Year 2 reading comprehension: passage pack

English · Reading comprehension · Level: Easy, medium and hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read each text first. There are 46 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–4.



A Plant's Parts

A plant has three main parts: roots, a stem and leaves. The roots hold the plant in the soil and soak up water. The stem is like a straw, because it carries water up to the leaves. Leaves are flat and green, and they catch the sunlight. The plant uses the sunlight to make its own food.

1. What does ‘soak up’ mean in this text?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Take in ○ **B** Let out

○ **C** Wipe up a spill with a cloth

2. Which sentence names all three parts of the plant?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The first sentence ○ **B** The last sentence

○ **C** The second sentence

3. Why is there a colon (:) after ‘three main parts’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** It shows someone is speaking

○ **B** It shows the sentence has ended and a new one starts

○ **C** It shows that a list of the parts comes next

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4. The text says the stem is ‘like a straw’. What does this tell you about the stem?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Water can travel up inside it

○ **B** It is made of plastic

○ **C** It stops water moving up

Read this, then answer questions 5–8.



Jess and the Cake

Jess wanted to bake a cake for Dad's birthday. She rushed and forgot the sugar. The cake tasted plain. The next day, the second cake was sweet, because Jess had read the recipe slowly. Everyone cheered. Jess learnt that it pays to take your time.

5. Which happened first?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Everyone cheered.

○ **B** Jess read the recipe slowly.

○ **C** Jess forgot the sugar.

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6. What happened last in the story?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Jess forgot the sugar.

○ **B** Everyone cheered.

○ **C** The first cake tasted plain.

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7. Why did the writer write this story?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** to entertain readers and share a lesson

○ **B** to ask readers to buy sugar

○ **C** to show how to bake a cake

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8. Which title suits the whole story?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Jess Takes Her Time ○ **B** Dad's Birthday

○ **C** The Plain Cake

Read this, then answer questions 9–12.





The boastful brolga (a fable)

Brolga boasted about her dancing every day. “No one dances as well as I do,” she said. Frog croaked, “I can dance too.” “You?” laughed Brolga. “You are far too small!” When the rain came, Brolga was busy admiring herself. Frog danced instead, and everyone clapped. Brolga hung her head.

9. What is Brolga like?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Friendly, because she talks to Frog

○ **B** The worst bird in the world

○ **C** Boastful and unkind

10. How does Brolga feel about herself at the start?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Not sure of herself ○ **B** Scared of the rain

○ **C** Very proud

11. Which statement is most likely to be true about the animals who clapped?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** They never want to see Brolga dance again

○ **B** They enjoyed Frog's dancing

○ **C** Frogs are better dancers than birds

12. What is the moral of this fable?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Do not boast or laugh at others

○ **B** Never dance in the rain

○ **C** Small animals dance best

Read this, then answer questions 13–16.





Two letters

Dear Mr Lee,

I am sorry that my ball broke your flower pot.

I will buy a new one with my pocket money.

From Sam

Dear Sam,

Thank you for telling me, but please keep your money.

Could you help me plant some flowers on Saturday?

From Mr Lee

13. Why did Sam write to Mr Lee?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** To say sorry about the pot

○ **B** To ask for his ball back

○ **C** To ask for help planting flowers

14. How does Sam feel about the broken pot?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** He does not care about the pot

○ **B** He feels bad about it

○ **C** He feels proud of what happened

15. How does Mr Lee feel about the broken pot?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** He is upset and sad

○ **B** He is very angry

○ **C** He is not cross

16. What did Sam's ball break?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** a window

○ **B** a flower pot

○ **C** a bike

Read this, then answer questions 17–21.



Students Plant Trees by the Creek

By Hannah Cole, Wattle Valley News

On Friday, Year 2 students from Wattle Valley Public School planted 120 seedlings beside Mill Creek.

Seedlings are baby trees that have just started to grow.

Ranger Tom Davies showed the children how to dig each hole.

The seedlings are gum trees and wattles, which will give shade and homes for birds.

Their roots will hold the creek bank together, so the soil does not wash away in floods.

In three months, the class will return to water the trees and pull out weeds.

