

**MAKING INFERENCES IN LONGER PASSAGES**  
**BEGINNING LEVEL**

**Inferences in Longer Passages**

You may be asked to draw inferences about the correct words to fill blanks in a longer passage. Study this kind of test question in the following practice.

First, read the entire passage. Then you will have an idea of what it's all about. This passage tells a humorous story about Winston Churchill. Churchill playfully turns the tables on a young photographer. \*The young man says he hopes he'll photograph Churchill on Churchill's 100th birthday. Churchill jokes that he sees no reason why the young man shouldn't be around for that occasion.

Read the following passage. Then write the letter of the correct answer in each numbered blank.

Winston Churchill was the great British leader in the Second World War. After the war, he 1. \_\_\_\_\_ to a quiet life of reading and painting. But he was still 2. \_\_\_\_\_. On his 80th birthday, a young photographer came to take his picture. After the young man had finished, he made a 3. \_\_\_\_\_ remark. He said he hoped he would photograph Churchill on his 100th birthday.

Churchill replied, "I don't see why not, young man. You look reasonably fit to me."

- |    |              |              |             |
|----|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) ran      | (b) walked   | (c) retired |
|    | (d) fled     | (e) stumbled |             |
| 2. | (a) friendly | (b) calm     | (c) unknown |
|    | (d) likable  | (e) famous   |             |
| 3. | (a) grim     | (b) witty    | (c) loud    |
|    | (d) stupid   | (e) wicked   |             |

## Answers

When you have thought about the entire passage, you should be able to handle the parts.

1. (c)

The best choice is (c) *retired*. The words *ran*, *walked*, and *stumbled* suggest physical action. Such action is out of place here. Nor is *fled* correct. There is no suggestion that Churchill was running away.

2. (e)

Since Churchill was a famous wartime leader, you can infer that he was still *famous* at 80. There is no reason to make any choice except (e).

3. (b)

You can infer that the young man was being kind when he spoke. Therefore, (b) *polite* is the only possible answer. The other choices do not make good sense.

## EXERCISE I. Inferences in Longer Passages

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions at the end.

Once upon a time, you could buy an entire house through a mail-order catalog. It would cost you less than \$2,000. No, this isn't a fairy tale. In 1908, Sears, Roebuck & Co. began selling houses by mail. If you were interested in buying, you would glance through a special pamphlet featuring pictures of attractive houses. You would then send in an order and wait for the house.

The house arrived in sections, of course. Every board had been cut to size. All parts were numbered to fit. A 76-page instruction booklet gave you all the help you needed to complete the house yourself. Or you might hire a builder to put the numbered parts together.

These Sears houses have become precious museum pieces. Today's owners are proud of their treasures. One house that cost \$2,000 in 1913 is now worth \$148,000. There is a movement to keep these houses from being torn down.

Sears kept its Modern Homes Department until 1937. Then it stopped selling complete homes through the catalog. Sears could no longer make a profit from the sales.

1. Write the letter of the statement that best expresses the main idea. 1.\_\_\_\_
  - (a) Sears once sold attractive houses through the mail-order catalog.
  - (b) Some owners hired a builder to put the house together.
  - (c) Sears dropped mail-order house sales because of the loss of profit.
  - (d) House owners should always see a picture of the house they plan to build.
  
2. The \$148,000 house cost \$2,000 in 2.\_\_\_\_
  - (a) 1908.
  - (b) 1913.
  - (c) 1937.
  - (d) 1976.
  
3. The parts of the mail-order house can best be compared with 3.\_\_\_\_
  - (a) the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.
  - (b) a 76-page instruction booklet.
  - (c) a carpenter's toolbox.
  - (d) an illustrated mail-order catalog.
  
4. In the expression, "Today's owners are proud of their treasures," 4.\_\_\_\_  
the word *treasures* applies to
  - (a) jewelry.
  - (b) furniture.
  - (c) carpets.
  - (d) houses.
  
5. There is a movement to keep the Sears houses from being 5.\_\_\_\_  
torn down because the houses are
  - (a) more comfortable than modern homes.
  - (b) owned by people who bought them many years ago.
  - (c) museum pieces.
  - (d) as bright as the day they were built.

## ANSWERS

### EXERCISE I.

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | a |
| 2. | b |
| 3. | a |
| 4. | d |
| 5. | c |

