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Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 26

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Timber!

Business of Logging

Wood is needed to make many things, including houses, furniture, and even paper. Every part of the tree is used to produce some kind of product. The lumber industry provides the wood for these products by cutting down trees, sawing them into logs, and transporting them to the sawmill. There, they are cut into timbers, boards, or other lumber.

Avoiding Danger

Cutting, or felling, a tree is not as easy as it might sound. First, an experienced logger, called a faller, decides which direction the tree should fall. The faller chooses the best direction in order to ensure that the falling tree won't get caught on other trees. Nearby trees also need to be kept from being damaged. When the ideal direction has been determined, a large notch is cut on that side of the tree. This is called the undercut, and it will encourage the tree to fall toward that side. By changing the position and depth of the undercut, the logger can fell the tree right where it belongs.

The main cut is then made on the opposite side of the undercut. It is also slightly higher than the undercut. This placement creates a sort of hinge. This "hinge" cut must be exactly the right thickness. If the hinge is too thick, the tree will fall slowly, which could mean it gets hung up on the branches of other trees. If the hinge is too thin, or if the logger accidentally cuts the hinge all the way through to the notch, it's dangerous. The tree might fall in any direction, and the bottom of the tree might pull out of the ground. This could result in serious injury to the logger.

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Notice the line across the trunk of this felled tree.

The logger uses other special techniques to control the fall of the tree. If the tree is naturally leaning in the wrong direction, the logger leaves more wood on one side of the hinge. That way, the uneven hinge pulls the tree in the correct direction. A logger may also put a wedge in the cut, to help drive the tree in the intended direction. In the past, loggers used wooden wedges, but today they generally use plastic wedges. Metal wedges won't work because they can damage or dull the saw blade if hit by accident.

It takes time to properly take down a large tree. The logger makes small cuts and adjusts the wedge as needed. He or she must take into account the direction of the wind, which could push the tree one way or another depending on how breezy the day is. In winter, frozen trees can become so brittle they snap before the logger is ready. Taking proper precautions keeps the logger and anyone else in the area safe.

Before the tree crashes to the ground, loggers yell "Timber!" to warn others to stay out of the area. The work doesn't stop once the tree is down. It must be cut into pieces and taken to the sawmill. There, large machines will typically turn a log into different shapes. However, sometimes individuals still cut wood by hand. They may use a chainsaw, a simple handsaw, or a crosscut saw. A crosscut saw requires two people, each holding on to a handle at opposite ends of the blade.

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**Logging Long Ago**

A century ago, loggers led very rugged lives. Many logging jobs lasted only a few weeks, so loggers had to move around frequently, wandering from one job to the next. They worked eleven hours a day, taking only Sundays off. Loggers worked in all kinds of weather; they would work even if it was snowing or raining.

While loggers were at a job, they lived in logging camps. These camps were often far away from the nearest city. They slept in a bunkhouse, a building that contained many wood bunks nailed to the walls. It was so crowded that the loggers had only enough room to roll over in their bunks. If they were lucky, they were provided blankets and straw mattresses.

Logging Now

Today, logging is as important as ever because wood products are still in demand. Today's loggers use engine-powered tools, such as chainsaws. In addition, professional logging companies have heavy equipment specially designed to cut and move logs. Logging is still hard work, despite this use of engine-powered machinery. Most loggers no longer work such long hours or live in remote logging camps. Yet they still must be skilled and understand how trees behave when they fall.



The logging industry has changed a lot in the last 100 years.

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

Part A

How does the caption with the first photo relate to the text?

- (A) The photo shows how the tree is cut into logs.
- (B) The photo shows how dangerous logging can be.
- (C) The photo shows the special techniques loggers use.
- (D) The photo shows how the undercut and the main cut work together.

Part B

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

- (A) The main cut and the undercut form a hinge.
- (B) The hinge must be the right amount of thickness.
- (C) The hinge could cause serious injury to the logger.
- (D) The hinge could cause the tree to fall in any direction.

- 2 Read the sentence from the text.

He or she must take into account the direction of the wind, which could push the tree one way or another depending on how breezy the day is.

What is the **best** definition for the word wind as it is used in the text?

- (A) the movement of air
- (B) air from the lungs
- (C) to encircle
- (D) to tighten

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- 3 How does the third photo contribute to the reader’s understanding of the “Logging Now” section? Use evidence from the text and the last photo to support your answer.

- 4 Under which heading would readers find information about how loggers used to live?
- (A) Business of Logging
 - (B) Avoiding Danger
 - (C) Logging Long Ago
 - (D) Logging Now

- 5 Mark the boxes to match each detail with the heading where it is located.

	Business of Logging	Avoiding Danger	Logging Now
The lumber industry provides the wood for these products by cutting down trees, sawing them into logs, and transporting them to the sawmill.			
Today’s loggers use engine-powered tools, such as chainsaws.			
The logger uses other special techniques to control the fall of the tree.			

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- 6 Which feature helps the reader better understand how loggers use tools and machines?
- Ⓐ the title
 - Ⓑ the photos
 - Ⓒ the headers
 - Ⓓ the captions

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Writing

- 7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) They produce hand-carved furniture for their store.
 - (B) Lenny wants to earn a promotion at his new job.
 - (C) I try not to prejudge a play before I see it.
 - (D) The movie is not as good as the preeview.

- 8 Choose the sentence that contains a punctuation error.
- (A) The ants' hill contains many passageways.
 - (B) The baby wolf's mother stands nearby.
 - (C) The childrens coats are wet and dirty.
 - (D) The racer's shoes are specially made.

- 9 Mirka wrote a story about a girl with a horse. Read the paragraph from her story. Underline the sentence that has a punctuation error.

Krysta's horse, Wind Runner, was the most beautiful one in the stable. Krysta put Wind Runners saddle on the horse. They were ready for the horse race. Krysta knew her rivals' horses were ready, too. Other horses were fast, but Wind Runner's feet moved in a blur. Krysta's horse won the race!

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Writing

10 Shannon found the following information about rubber. Read her notes.

- Rubber trees contain white sap that gets brittle when dried.
- Mayans mixed sap with vine juice from a vine that grows up rubber trees. The mix forms a substance that can be shaped.
- Mayans used the mix for balls, sandals, glue, pain, lip balm.
- Today rubber is used for the same things as Mayans used it for, plus tires, hoses, boots, etc.

Shannon used her notes to write a paragraph. Read the paragraph.

Rubber comes from a white sap produced by rubber trees and the juice from a vine that grows up the rubber trees. The Mayans used the rubber substance to make balls and sandals. Rubber is still used today.

Revise Shannon’s definition paragraph. Include an introduction, more precise language and details, and a conclusion.
