

## • Reading Comprehension 7 Level 5

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

I am the mother of three children. My youngest daughter is sick. She has an illness that will never go away, but it can be managed. She needs medicine to **manage** her illness. This medicine used to cost ten dollars a month. Now it costs thirty dollars a month. Without this medicine, my daughter has trouble breathing. Sometimes her lungs do not work well. She cannot get enough air into her lungs. Then she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again. We have to buy the medicine. **We do not have a choice.** But it will be hard to find an extra thirty dollars a month. Our family will have to spend less money on other things.

### Questions

- 1) The mother feels
  - A. angry
  - B. scared
  - C. worried
  - D. sad
  
- 2) Based on its use in the passage, it can be understood that **manage** belongs to which word group?
  - A. control, direct, treat
  - B. cure, fix, heal
  - C. be, live, survive
  - D. reach, succeed, win
  
- 3) The daughter needs the medicine to
  - A. give her more air
  - B. help her lungs work again
  - C. breathe for her when she cannot
  - D. make her illness go away
  
- 4) The mother says "We do not have a choice" to explain that
  - A. she will definitely buy the medicine
  - B. someone else is making her buy the medicine
  - C. her daughter will die without the medicine
  - D. she does not want to buy the medicine

- 5) Which word best describes the medicine?
- A. important
  - B. helpful
  - C. needed
  - D. useful
- 6) What is the main reason the family will have to spend less money on other things?
- A. The daughter has an illness that will never go away.
  - B. The price of the medicine went up.
  - C. The daughter needs the medicine to help her breathe.
  - D. Twenty dollars every month is a lot of money.
- 7) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that in the future the family will most likely
- A. need help paying for the medicine
  - B. find extra money hidden somewhere
  - C. only buy things on sale
  - D. have to save money on something else

## Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The mother in the passage discusses a problem. She says that the medicine her daughter needs “used to cost ten dollars a month,” but “now it costs thirty dollars a month.” The mother also tells us that her family will “have to buy the medicine” even though it is more expensive now. Finally, the mother writes that “it will be hard to find an extra twenty dollars a month.” This tells us that the mother’s problem is that she needs more money to buy her daughter’s medicine. She says, “Our family will have to spend less money on other things.” Based on this information, we can understand that the mother of this passage feels worried about the problem of how to pay for the medicine. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although the mother of a sick child might feel angry, scared, or sad, the passage does not provide information to suggest that she feels any of these things. Therefore choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are incorrect.

2) **A**

**manage** (*verb*): to control or take care of.

In the passage, the mother writes, “She has an illness that will never go away, but it can be managed. She needs medicine to manage her illness.” From these sentences, we can understand that the medicine cannot fix her illness completely, because it “will never go away.” But the medicine does help her daughter control her illness. We know this also because later in the passage, the mother describes how the medicine works: “Without this medicine, my daughter has trouble breathing. Sometimes her lungs do not work well. She cannot get enough air into her lungs. Then she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again.” This information tells us that the medicine helps her daughter treat her illness, even though it does not make the illness go away. This means that *manage* belongs to the word group *control, direct, treat*. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The mother writes that the illness “will never go away.” This means that the medicine cannot *cure, fix, or heal* her daughter’s illness. This eliminates **(B)**. The mother does not say whether her daughter needs the medicine to *be, live, or survive*. But the mother does tell us that she “needs medicine to manage her illness.” This means that manage is something that is done to the illness. It does not make sense to say that her daughter needs to be or live her illness. This means **(C)** is incorrect. In another context, the word manage could mean *reach, succeed, win*, such as in the phrase “manage to do something.” But in this context, the word manage is something done to the illness. It does not make sense that the medicine would reach or succeed the illness. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

3) **B**

In the passage, the mother describes why her daughter needs the medicine. She writes, “Without this medicine, my daughter has trouble breathing. Sometimes her lungs do not work well. She cannot get enough air into her lungs. Then she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again.” This means that the daughter needs the medicine to help her lungs work again when they do not work well. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The mother says that when her daughter’s lungs are not working well, “she cannot get enough air into her lungs.” But the mother does not suggest that the medicine is what gives her more air. It just helps her lungs work again so they can take in enough air. This means **(A)** is incorrect. Although the daughter needs the medicine when she “has trouble breathing,” the mother does not tell us that the medicine breathes for her daughter when she cannot. This makes **(C)** incorrect. In the passage, the mother writes that her daughter “has an illness that will never go away.” This means that the medicine cannot make her illness go away completely. It can only help treat it. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) **A**

