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# Weekly Test Lesson 24

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## Fiesta

No matter what time of year, it is always a great time for a parade! One of the biggest parades occurs in April during Fiesta in San Antonio, Texas. Fiesta actually includes three parades—two are on land and one is on the water. Fiesta transforms San Antonio into a huge party every year.

Everything is bigger in Texas, and Fiesta is no exception. The 1980 Fiesta featured 130 events put on by 74 community groups. Most of the work was done for free by an army of more than 50,000 volunteers. It was estimated that this Fiesta brought more than \$21 million to San Antonio. Those figures prove that Fiesta is not just a big party; it is also a big business.

One of the most-attended Fiesta events is the Battle of Flowers Parade, which attracts over 350,000 people. The 400-member Battle of Flowers Association puts on the parade. The association readies 8,000 people, 40 floats, and more than 33 marching bands, as well as horses, antique cars, and more. The parade has grown over time. It all started back in 1891 when some people drove their carriages around Alamo Plaza and tossed flowers at each other. That sounds silly, but just look at the parade now!

Planning for the next year's parade begins as soon as the current parade is over. In May, the theme is chosen by the parade vice president. Committees meet and discuss the next parade, and then a budget is ready by August. Invitations are mailed out in September, and by November, the parade lineup is complete.

You can't have a parade without floats! Each float is elaborately decorated to express the theme of the parade. The first step is to build the float's frame on an automobile body. The float becomes a thing of beauty as thousands of flowers are stapled onto it. The flowers do not come from a store but are carefully hand made and are very detailed.

Preparing the parade route involves hundreds of details. Maps are made and given out. Drivers and walkers are found for the floats. Portable toilets and drinking water stations are put in place. Bleachers are set up and decorated. Ushers prepare to show people to their seats. The San Antonio police and sanitation departments have their jobs to do as well.

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## Reading

On San Jacinto Day, most downtown businesses close their offices at noon so everyone has time to enjoy the Battle of Flowers Parade. Close to a half-million people line the parade route. As they feast their eyes on the dazzling spectacle, few people will think about all the work behind it. That is just what the association hopes. They do it all for the love of the city and its people.

The Battle of Flowers is not the only event during Fiesta. Visitors are also treated to the Texas Cavaliers River Parade. This parade started in 1941 after people saw boats and barges decorated with flowers in Mexico City. The first Texas Cavaliers River Parade had boats representing schools, businesses, and other organizations. The Texas Cavaliers and others decorate every float with bright flowers in beautiful colors. Over 250,000 people watch the parade go by from the banks of the San Antonio River. The Order of the Alamo crowns a Fiesta queen. The crowning includes beautiful costumes and settings. The San Antonio Conservation Society lines up 16,000 volunteers to give a four-night dinner party for 100,000 people. The list of other events that happen during Fiesta goes on and on.

Fiesta is a gift from the people of San Antonio to themselves and to anyone else who wants to enjoy it.

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1 Read the sentence from the passage.

Most of the work was done for free by an army of more than 50,000 volunteers.

Why did the author choose the word army to describe the volunteers?

- Ⓐ to show there were not a lot of volunteers
- Ⓑ to show the volunteers planned to march in the parade
- Ⓒ to show the volunteers were a large group that worked together on a task
- Ⓓ to show the volunteers working on the parade were members of the U.S. Army

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## Reading

- 2 Read the sentence from the passage.

One of the most-attended Fiesta events is the Battle of Flowers Parade, which attracts over 350,000 people.

Which **best** describes what type of sentence this is and why?

- Ⓐ This sentence is a fact because the author says it is.
  - Ⓑ This sentence is an opinion because the author believes it is true.
  - Ⓒ This sentence is a fact because it is supported by true statements that can be proved.
  - Ⓓ This sentence is an opinion because the author has done research about the parade.
- 3 Read the sentences from the text. Underline the sentence that states the author's opinion.

The 400-member Battle of Flowers Association puts on the parade. The Association readies 8,000 people, 40 floats, and more than 33 marching bands, as well as horses, antique cars, and more. The parade has grown over time. It all started back in 1891 when some people drove their carriages around Alamo Plaza and tossed flowers at each other. That sounds silly, but just look at the parade now!

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## Reading

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

**Part A**

How is the Battle of Flowers Parade of today different from the first parade in 1891?

- Ⓐ Today's parade is much bigger.
- Ⓑ Today's parade is less complicated.
- Ⓒ The 1891 parade had more meaning.
- Ⓓ The 1891 parade had more volunteers.

**Part B**

Which sentence **best** supports the answer to part A?

- Ⓐ The parade has grown over time.
  - Ⓑ It all started back in 1891 when some people drove their carriages around Alamo Plaza and tossed flowers at each other.
  - Ⓒ Invitations are mailed out in September, and by November, the parade lineup is complete.
  - Ⓓ Close to a half-million people line the parade route.
- 5 Read the sentence from the passage.

The flowers do not come from a store but are carefully hand made and are very detailed.

What does the word detailed mean as it is used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ done in a plain way
- Ⓑ done by a lot of people
- Ⓒ done in a quick manner
- Ⓓ done with close attention

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- 6 How is the Texas Cavaliers River Parade similar to and different from the Battle of Flowers Parade? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

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## Writing

- 7 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) Mary, said “My father can drive all of us to the concert.”
  - (B) Mary said, “My father can drive all of us to the concert.”
  - (C) Mary said “,My father can drive all of us to the concert.”
  - (D) Mary said “My father, can drive all of us to the concert.”
- 8 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) The girls wanted to try out for the basketball team, but they missed the tryouts.
  - (B) The girls, wanted to try out for the basketball team but they missed the tryouts.
  - (C) The girls wanted to try out, for the basketball team but they missed the tryouts.
  - (D) The girls wanted to try out for the basketball team but they missed, the tryouts.
- 9 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) My sister’s birthday is May 31, 2014.
  - (B) My sister’s birthday is May, 31 2014.
  - (C) My sister’s birthday is, May 31 2014.
  - (D) My sister’s birthday is May, 31, 2014.
- 10 Amir is writing a story. Read the paragraph from his story. Underline the **two** words that are spelled incorrectly.
- Mario was very angry about the mistake in the order he received from the store. He looked up the adress and marched down to the store to complain. Mario was in for a big suprise. Although he expected to have a problem, the employee was his neighbor! She was very helpful. She corrected Mario’s order and promised the store would improve its service in the future.