17. Who taught the children how to dig the holes?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** the Year 2 teacher ○ **B** Ranger Tom Davies

○ **C** Hannah Cole

18. Which trees did the children plant?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** gum trees and wattles

○ **B** gum trees

○ **C** wattles and ferns beside the creek

19. Which newspaper printed this article?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Hannah Cole ○ **B** Wattle Valley News

○ **C** Wattle Valley Public School

20. Why are the roots useful beside the creek?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** so the soil does not wash away in floods

○ **B** so the creek is always full of clean water

○ **C** so birds have shade and homes

21. What are seedlings?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** weeds that grow by the creek
- ○ **B** seeds in a packet
- ○ **C** baby trees that have just started to grow

Read this, then answer questions 22–26.



Should We Have a Class Garden?

Ava: I think we should dig a vegie garden behind our classroom. Liam: Great idea! I would grow pumpkins, and we could all eat them. Zara: But who would water it in the holidays? The plants might die. Ava: We could make a roster, and families could take turns. Liam: I like that. Then we could share the tomatoes, too. Zara: Hmm. A pot plant inside would be much easier. Ken did not say a word and kept drawing in his book.

22. How are Zara's and Ava's ideas different?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Ava wants a garden, but Zara would rather have a pot plant.
- ○ **B** Zara wants to grow pumpkins in the garden, but Ava does not.
- ○ **C** Ava wants a pot plant inside, but Zara wants to dig a garden.

23. Which two children both want a garden?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Ava and Zara together
- ○ **B** Liam and Ken together
- ○ **C** Ava and Liam

24. Zara says, "Hmm." What does this suggest?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** She has nothing to say and is falling asleep.
- ○ **B** She is happily humming a tune to herself.
- ○ **C** She is thinking and is not sure yet.

25. Why does Ava suggest a roster?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** to answer Zara's worry about watering
- ○ **B** She wants to boss the other children.
- ○ **C** She wants Zara to do all the watering.

26. Who is not sure about the garden?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Zara ○ **B** Liam ○ **C** Ava

Read this, then answer questions 27–30.



Come to the Rock Pools

Every family should spend a morning at the rock pools near Shelly Bay. When the tide goes out, water stays behind in little pools where small sea animals live. If you look carefully, you can spot crabs, sea stars and snails. It is a wonderful place to explore, and it costs nothing. Wear shoes that grip, because wet rocks are slippery. Please put each animal back where you found it. Trust me, you will want to go back again.

27. Which sentence could the writer add to the reasons for going?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Water stays behind in little pools.
- ○ **B** You might see a crab walking sideways.
- ○ **C** Wear shoes that grip, because wet rocks are slippery.

28. A picture shows a crab, a sea star and a snail. What does it match in the text?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** every animal that lives in the pools
- ○ **B** the tide going out
- ○ **C** animals you can spot in the pools

29. Which new title suits the whole text best?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Slippery Rocks
- ○ **B** Crabs, Sea Stars and Snails
- ○ **C** Come and Explore the Rock Pools

30. Why does the writer say ‘Trust me’?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** because the writer wants to sell tickets
- ○ **B** because the writer is afraid of the sea
- ○ **C** to make readers believe the pools are worth visiting

Read this, then answer questions 31–34.



Puddle Day

Splash, splash, the puddles shine,
The rain on the roof goes tap, tap, tap.
Oh! The gutter is a river now,
and my boots are two little boats.
Mum calls, 'Come in, you silly duck!'
But I am a fish, and I will NEVER dry.
Splash, splash, the puddles shine,
The rain on the roof goes tap, tap, tap.

31. Why does the poem end with the same two lines that it began with?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** It shows the splashing starts again and keeps going.
- ○ **B** It shows the rain has stopped and all the puddles have dried up.
- ○ **C** It shows the poet has run out of ideas.

32. What does ‘Oh!’ show in the third line?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker is bored of the rain.
- ○ **B** The speaker is surprised and delighted.
- ○ **C** The speaker has hurt a foot in a puddle.

33. Why is the word NEVER written in capital letters?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** To stress it and show how strongly the speaker means it.
- ○ **B** Because it is the name of a place near the child's house.
- ○ **C** Because it is a hard word to read.

