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Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 22

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

How Different Can Two Bears Be?

Some people might think that all bears are the same, but this is not true. People might think all bears are the same size. Maybe they think all bears live in similar places. Some people might think all bears eat the same kinds of food. Sometimes these things are true. Some types of bears are a lot alike. Other bears are very different from each other. Black bears and polar bears are both types of bears, but they are very different animals.

To begin with, the sizes of both bears are much different. Black bears are not small creatures. Adult male black bears can be up to six feet tall. They can weigh up to 600 pounds. Black bears are fairly big, but they seem tiny next to the huge polar bears. Adult male polar bears can grow to be eight feet tall. They can weigh up to 1,500 pounds. Both types of female bears are smaller than the males. Most female polar bears are only half the size of the males.

Part of the reason polar bears are so much larger than black bears is their diet. Black bears live in forest areas. There, they eat mainly berries, grasses, roots, and insects. They sometimes eat fish and mammals, but meat is not the main part of their diet. Polar bears are different. They live in icy areas. There are no plants or berries. They mostly eat seals. They will sometimes eat other animals. These animals include whales, walruses, and narwhals. Polar bears grow bigger because these animals have a lot of meat and fat.

Although both bears are very different, they do have some things in common. Both bears are pretty fast runners. They can reach speeds of 26 miles per hour. Both bears also have an excellent sense of smell. Black bears can often be seen on their hind legs, sniffing the area around them for food. Polar bears have such a good sense of smell that they can sniff prey from one mile away.

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Black bears and polar bears do not share the same pattern of sleeping through the winter. Both types of female bears stay in some sort of den for the winter to deliver their cubs. Female black bears usually sleep through having their cubs. Female polar bears are awake when they have their cubs. But both mother black bears and polar bears stay in the dens. They protect their cubs from the harsh winter temperatures. Adult bears are large, but their cubs start out very small. Both kinds of cubs weigh just half a pound to a pound at birth. The cubs spend several months drinking their mother's milk. Then the female bears leave the den to find food. The cubs usually stay with their mothers for about two years. This is when the mother bears protect the cubs and teach them how to find food.

It is clear that not all bears are the same when looking at the facts. Black bears and polar bears share some similar qualities. But they are also very different. Even though they are different, both types of bears are amazing animals that should be treated with care and respect.

1 Read the sentences from the passage.

Black bears are fairly big, but they seem tiny next to the huge polar bears.

Why do you think the author chooses to use the words tiny and huge? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

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- 2 How are black bears and polar bears different?
- (A) Black bears can run fast, but polar bears are slow.
 - (B) Black bears eat mostly plants, but polar bears eat mostly meat.
 - (C) Black bears have an excellent sense of smell, but polar bears do not.
 - (D) Black bears have their young out in the open, but polar bears have them in dens.

- 3 Read this sentence from the passage.

There, they eat mainly berries, grasses, roots, and insects.

Why does the author choose to use the word mainly?

- (A) to show that black bears almost always eat those items
 - (B) to show that black bears hardly ever eat those items
 - (C) to show that black bears love to eat those items
 - (D) to show that black bears never eat those items
- 4 Read the sentence from the passage.

Although both bears are very different, they do have some things in common.

What is the meaning of the word common?

- (A) very good
- (B) share together
- (C) unusual ability
- (D) belonging to only one person

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- 5 Mark the boxes to show whether the facts are true of polar bears, black bears, or both.

	Polar Bears	Black Bears	Both
The males are bigger than the females.			
They sniff for food while standing on their hind legs.			
They can weigh up to 1,500 pounds.			

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

Part A

Which statement is true?

- (A) Black bears and polar bears are not different at all.
- (B) Everything about black bears and polar bears is the same.
- (C) There is nothing the same about black bears and polar bears.
- (D) Black bears and polar bears have a few things that are the same even though they are different.

Part B

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

- (A) Black bears and polar bears are both fast runners.
- (B) It is easy for people to think all bears are the same.
- (C) Black bears sleep while having their cubs, and polar bears are awake.
- (D) The bears are very different, but they do have some things in common.

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Writing

- 7 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) John is shorter than Billy.
 - (B) Billy is stronger than John.
 - (C) Bob is strongest than Billy.
 - (D) John is the shortest in the class.
- 8 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) Ava is younger than Ian.
 - (B) Alyssa swims fastest than Josie.
 - (C) Ian is the tallest student in the class.
 - (D) Jorge laughed harder than Maria at the joke.
- 9 Read the paragraph. Underline the **two** words with spelling errors.

Jose's little sister has stuffed ponies, puppies, and bears. She likes to carry her toys. Sometimes she carrys too many toys. Then, everything she is holding falls on the floor. When this happens, she crys. Jose often helps her by carrying her toys for her.

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Writing

- 10 Read the paragraph. Then, complete the task that follows.

Cameron and Miguel were hiking through the woods. It was a nice day. They passed trees. They saw animals. Then, they saw some rocks. At the bottom of the rocks, there appeared to be an opening just big enough for a person to go inside.

Rewrite the paragraph to include strong descriptive words and a simile, a phrase that uses *like* or *as* to compare two things.