To understand the meaning of this statement, it is helpful to look at the context surrounding this sentence. In the passage, the mother writes, “We have to buy the medicine. We do not have a choice.” This tells us that the choice is about whether or not to buy the medicine. The mother says “We do not have a choice” to emphasize the previous statement, which is “We have to buy the medicine.” Since she does not have a choice about buying it, we can understand that she will definitely buy the medicine. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The sentence “We do not have a choice” means that the mother will buy whatever is needed to help her daughter. The reason she does not have a choice is because her daughter needs it, not because someone else is making her buy the medicine. This eliminates **(B)**. The mother tells us that her daughter “needs medicine to manage her illness.” But this does not mean that without the medicine, her daughter will die. She may be very uncomfortable or have a more difficult life. But we cannot assume she will die without the medicine. This means **(C)** is incorrect. Sometimes when people say they do not have a choice, they mean they are doing something they do not want to do. But in this case, the mother makes it clear that she does want to buy the medicine to help her daughter. That is why she says, “We have to buy the medicine.” She wants to help her daughter manage her illness. She just does not want it to cost so much money. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

5) **C**

Throughout the passage, the mother describes the medicine used to treat her daughter’s illness. First, she writes, “She needs medicine to manage her illness.” Later the mother explains how the medicine works, writing that “she needs the medicine to help her lungs work again.” Finally, the mother tells us that even though the price of the medicine has gone up, the family will still buy it, because they “do not have a choice.” Both the word “needs” and the fact that the family must buy the medicine tell us that it is not just important, helpful, or useful. The medicine is required. This means the word needed best describes the medicine. Therefore **(C)** is correct. Although the medicine is important, helpful, and useful, it is more than just those things. It is so important, helpful, and useful that it is needed. This means choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are not the best words to describe the medicine. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **B**

In the passage, the mother writes that her daughter “needs medicine to manage her illness. This medicine used to cost ten dollars a month. Now it costs thirty dollars a month.” This tells us that the price of the medicine went up twenty dollars, from ten to thirty. Later in the passage, the mother writes, “We have to buy the medicine. We do not have a choice. But it will be hard to find an extra twenty dollars a month. Our family will have to spend less money on other things.” The price of the medicine is now twenty dollars more each month. The family “will have to spend less money” because they have to “find an extra twenty dollars a month.” The reason the

family has to find an extra twenty dollars a month is because the price of the medicine went up that amount. This means that the main reason the family will have to spend less money on other things is that the price of the medicine went up. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The mother tells us that her daughter “has an illness that will never go away.” But this is not the main reason why the family has to spend less money on other things. If the price of the medicine did not go up, the family would not have to spend less money on other things. This means **(A)** is incorrect. The mother tells us, “Without this medicine, my daughter has trouble breathing.” From this we can understand that her daughter needs the medicine to help her breathe. But this is not the main reason why the family has to spend less money on other things. If the price of the medicine did not go up, the family would not have to spend less money on other things. This makes **(C)** incorrect. Although the mother may think that twenty dollars a month is a lot of money, this is not a reason why the family has to spend less money on other things. This information does not cause the family to spend less money on other things. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

7) **D**

Near the end of the passage, the mother writes, “We have to buy the medicine. We do not have a choice. But it will be hard to find an extra twenty dollars a month. Our family will have to spend less money on other things.” This tells us that the family will buy the medicine in the future, but that it will be difficult to find the extra money to pay for it. This means the family will “have to spend less money on other things” in order to find the extra money for the medicine. If the family needs to spend less money on other things, the family will most likely have to save money on something else in the future. Therefore **(D)** is correct. Although the mother says “it will be hard to find” the extra money, she also says, “We have to buy the medicine.” This means the family will likely find a way to pay for the medicine. The passage does not provide information to suggest that the family will need help paying for the medicine. This eliminates **(A)**. The mother writes, “But it will be hard to find an extra twenty dollars a month.” This does not literally mean that the mother hopes to find the extra money hidden somewhere. Instead, it means that the family will have to find the money by saving on other things. We know this because the mother writes, “Our family will have to spend less money on other things.” Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Although buying things on sale is one way to spend less money, the mother does not suggest that the family will only buy things on sale in the future. This makes **(C)** incorrect.