

• Reading Comprehension 4 Level 5

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

Many people like to eat pizza, but not everyone knows how to make it. Making the perfect pizza can be **complicated**, but there are lots of ways for you to make a more basic version at home.

When you make pizza, you must begin with the crust. The crust can be hard to make. If you want to make the crust yourself, you will have to make dough using flour, water, and yeast. You will have to knead the dough with your hands. If you do not have enough time to do this, you can use a prepared crust that you buy from the store.

After you have chosen your crust, you must then add the sauce. Making your own sauce from scratch can take a long time. You have to buy tomatoes, peel them, and then cook them with spices. If this sounds like too much work, you can also **purchase** jarred sauce from the store. **Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home.**

Now that you have your crust and your sauce, you need to add the cheese. Cheese comes from milk, which comes from cows. Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you know how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese? If not, you might want to buy cheese from the grocery store instead of making it yourself.

When you have the crust, sauce, and cheese ready, you can add other toppings. Some people like to put meat on their pizza, while other people like to add vegetables. Some people even like to add pineapple! The best part of making a pizza at home is that you can **customize** it by adding your own favorite ingredients.

Questions

- 1) The author's main purpose in writing this passage is to
 - A. describe the history of pizza
 - B. teach a healthier way to make pizza
 - C. outline steps to make a basic pizza at home
 - D. provide tips about how to make your pizza especially delicious

- 2) As used in paragraph 1, which word means the opposite of **complicated**?
 - A. difficult
 - B. simple
 - C. easy
 - D. manageable

- 3) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for **purchase**?
 - A. forget
 - B. buy
 - C. ask
 - D. cook

- 4) In paragraph 3, the author writes, "Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home." The purpose of this statement is to
- A. clarify a later statement
 - B. provide an example
 - C. clarify an earlier statement
 - D. support the previous paragraph
- 5) In paragraph 4, the author asks a series of questions in order to
- A. support the idea that most people cannot make homemade cheese
 - B. reinforce the idea that most people probably live on farms
 - C. prove that store-bought cheese tastes better than homemade cheese
 - D. emphasize the superiority of homemade cheese over store bought cheese
- 6) As used in paragraph 5, which is the best definition for **customize**?
- A. to make personal
 - B. to prepare for more than one
 - C. to eat while hot
 - D. to desire
- 7) According to the author, which of the following ingredients do you need to have ready before you can add the toppings?
- I. crust
 - II. sauce
 - III. cheese
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 8) Which of the following words best describes how the author feels about making a pizza from scratch?
- A. helpful
 - B. understanding
 - C. enthusiastic
 - D. negative
- 9) Which of the following conclusions would work best at the end of this passage.
- A. Although the crust, sauce, and toppings are all important ingredients in pizza, it is clear that the cheese is most important. Therefore, be sure your cheese is homemade.
 - B. It can be understood that making your pizza from scratch should be avoided at all costs. Use store bought ingredients and save yourself a heap of trouble.
 - C. As you can see, cooking a pizza can be fun, but it can also be very expensive. But, as you can see, the best things are worth paying for.
 - D. Once you have prepared the crust, sauce, cheese, and toppings, you are ready to bake your pizza. I think you will see that making pizza at home can be a good alternative to purchasing it from the store.

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

In the first paragraph, the author introduces the main idea. The author says, "Making the perfect pizza can be complicated, but there are lots of ways for you to make a more basic version at home." Here, the author tells us that he or she wants to give us some ways to make a more basic pizza at home. The author spends the rest of the passage outlining the steps we need to take to make the pizza. This means **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **B**

complicated (*adjective*): difficult to explain, understand, or analyze.

In paragraph 1, the author says, "Making the perfect pizza can be complicated, but there are lots of ways for you to make a more basic version at home." Given that making pizza at home can be complicated or difficult, the author wants to explain a way that is more basic. So, the author wants to explain a way to make pizza that is basic, or not complicated. *Simple* is the only choice that means something similar to basic, or not complicated. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **B**

purchase (*verb*): to acquire through the payment of money or its equivalent; to buy.

The question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings. The author tells us that if making homemade tomato sauce sounds like too much work, we can "purchase jarred sauce from the store." Using context, we can understand that another word for *purchase* is *buy*. If you are unfamiliar with the word "purchase," you might still be able to guess that people usually go to a store in order to buy things. Choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **C**

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. At the end of paragraph 3 the author writes, "If this sounds like too much work, you can also purchase jarred sauce from the store. Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home." The author tells us that as a substitute for something that takes too much work, we can purchase jarred sauce. This may seem like a poor substitute, but the author explains that this is not necessarily the case; many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home. Using this information, we can understand that the purpose of the statement in question is to clarify an earlier statement. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **A**

In paragraph 4, the author asks the reader, "Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you know how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese?" The author thinks that he or she knows the answer to these questions. The author thinks that you probably do not have a cow in your backyard, do not know how to milk a cow, and do not know how to turn milk in cheese. After all, not many people would answer these questions positively. Given that the author expects that most people would not answer positively to these questions, then it is fair to assume that most people are unable to make home-made cheese. The author's question is intended to be rhetorical, or perhaps even sarcastic. This means choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

customize (*verb*): to build according to personal preferences or tastes.

In order to answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In paragraph 5, the author says, "The best part of making a pizza at home is that you can customize it by adding your favorite ingredients." After the author says this, he or she continues to give examples: some people like to add vegetables, meat, or even pineapple. Since the author tells us that different people like different things on their pizza, we can understand that the choice of toppings is personal, or special for each person. Therefore, you can *customize* things to make them *personal*. This lets us know that **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **D**

In paragraph 2, the author says, "When you make pizza, you must begin with the crust." This comes before the author instructs you to add the toppings. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 3, the author says, "After you have chosen your crust, you must then add the sauce." This comes before the author instructs you to add the toppings. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 4, the author says, "Now that you have your crust and your sauce, you need to add the cheese." This comes before the author instructs you to add the toppings. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

8) **D**

In paragraph 2 the author writes, "If you want to make the crust yourself, you will have to make dough using flour, water, and yeast. You will have to knead the dough with your hands.." In paragraph 3 the author writes, "Making your own sauce from scratch can take a long time. You have to buy tomatoes, peel them, and then cook them with spices." In paragraph 4 the author writes, "Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you know how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese?" In all of these quotations, the author talks about how hard it is to make a pizza from scratch. The author uses negative language to highlight this difficulty. This lets us know that the author is feels negative about making pizza from scratch. Choice **(D)** is correct. Choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** all contain positive words. However, the author is negative about making a pizza from scratch. Therefore these choices are incorrect.

9) **D**

A good conclusion restates the main idea and the basic points (or thesis) of the passage. In paragraph 1 the author introduces the idea of making a pizza at home. In paragraph 2 the author talks about the crust. In paragraph 3 the author talks about the sauce. In paragraph 4 the author talks about the cheese. In paragraph 5 the author talks about the toppings. Using this information, we can understand that **(D)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because the passage does not provide information to support the idea that cheese is the most important ingredient in pizza. Although the author does advise against making your own ingredients, this is not the main idea of the passage. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The author does not talk about the cost of making pizza in this passage. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.