

“The Blow Dryer”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

A blow dryer is a common household appliance.

Have you ever wondered how a blow dryer works?

When you turn on the dryer, a small fan inside the dryer spins.

The fan **sucks** air into the dryer from the back.

The air warms up as it passes across heated coils inside the blow dryer.

The warm air blows out the front of the dryer and dries your hair.

This is much faster than using a towel to dry your hair.



Questions:

- 1) This passage is about
 - A. how blow dryers work
 - B. why blow dryers are safe
 - C. why you should not towel dry your hair
- 2) How does a blow dryer heat the air?
 - A. by sucking it in
 - B. by passing it over heated coils
 - C. by spinning it
- 3) According to the passage, what does the fan on a blow dryer do?
 - A. heats the coils
 - B. sucks air into the dryer
 - C. keeps the dryer cool
- 4) According to the passage, what does **suck** mean?
 - A. to push
 - B. to blow out
 - C. to draw in
- 5) According to the passage, blow dryers
 - A. are safe
 - B. save time
 - C. cost a lot of money

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The second sentence asks if the reader has wondered “how a blow dryer works.” The passage goes on to explain that a blow dryer pulls in air, heats the air, and blows the heated air out to dry your hair. These actions describe how a blow dryer works. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The passage does not talk about the safety of hair dryers. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The passage does say that using a blow dryer “is much faster than using a towel to dry your hair.” However, the main idea of the passage is how blow dryers work, not that you should not towel dry your hair. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

The middle of the passage tells us that “the air warms up as it passes across heated coils inside the blow dryer.” Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Although the passage does tell us that “the fan sucks air into the dryer,” the passage does not say that sucking heats the air. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The passage tells us that “a small fan inside the dryer spins.” However, the passage does not tell us that spinning heats the air. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

3) **B**

Near the middle, the passage says, “The fan sucks air into the dryer from the back.” Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not say what heats the coils. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. People can use a fan to keep cool, but the passage does not discuss keeping the blow dryer cool. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **C**

suck (*verb*): to draw or pull as if by suction.

In the middle of the passage, we learn that “the fan sucks air into the dryer from the back.” Since we know that the fan is also “inside the dryer,” it must bring air into the dryer by pulling the air into the dryer. We can infer that the word *suck* means to draw or pull in. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The word *push* means to press upon. Since we know that the fan is “inside the dryer,” it cannot be pushing the air to get the air inside; it must somehow pull the air. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. To *blow* means to force air out. The passage says that the fan takes “air into the dryer.” Since the fan takes the air in, not out, suck cannot mean to blow out. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

5) **B**

A tool that can complete a job faster than another tool saves time. The passage tells us that using a dryer “is much faster than using a towel to dry your hair.” Since the dryer dries hair faster than a towel can dry hair, the dryer saves time. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not contain information about **(A)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.