34. What does Mum mean by ‘you silly duck’?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Mum thinks the child is a real duck.
- ○ **B** Mum is being unkind to the child.
- ○ **C** Mum is teasing the child in a kind way.

Read this, then answer questions 35–37.

The Heron and the Last Pool

Long ago, in a dry summer, only one pool still held water. Heron stood in the middle of it, and she would not move. When the frogs and ducks came to drink, she flapped her wings and snapped, "This pool is mine!" She ate every small fish, and then she ate more. Heron grew so fat that she could hardly lift her feet. At last a storm broke over the hills. Water poured down the creek and raced into the pool. The others ran for high ground, but Heron was too heavy to fly. She flapped and flapped, and the water rose to her neck. The frogs and ducks pulled her out onto a log. Heron sat there, shaking, and for the first time she said thank you.

35. What is Heron like at the start?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** cruel to every animal in the whole world
- ○ **B** greedy and selfish
- ○ **C** brave, because she stood in the middle of the pool

36. How does Heron feel at the end?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** proud and pleased with herself
- ○ **B** hungry
- ○ **C** thankful and shaken

37. What does this story teach?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Storms always come after a dry summer.

○ **B** Herons should stay away from pools.

○ **C** It is better to share than to keep everything.

Read this, then answer questions 38–40.





Picking strawberries

Last Thursday, my class went on an excursion to Dunmore Strawberry Farm. We travelled for forty minutes on a bus, and Ms Rao counted us twice before we got off. A farmer called Mr Lowe showed us how to pick a strawberry without squashing it. He said to hold the stem, not the fruit, and twist it gently. Each child was given a small tray, and we were allowed to fill it to the top. I picked eleven strawberries, but I ate three before they were weighed. My friend Priya found a strawberry that was as big as an egg. On the way home, Jai fell asleep before the bus even left the farm.

38. How did Mr Lowe say to pick a strawberry?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** hold the stem, not the fruit, and twist it gently

○ **B** hold the fruit tightly, not the stem, and pull it hard

○ **C** hold the stem

○ **D** twist it gently

39. How many strawberries did the writer eat?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** eleven ○ **B** three ○ **C** two ○ **D** eight

40. Who showed the class how to pick a strawberry?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Priya ○ **B** Ms Rao ○ **C** Mr Lowe ○ **D** Jai

Read this, then answer questions 41–43.



A Garden Email

From: Mia Tran

To: Mr Dwyer

Subject: The garden culprit

Dear Mr Dwyer,

Guess what! We found out who has been nibbling the lettuces in our school garden.

At dusk, it was Jayden's and my turn on garden duty, so we hid behind the shed.

We waited for ages, and then a brushtail possum crept out from under the shed.

It was the culprit, and it ate three lettuce leaves while we watched.

I wanted proof, so I took a photo with the class tablet.

May we put a wire fence around the lettuce bed?

Yours sincerely,

Mia Tran

41. What does Mia mean by ‘We waited for ages’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** for many years ○ **B** a very short time ○ **C** a long time

42. Who is ‘we’ in ‘We found out who has been nibbling’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Mia and Mr Dwyer ○ **B** the possum and Jayden

○ **C** Mia and Jayden ○ **D** the whole school

43. What does ‘duty’ mean in ‘garden duty’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** a rest from work ○ **B** a job you take your turn to do

○ **C** a kind of lettuce ○ **D** a special garden tool

Read this, then answer questions 44–46.

Library Closing on Mondays

Wattle Bay Library will close on Mondays from the start of next term, the council has announced.

A spokesperson said fewer people visit on Mondays than on any other day.

The money saved will pay for new books.

Dear Editor,

Every Monday my brother and I walk to the library after school and wait for Mum to finish work at six.

The librarian lets us read at the big table, and she knows my favourite books.

If the library is shut, we will have to sit outside the chemist.

I think the council counted the visits but not the children who need the library.

Yours sincerely, Lily Tran

44. Why did Lily write the letter?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** She wants a free book from the council.
- ○ **B** She wants the librarian to lose her job.
- ○ **C** She wants to tell everyone about the new books.
- ○ **D** She hopes the council will change its mind.

