

“The Heart”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

The heart is a part of your body.

The heart is just **slightly** to the left of the center of your chest.

The heart makes the blood move through your body.

If you press your ear against someone's chest, you can hear the heart beating.

The heart is very important.

To keep it healthy and strong, it is good to eat right and exercise.

The heart is also a well-known **symbol** for love. It is pictured on love letters and valentines.



Questions:

1) Where in the body is the heart?

- A. at the bottom of the chest
- B. on the left side of the chest
- C. on the right side of the chest

2) What does **slightly** mean?

- A. up above
- B. a little bit
- C. a large amount

3) What is the job of the heart?

- A. to love
- B. to eat right and exercise
- C. to move blood through the body

4) A **symbol** is something that

- A. people love
 - B. is found deep inside the body
 - C. represents something else
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Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

Near the beginning, the story says, “The heart is just slightly to the left of the center of your chest.” We can understand from this information that the heart is on the left side of the chest. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The heart is in the chest, but it is on the left side, not at the bottom. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Since the heart is on the left side of the chest, it cannot be on the right side. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

Near the beginning, the story says, “The heart is just slightly to the left of the center of your chest.” The word *just* means *only* or *merely* in this case, telling us that the heart is only a little bit to the left of center. From this we can understand that the word *slightly* means *a little bit*. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Since left is off to the side, slightly cannot mean *up above*, because then the sentence, “The heart is just slightly to the left of the center of your chest,” makes no sense. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. If the word slightly meant *a large amount*, the sentence, “The heart is just slightly to the left of the center of your chest,” would tell us that our hearts are only way over on the left side. Only or “just” implies a small amount, which does not make sense with a large amount. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

3) **C**

Near the middle, the story says, “The heart does important work. It makes the blood move through your body.” Since moving blood through the body is the heart’s work, we can understand from this information that moving blood through the body is the heart’s job. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Near the end, the story tells us that eating right and exercise keep the heart healthy and strong, but that is what people do, not what the heart does. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. At the end, the story says that the heart is a symbol of love, but it does not say that to love is the heart’s job. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

4) **C**

symbol (*noun*): something that represents something else.

At the end, the story says, “The heart is also a well-known symbol for love. It is pictured on love letters and valentines.” We can understand from this information that pictures of hearts are used to represent love in cards and letters. Hearts are used to represent something else—love. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The story says a heart is a symbol of love, but it does not say that a symbol is something people love. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The symbol of a heart is pictured on love letters and valentines, so it is not found deep within the body. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.