

“Paul Cooks”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Paul’s wife knows Paul loves to read cookbooks.



She decides to get him one for his birthday.

Paul tells her he will try to make a new recipe for three days in a row.

On Monday, Paul makes blueberry pancakes for breakfast. He gets the blueberries from the farmers’ market.

On Tuesday, Paul makes beef soup for dinner. He puts in cubes of beef, carrots, and onions.

The recipe calls for cream, but Paul does not like cream. He uses water instead.

On Wednesday, Paul makes a tomato salad with cucumbers and onions.

He picks the cucumbers and tomatoes from his garden.

He likes this dish best. It was also the easiest for him to make.

Questions:

- 1) Which ingredients does Paul use to make beef soup?
- I. onions
 - II. potatoes
 - III. cucumbers
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III
- 2) Where does Paul get his cookbook?
- A. Paul buys it.
 - B. His girlfriend gives it to him.
 - C. His wife gets it for him.
 - D. Paul’s friend buys it for him.
- 3) What does Paul say he will do?
- A. become a chef
 - B. grow his own food
 - C. cook every recipe in a week
 - D. try a new recipe for three days in a row
- 4) On what day does Paul make pancakes?
- A. Sunday
 - B. Monday
 - C. Tuesday
 - D. Wednesday

Questions (continued):

- 5)** What does Paul get from the farmer's market?

A. cubes of beef
B. blueberries
C. tomatoes
D. cucumbers

6) Where does Paul get cucumbers and tomatoes?

A. from his wife
B. from the store
C. from his garden
D. from the farmers' market

7) Which dish does Paul like best?

A. the creamy one
B. beef soup
C. tomato salad
D. blueberry pancakes

8) Why doesn't Paul use cream?

A. He doesn't like it.
B. There was none at the store.
C. There was none in the garden.
D. There was none at the farmers' market.

9) What does Paul use instead of cream?

A. milk
B. onions
C. water
D. butter

10) Which dish was the easiest for Paul to make?

A. pancakes
B. beef soup
C. tomato salad
D. chicken tenders

Do you like to cook? What is your favorite dish?

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

In the middle of the story, it says, “Paul makes beef soup for dinner. He puts in cubes of beef, carrots, and onions.” This tells us that Paul puts in onions, which supports **option (I)**. The story does not say that Paul puts potatoes in the soup. This eliminates **option (II)**. The story does not say that Paul puts cucumbers in the soup. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

2) **C**

At the beginning of the story, it says, “Paul’s wife knows that Paul loves to read cookbooks. She decides to get him one for his birthday.” We can understand from this that Paul’s wife gave him the cookbook. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Since the story says that “she” got Paul a cookbook for his birthday, we know that Paul did not buy it himself. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. At the beginning of the story, we learn that Paul has a wife, not a girlfriend. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The story does not say anything about Paul’s friends. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) **D**

At the beginning of the story, Paul tells his wife that “he will try to make a new recipe for three days in a row.” This means **(D)** is correct.

Although Paul likes to read cookbooks, the story does not say anything about Paul becoming a chef. This makes **(A)** incorrect. While the story does tell us that Paul picks cucumbers and tomatoes from his garden, Paul does not say that he will grow his own food. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Paul says that he “will try to make a new recipe for three days in a row,” not cook every recipe in a week. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **B**

In the middle of the story, it says, “On Monday, Paul makes blueberry pancakes for breakfast.” Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not say anything about Sunday. This means **(A)** is incorrect. The story says that Paul “makes beef soup” on Tuesday. This means **(C)** is incorrect. The story says that Paul “makes a tomato salad with cucumbers and onions” on Wednesday. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

5) **B**

In the middle of the story, it says, “He gets the blueberries from the farmers’ market. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Paul uses cubes of beef in the soup, but the story does not tell us where Paul got the cubes of beef. This means **(A)** is incorrect. At the end of the story, it says that Paul “picks the cucumbers and tomatoes from his garden.” Therefore, the tomatoes come from the garden, not the farmers’ market, so **(C)** is incorrect. At the end of the story, it says that Paul “picks the cucumbers

and tomatoes from his garden.” Therefore, the cucumbers also come from the garden, not the farmers’ market. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

6) **C**

At the end of the story, it says that Paul “picks the cucumbers and tomatoes from his garden.” This means **(C)** is correct.

Although Paul’s wife got him the cookbook, the story does not say that Paul’s wife gave Paul tomatoes and cucumbers. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not mention a store at all. This means **(B)** is incorrect. In the middle of the story it says that Paul “gets the blueberries from the farmers’ market.” The story does not say that Paul got tomatoes and cucumbers from the farmers’ market. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

7) **C**

At the end of the story, it says that Paul “makes a tomato salad with cucumber and onions.” Then it says that Paul “likes this dish best.” We can understand from this that Paul likes the tomato salad best. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **A**

In the middle of the story, it says that Paul does not use cream in the beef soup because “Paul does not like cream.” This means **(A)** is correct.

The story does say anything about a store, so **(B)** is incorrect. Although Paul does get cucumbers and tomatoes from the garden, Paul does not get cream from the garden. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Although Paul buys blueberries from the farmers’ market, Paul does not buy cream at the farmers’ market. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

9) **C**

In the middle of the story, it says that the beef soup recipe “calls for cream, but Paul does not like cream. He uses water instead.” We can understand from this that Paul used water in the beef soup recipe instead of cream. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

10) **C**

At the end of the story, it says that Paul made “a tomato salad.” Then, the story says Paul liked the tomato salad best and “it was also the easiest for him to make.” This means that the tomato salad was the easiest recipe for Paul to make, so **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.