45. How does Lily feel about the library closing?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** worried
- ○ **B** calm about the closing
- ○ **C** pleased about the new books
- ○ **D** bored of waiting for Mum

46. What does Lily mean by ‘counted the visits but not the children who need the library’?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The numbers do not show how much some children rely on it.
- ○ **B** The council cannot count.
- ○ **C** The council counted the children by mistake.
- ○ **D** The text does not say.

Answer key

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1. A — Take in

The text says: “The roots hold the plant in the soil and soak up water.” Roots are under the ground, where the water is. So: Roots take in water from the soil.

2. A — The first sentence

The text says: “A plant has three main parts: roots, a stem and leaves.” A text often names its main ideas in the first sentence. So: The first sentence names all three parts.

3. C — It shows that a list of the parts comes next

The text says: “A plant has three main parts: roots, a stem and leaves.” A colon can introduce a list. So: The colon tells you a list of the parts comes next.

4. A — Water can travel up inside it

The text says: “The stem is like a straw, because it carries water up to the leaves.” A drink travels up inside a straw, and the stem carries water the same way. So: Water travels up inside the stem.

5. C — Jess forgot the sugar.

The text says: “She rushed and forgot the sugar.”

6. B — Everyone cheered.

The text says: “Everyone cheered.”

7. A — to entertain readers and share a lesson

The text says: “Jess learnt that it pays to take your time.”

8. A — Jess Takes Her Time

The text says: “Jess learnt that it pays to take your time.”

9. C — Boastful and unkind

The text says: ““No one dances as well as I do,” she said. “You?” laughed Brolga. “You are far too small!”” Someone who brags and laughs at others is boastful and unkind. So: Brolga is boastful and unkind.

10. C — Very proud

The text says: “Brolga boasted about her dancing every day. “No one dances as well as I do,” she said.” Someone who boasts every day is proud. So: Brolga is very proud of herself.

11. B — They enjoyed Frog's dancing

The text says: “Frog danced instead, and everyone clapped.” People clap when they enjoy something. So: The animals enjoyed Frog's dancing.

12. A — Do not boast or laugh at others

The text says: ““You?” laughed Brolga. “You are far too small!” Frog danced instead, and everyone clapped. Brolga hung her head.” Brolga boasted and laughed, and in the end she felt ashamed. So: Do not boast or laugh at others.

13. A — To say sorry about the pot

The text says: “I am sorry that my ball broke your flower pot.” People write ‘I am sorry’ when they have done something wrong. So: Sam wrote to say sorry about the pot.

14. B — He feels bad about it

The text says: “I am sorry that my ball broke your flower pot.” People who say sorry and offer to fix things feel bad. So: Sam feels bad about it.

15. C — He is not cross

The text says: “Thank you for telling me, but please keep your money.” Someone who says thank you and kind things is not angry. So: Mr Lee is not cross.

16. B — a flower pot

The text says: “I am sorry that my ball broke your flower pot.” So: Sam's ball broke a flower pot.

17. B — Ranger Tom Davies

The text says: “Ranger Tom Davies showed the children how to dig each hole.” The text says ‘showed’; the question says ‘taught’.

18. A — gum trees and wattles

The text says: “The seedlings are gum trees and wattles, which will give shade and homes for birds.” There are two kinds of tree. The answer must name both.

19. B — Wattle Valley News

The text says: “By Hannah Cole, Wattle Valley News” The line under the headline names the writer and the newspaper.

20. A — so the soil does not wash away in floods

The text says: “Their roots will hold the creek bank together, so the soil does not wash away in floods.” ‘So’ points to the reason.

21. C — baby trees that have just started to grow

The text says: “Seedlings are baby trees that have just started to grow.”

22. A — Ava wants a garden, but Zara would rather have a pot plant.

Clues: ‘we should dig a vegie garden’, ‘A pot plant inside would be much easier’. Different ideas make people disagree. Ava wants a garden, but Zara would rather have a pot plant.

