcanoes on Venus are active, but most are **dormant**.

3. Lionesses leave the tribe or are **evicted** by other males who take over the tribe.

4. It was a **hostile** environment. Nobody was friendly or caring.

5. Simon's grandfather was diagnosed with **partial** hearing failure. That explains why his grandfather could not always hear everything they said.

6. Using a **solar** geyser can save a lot of money. Energy from the Sun should be used as it is a form of renewable energy.



Put your thinking cap on!

Practice 3: Making inferences

Making an inference is the same as making an educated guess (an assumption), based on evidence. In terms of understanding written texts, an educated guess can sometimes be made about the meaning of certain texts.

Read the following paragraph, then answer the questions which follow:

There is something about very cold weather that gives one an enormous appetite. Most of us find ourselves beginning to crave rich steaming stews and hot apple pies and all kinds of delicious warming dishes; and because we are all a great deal luckier than we realise, we usually get what we want — or near enough. But Charlie Bucket never got what he wanted because the family couldn't afford it, and as the cold weather went on and on, he became ravenously and desperately hungry. Both bars of chocolate, the birthday one and the one Grandpa Joe had bought, had long since been nibbled away, and all he had now were those thin, cabbagey meals three times a day.

Extract from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

1. What **conclusion** can you draw from the fact that Charlie is always hungry?

2. **In your opinion**, does Charlie like cabbage? Give a reason for your answer.

3. **Do you think** Charlie and his family can be considered lucky? Quote from the passage to prove your answer.

4. Which one of the following statements provides the **best explanation** for the following phrase: "...and because we are all a great deal luckier than we realise, we usually get what we want,..." (underline the correct answer).
 - a) If you have rich parents, you are very lucky.
 - b) You are lucky if you can eat stew every day.
 - c) If there is a choice of food in your house every day, you are very lucky.

MEMO:

Practice 1:

Main idea - (Own answer) For Example - Even though the name suggests that French Fries originated in France, it actually originated in Belgium.

Main idea - (Own answer) For Example - With the new images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, stars and galaxies previously unknown to humans, can now be seen.

Main idea - (Own answer) For Example – A blue occurs when there is more than one full moon in one month and in 2018 this will happen two times in one year, just two months apart.

Practice 2:

Try to find the meaning of the words in Italics by reading the words in context.

1. A **composite** of images has been taken over a period of nine years. This resulted in the most colourful image of the universe yet.

Composite means made up of several parts. In this context, it means one image made up of several images.

2. Many of the volcanoes on Venus are active, but most are **dormant**.

The meaning of dormant is temporarily not active.

3. Lionesses leave the tribe or are **evicted** by other males who take over the tribe.

Evicted means when someone or something is expelled or forced to go away.

4. It was a **hostile** environment. Nobody was friendly or caring.

Hostile means unfriendly and unsympathetic.

5. Simon's grandfather was diagnosed with **partial** hearing failure. That explains why his grandfather could not always hear everything they said.

Partial means not completely. It means his grandfather can still hear a little bit.

6. Using a **solar** geyser can save a lot of money. Energy from the Sun should be used as it is a form of renewable energy.

Solar means from the Sun.

Practice 3:

NOTE TO PARENTS: This practice will require help from parents.

1. What conclusion can you draw from the fact that Charlie is always hungry?

The fact that Charlie is always hungry is probably because his family is poor and cannot afford to buy proper food.

2. In your opinion, does Charlie like cabbage? Give a reason for your answer.

No, Charlie does not like cabbage. The passage refers to this meal as thin and cabbagy, as opposed to the two delicious chocolate bars he had before.

3. Do you think Charlie and his family can be considered to be lucky? Quote from the passage to proof your answer.

No, Charlie and his family cannot be considered to be lucky. "But Charlie Bucket never got what he wanted because the family couldn't afford it,..."

4. Which one of the following statements provides the best explanation for the following phrase: "...and because we are all a great deal luckier than we realize, we usually get what we want,..." (underline the correct answer). (Remember to read the phrase in context)

- d) If you have rich parents, you are very lucky.
- e) You are lucky if you can eat stew every day.
- f) If there is a choice of food in your house every day, you are very lucky.