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Weekly Test Lesson 21

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Koko the Gorilla

Koko the gorilla was born in a zoo in 1972. She was a tiny, weak baby, and when she was a few months old, she got very sick. People wanted to save Koko. What should they do?

Fran Patterson is a scientist. She studies communication among animals. She is part of an ape language project that studies communication in apes, such as gorillas. Patterson asked the zoo if she could take care of Koko. At first, the zoo said no, but soon the zoo agreed that this would be good for Koko. Koko became part of the ape language study.

Patterson began to teach Koko sign language. American Sign Language is a language made up of many different hand and arm movements. Each movement means something. A movement may mean a letter, a word, a need, or a feeling. Patterson would teach Koko to communicate using these movements.

“At first, it was all about patience,” Patterson said. She had to take her time. She had to wait until Koko was ready to learn sign language. Patterson would show Koko different movements over and over again. The first signs Koko learned were the signs for *eat*, *drink*, and *up*. Patterson would make the sign for *eat*. Then

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she would put a bit of food in her mouth. Koko soon learned to use that sign. When she wanted to eat, she would make the *eat* sign. Patterson would then give Koko some food. Patterson used this method to teach Koko many signs. Patterson would ask Koko what she wanted. Then she would help Koko learn the sign for what she wanted.

In a couple of weeks, Koko understood signing. She understood the connection between certain movements and what they communicated. Today, Koko knows and uses about 900 different signs.

Koko is also able to combine signs. She can make complex sentences using signs. Koko can sign about her feelings, such as *I am sad* or *I want to play*. She even signs when she is alone, as if she is thinking in sign language. When holding a piece of cloth, Koko was seen signing *soft* to herself. When Koko is tired and wants to sleep, she signs *Please close the drapes*, asking to make the room dark.

Koko signs about her feelings and about ideas. She and Patterson have conversations. Koko understands time. She signs her feelings about growing old. She signs when she feels lonely or happy. She has even learned to lie. Once, Koko broke something in her room. “Who broke the kitchen sink?” a scientist asked. Koko signed that another scientist had broken it. Then Koko laughed.

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Reading

- 1 Read the dictionary entry.

save *verb* **1.** to keep free from harm; protect. *We need to work together to save the forests from wildfire.*

2. to stop from failing. *He had to save the company from going out of business.* **3.** to keep from being wasted. *This new way to drive to school will save time.*

4. to keep money instead of spending it. *I have to save for a new baseball glove.*

Now read the sentences from the passage.

Koko the gorilla was born in a zoo in 1972. She was a tiny, weak baby, and when she was a few months old, she got very sick. People wanted to save Koko.

Which meaning **best** fits the word save as it is used in the passage?

- Ⓐ meaning 1
- Ⓑ meaning 2
- Ⓒ meaning 3
- Ⓓ meaning 4

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Reading

- 2 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Why did Patterson teach Koko different hand and arm movements?

- Ⓐ She wanted to play with Koko.
- Ⓑ She wanted Koko to get healthy.
- Ⓒ She wanted Koko to learn to communicate.
- Ⓓ She wanted Koko to exercise to get stronger.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to part A?

- Ⓐ Koko wanted to eat.
 - Ⓑ Koko was a very sick baby.
 - Ⓒ Koko sometimes wants to play.
 - Ⓓ Koko learned American Sign Language.
- 3 Why did Koko begin signing to Patterson?
- Ⓐ Koko wanted food.
 - Ⓑ Koko wanted to sleep.
 - Ⓒ Koko needed Fran as a friend.
 - Ⓓ Koko felt sick and wanted to get well.

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- 4 Koko communicates with Patterson. What kinds of things does Koko communicate? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

- 5 Mark the boxes to match each cause with its effect.

	When Koko Combines Signs	When Koko Is Tired
She signs <i>close the drapes</i> .		
She makes complex sentences		

- 6 What is the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Koko is a gorilla that likes to eat.
- (B) Koko is a gorilla that was born in a zoo.
- (C) Koko is a gorilla that has feelings and ideas.
- (D) Koko is a gorilla that learned sign language.

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Writing

- 7 Read the sentences.

The lemonade was pink. It was very tasty.

What is the **best** way to combine these two sentences?

- Ⓐ The lemonade was pink, and it was very tasty.
- Ⓑ The lemonade was pink and very tasty.
- Ⓒ The lemonade was very pink.
- Ⓓ It was very pink and tasty.

- 8 Read the sentences.

Father and I went to check on the heard. We needed to make sure the animals had food, water, and a place to take cover.

What change is needed to correct the spelling error?

- Ⓐ Change Father to Fathur.
- Ⓑ Change heard to herd.
- Ⓒ Change water to watter.
- Ⓓ Change cover to covere.

- 9 Read the sentences. Underline the word that describes how something tastes.

Claire shared her salty, yellow popcorn with me.

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Writing

- 10 Rocky is writing a story. Read his draft and complete the task that follows.

Sara put on boots because it was a rainy day. She went outside and smelled the rain. It was a bad start to the day.

Rewrite Rocky's story to include more exact words.
