

• Reading Comprehension 6 Level 10

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

When it comes to work boots, durability is **paramount**. The hard workers at *Rival* know that; we pride ourselves on creating boots that last a lifetime. That's why we're making the following offer to all new customers: buy any new pair of *Rival* boots and get yourself a second pair at half price. Because that's the *Rival* way.

Questions

- 1) As used in the passage, which is the best antonym for **paramount**?
 - A. inferior
 - B. boring
 - C. pathetic
 - D. simple
 - E. trivial

- 2) What logical weakness is present in the offer as stated in the passage?
 - A. It is irresponsible to make an offer that logically cannot be upheld.
 - B. It is contradictory to maintain that *Rival* boots last a lifetime while simultaneously offering a second pair.
 - C. It is financially unsound to offer a product at half price simply as an incentive to buy another pair.
 - D. It is wrong to assume that a construction worker would only be able to afford a single pair of boots in his or her entire life.
 - E. It is uninspiring to make an offer that has been made for other products so many times in the past.

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

paramount (*adjective*): of utmost importance.

The passage begins, "When it comes to work boots, durability is paramount. The hard workers at *Rival* know that; we pride ourselves on creating boots that last a lifetime." Since the workers create boots that are so durable they last a lifetime, durability must be very important. From this information, we can infer that *paramount* means the most important thing. *Trivial* means unimportant. Since unimportant is the opposite of important, trivial is a good antonym for paramount. This makes **(E)** the correct answer. *Inferior* means poor in quality. Poor in quality is not the opposite of being more important than anything else, so inferior is not an antonym for paramount. This rules out **(A)**. *Boring* means uninteresting. Since being uninteresting is not the opposite of being the most important thing, boring is not an antonym for paramount. This means **(B)** is not a good choice. Something that is *pathetic* is so inadequate it causes pity. This is different than something more important than anything else, not opposite. Although it would be strange or uncommon, it would not be illogical for something to be both pathetic and paramount at the same time. Therefore, pathetic is not an antonym for paramount. This means **(C)** is incorrect. *Simple* means uncomplicated. Since being uncomplicated is not the opposite of being the most important thing, simple is not an antonym for paramount. This means **(D)** is not a good choice.

2) **B**

The passage states that *Rival* boots will last a lifetime. Then, the company offers people who buy a new pair of *Rival* boots a second pair of boots at half price. If the boots really last a lifetime, no one would need more than one pair. Offering a second pair contradicts the statement that the boots last a lifetime. Since it is contradictory to claim that *Rival* boots last a lifetime while offering a discount on a second pair, **(B)** is correct. Although the passage states that *Rival* boots last a lifetime, the actual offer made in the passage is that *Rival* will sell you a second pair of boots at half price if you buy a pair of new boots. The passage offers no reason that *Rival* cannot uphold this offer, so **(A)** is incorrect. There is no reason to think that offering a second pair of boots at half price is financially unsound. *Rival* may make even more money selling boots this way. This rules out **(C)**. While the passage claims that *Rival* boots last a lifetime, it does not suggest that construction workers could only afford one pair of boots for his or her life. This makes **(D)** incorrect. Offers to sell items at a discount are made to sell more items. The offer doesn't need to be inspiring; it simply needs to help sell more items. Moreover, the passage makes no mention of "other products" or how often the offer has been made in the past. Therefore, **(E)** is not the best choice.