

“The Brenners”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

The Brenner family has a mom, a dad, three boys, two dogs, a hamster, and four frogs.

They are very happy.

Their house is very small.

Mom and Dad share one bedroom.

The three boys share one bedroom. Their names are Billy, Bobby, and Brad.

All the pets sleep in the living room.

Mr. and Mrs. Brenner came home today from the doctor with news. It is very *big news*.

“There are going to be two more of us,” Mrs. Brenner says with a smile.
“I am pregnant.”

Billy, Bobby, and Brad cheer. “We will have a basketball team,” Billy says.

“And do you know what Dad and I have decided we need?” asks Mrs. Brenner.

“A coach?” asks Bobby.

“No,” Mr. Brenner says with a laugh. “A bigger house.”

Over the next week, the Brenner family starts looking for a new house.

On Monday, they see a brick house with a big front porch. It has three bedrooms. Mr. Brenner likes this one.

On Thursday, they see a wooden house with a big backyard. It has four bedrooms. Mrs. Brenner thinks this house is great.

On Saturday, they see a house with four bedrooms and a pool. The boys like this house a lot. They dream of having their friends over for a swim.

“But it’s smaller than the house we live in now!” Mrs. Brenner says.

All of the houses cost a lot of money.

“I think we need to save more money before we buy a bigger house,” says Mr. Brenner. Mrs. Brenner agrees.

Soon, two new babies arrive in their very small house. Their names are Brandi and Brooke.

The two baby girls sleep in a crib by their parents’ bed.

Mr. Brenner buys a basketball hoop and puts it in the driveway.



Questions:

1) What is the Brenner house like?

- I. crowded
 - II. small
 - III. dirty
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

2) Who shares a bedroom?

- I. Billy and Mom
 - II. Mom and Dad
 - III. Billy, Bobby, and Brad
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

3) What pets do the Brenners have?

- I. two dogs
 - II. a hamster
 - III. four cats
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

4) How many dogs do the Brenners have?

- A. one
B. two
C. four
D. five

5) What can be said about all the kids' names?

- A. They are all girls' names.
B. They all start with the letter B.
C. They are all long names.
D. They all end in the letter Y.

6) As used in the beginning of the story, what is the "big news"?

- A. Mrs. Brenner is pregnant with twins.
B. The Brenners are moving to a new house.
C. The Brenners are starting a basketball team.
D. The Brenners are getting some new pets.

7) Why does Bobby say the Brenners need a coach?

- A. because Mr. Brenner is too busy to coach
B. because they need help buying a house
C. because they will soon have enough kids for a basketball team
D. because Mrs. Brenner will not be able to coach while she is pregnant

8) Which house does Mr. Brenner like?

- A. the one with a pool
B. the one with a big backyard
C. the one with a big front porch
D. the one with four bedrooms
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Questions (continued):

9) Which house does Mrs. Brenner like?

- I. the one with a big front porch
- II. the one with a big backyard
- III. the one with four bedrooms

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

10) Why do the boys like the house with the pool?

- A. It has the biggest yard.
- B. It is the biggest house.
- C. They are on the swim team.
- D. They want to have their friends over to swim.

11) How are all the houses they see alike?

- A. They are all very pretty.
- B. They are all very big.
- C. They each have four bedrooms.
- D. They all cost a lot of money.

12) What must Mr. and Mrs. Brenner do before buying a new house?

- A. get new jobs
- B. have the babies
- C. save more money
- D. move to a new city

13) What does Mr. Brenner put in the driveway?

- A. a car
- B. a dog crate
- C. their new van
- D. a basketball hoop

14) What do the Brenners' newborn babies have in common?

- I. They have the same gender.
 - II. They sleep in the same place.
 - III. Both their first and last names start with the same letter.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

How big is your family? Do you like this size? Why or why not?