23. C — Ava and Liam

Clues: ‘we should dig a vegie garden’, ‘Great idea’. Two people who like an idea agree. Ava and Liam both want a garden.

24. C — She is thinking and is not sure yet.

Clues: ‘Hmm’, ‘would be much easier’. People say "hmm" while they think. Zara is thinking and is not sure yet.

25. A — to answer Zara's worry about watering

Clues: ‘who would water it in the holidays’, ‘a roster’. A roster shares jobs between people. Ava wants to answer Zara's worry about watering.

26. A — Zara

Clues: ‘But who would water it in the holidays’, ‘A pot plant inside would be much easier’. People who give worries are not sure. Zara is not sure about the garden.

27. B — You might see a crab walking sideways.

The text says: “If you look carefully, you can spot crabs, sea stars and snails.” A reason to go is something good about the place.

28. C — animals you can spot in the pools

The text says: “If you look carefully, you can spot crabs, sea stars and snails.” The picture shows only some animals. It does not show the tide.

29. C — Come and Explore the Rock Pools

The text says: “Every family should spend a morning at the rock pools near Shelly Bay.” A good title covers the whole text, not one part.

30. C — to make readers believe the pools are worth visiting
The text says: “Trust me, you will want to go back again.” The writer wants you to believe the pools are great.

31. A — It shows the splashing starts again and keeps going.
The text says: “Splash, splash, the puddles shine,” Repeating the first two lines at the end brings the poem back to where it began, like the fun going round again.

32. B — The speaker is surprised and delighted.
The text says: “Oh! The gutter is a river now,” ‘Oh!’ is a small word that shows a big feeling, here delight.

33. A — To stress it and show how strongly the speaker means it.
The text says: “But I am a fish, and I will NEVER dry.” Capital letters (or italics) make a word stand out so a reader says it with force.

34. C — Mum is teasing the child in a kind way.
The text says: “Mum calls, 'Come in, you silly duck!'” Mum is calling the child a funny name because the child is splashing, but she says it kindly.

35. B — greedy and selfish
The text says: “When the frogs and ducks came to drink, she flapped her wings and snapped, "This pool is mine!" She ate every small fish, and then she ate more.” She drives everyone away and eats more than she needs. Heron is greedy and selfish.

36. C — thankful and shaken
The text says: “Heron sat there, shaking, and for the first time she said thank you.” She says thank you for the first time. Heron feels thankful and shaken.

37. C — It is better to share than to keep everything.
The text says: “When the frogs and ducks came to drink, she flapped her wings and snapped, "This pool is mine!" The frogs and ducks pulled her out onto a log. Heron sat there, shaking, and for the first time she said thank you.” The selfish one needed help from those she had pushed away. The story teaches that sharing is better than keeping everything.

38. A — hold the stem, not the fruit, and twist it gently
The text says: “He said to hold the stem, not the fruit, and twist it gently.” The answer gives the whole fact, not just part of it.

39. B — three
The text says: “I picked eleven strawberries, but I ate three before they were weighed.”

40. C — Mr Lowe
The text says: “A farmer called Mr Lowe showed us how to pick a strawberry without squashing it.”

41. C — a long time
The text says: “We waited for ages, and then a brushtail possum crept out from under the shed.”

42. C — Mia and Jayden
The text says: “Guess what! We found out who has been nibbling the lettuces in our school garden. At dusk, it was Jayden's and my turn on garden duty, so we hid behind the shed.”

43. B — a job you take your turn to do
The text says: “At dusk, it was Jayden's and my turn on garden duty, so we hid behind the shed.”

44. D — She hopes the council will change its mind.

The text says: “If the library is shut, we will have to sit outside the chemist. I think the council counted the visits but not the children who need the library.” People write to a paper to ask for a decision to change. Lily hopes the council will change its mind.

45. A — worried

The text says: “If the library is shut, we will have to sit outside the chemist. I think the council counted the visits but not the children who need the library.” A child who writes to complain is upset about a change. Lily feels worried.

46. A — The numbers do not show how much some children rely on it.

The text says: “I think the council counted the visits but not the children who need the library.” A total can hide the people who need something most. The numbers do not show how much some children rely on the library.