Answers and Explanations

- 1) **B**

The story says that three children and two parents live in the house, sharing just two bedrooms. The family is looking for a bigger house because “there are going to be two more of us.” We can guess from this that the house is crowded. This supports **option (I)**. At the beginning of the story it says that the house “is very small.” This supports **option (II)**. There is nothing in the story that tells us that the house is dirty. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is the correct answer.
- 2) **C**

Because Mom and Dad share one bedroom and the three boys share the other, we know that Billy and Mom do not share a bedroom. This eliminates **option (I)**. At the beginning of the story it says, “Mom and Dad share one bedroom.” This supports **option (II)**. It also says, “The three boys share one bedroom.” This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is the correct answer.
- 3) **B**

The first sentence says that the Brenner family has “two dogs, a hamster, and four frogs.” This supports **option (I)** and **option (II)**. The story does not say that the Brennens have any cats. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.
- 4) **B**

The first sentence says that the Brenner family has “two dogs.” This means **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.
- 5) **B**

Billy, Bobby, and Brad all start with the letter B. Brandi and Brooke also start with the letter B. Therefore **(B)** is the correct answer. We know that the three oldest children are boys, so **(A)** is incorrect. Brad is only four letters, which is not long. The other names are either five or six letters. This means they are not long, so **(C)** is incorrect. Only Billy and Bobby end with the letter Y, so **(D)** is incorrect.
- 6) **A**

In the beginning of the story, right after we learn that Mr. and Mrs. Brenner have big news, Mrs. Brenner says, “I am pregnant.” Later we learn there will be two babies, which means she is having twins. Therefore **(A)** is the correct answer.

Although the Brennens start to look for a new house after they announce the news, they only want a new house because they are expecting two new babies, so **(B)** is incorrect. While the kids are excited that they will soon have enough kids for a basketball team, they are not starting a basketball team, so **(C)** is also incorrect. The story does not say the Brennens are getting some new pets. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

- 7) **C**
Basketball teams have five people. The Brenner family has three children, so two more children in the family would make five—enough children for a basketball team. That is why Billy says “We will have a basketball team,” right after Mrs. Brenner tells the boys that there will be two more children in the family. Basketball teams usually have coaches. That is why Bobby says the Brennens need a coach. Therefore **(C)** is the correct answer.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

- 8) **C**
In the middle of the story, we learn that the family sees “a brick house with a big front porch.” The house “has three bedrooms. Mr. Brenner likes this one.” This means **(C)** is the correct answer.

The boys like the house with the pool, not Mr. Brenner, so **(A)** is incorrect. Mrs. Brenner likes the house with the big backyard, not Mr. Brenner. This means **(B)** is incorrect. Two of the houses have four bedrooms, but the one Mr. Brenner likes has three. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

- 9) **C**
In the middle of the story, we learn that the house “with a big front porch” is the one that Mr. Brenner likes, not Mrs. Brenner. This eliminates **option (I)**. In the middle of the story, it says that the family sees “a wooden house with a big backyard. It has four bedrooms. Mrs. Brenner thinks this house is great.” We can understand from this information that the house Mrs. Brenner likes has a big backyard. This supports **option (II)**. We can also understand from this information that the house Mrs. Brenner likes has four bedrooms. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is the correct answer.

- 10) **D**
In the middle of the story, it says that the boys like the house with the pool a lot and that the boys “dream of having their friends over for a swim.” Therefore **(D)** is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

- 11) **D**
At the end of the story it says, “All of the houses cost a lot of money.” Therefore **(D)** is correct. We do not know if any of the houses are pretty, so **(A)** is incorrect. It says that the house with the pool is smaller than the house they live in now, so **(B)** is incorrect. It says that the house with the big front porch has three bedrooms, so **(C)** is incorrect.

- 12) **C**
At the end of the story, Mr. Brenner says, “I think we need to save more money before we buy a bigger house.” Therefore **(C)** is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

13)**D**

The last sentence in the story says, “Mr. Brenner buys a basketball hoop and puts it in the driveway.” This means **(D)** is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

14)**D**

At the end of the story, we learn that “the two baby girls sleep in a crib by their parents’ bed.” We can understand from this that both the babies are girls. This supports **option (I)**. We can also understand from this sentence that they both sleep in the same crib. This supports **option (II)**. The story also says that the babies are named Brandi and Brooke. We also know that the babies’ last name is Brenner. This lets us know that their first and last names start with the same letter. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.