

“What Number?”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Becca and Kai played together all day.

The two friends played outside in the morning. They rode bikes and scooters.

They ate lunch on the porch. Becca’s mom made sandwiches and lemonade.

They played hide-and-seek in the house right after lunch.

Then they did not know what to do.

“I know! Let’s play the number game,” said Becca. “What number am I thinking of?”

“Is it five?” asked Kai.

“No, it is **higher** than five,” Becca said.

“Okay, is it one hundred?”

“No, it is **lower** than one hundred,” Becca said.

“Let’s see,” said Kai. “Is it sixty?”

Becca gave Kai a **hint**. “It is **between** twenty and thirty.”

“Hmm, is it twenty-five?”

“No, but you are very **close!**” Becca said.

“Well, is it higher or lower than twenty-five?”

“It is lower,” Becca said.

“Okay, I think I know. Is it twenty-two?”

“Yeah! You guessed it.” Becca said. “Good job!”



Questions:

1) Where did Becca and Kai play today?

- A. at school
- B. at the park
- C. at Kai's house
- D. at Becca's house

2) What did Becca and Kai do in the morning?

- I. They rode bikes.
 - II. They played outside.
 - III. They played hide-and-seek.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

3) Where did Becca and Kai eat lunch?

- A. in the kitchen
- B. by the swing
- C. at the park
- D. on the porch

4) Whose idea was it to play the number game?

- A. It was Kai's idea.
- B. It was Mom's idea.
- C. It was Becca's idea.
- D. It was Kai and Becca's idea.

5) What was Kai's second guess?

- A. five
- B. twenty-two
- C. sixty
- D. one hundred

6) Why does Kai guess one hundred?

- A. It is lower than twenty-two.
- B. It is higher than sixty.
- C. It is higher than five.
- D. It is lower than sixty.

7) Which is correct?

- A. 178 is **lower** than 177
- B. 178 is **higher** than 177
- C. 178 is **between** 177
- D. 178 is **the same as** 177

8) Which is correct?

- I. 239 is **lower** than 247
 - II. 224 is **higher** than 256
 - III. 224 is **between** 220 and 230
- A. I only
 - B. I and III
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

9) Kai's guess of twenty-five was **close** because

- A. twenty-five is a big number
- B. it is near the number Becca was thinking about
- C. it is far away from the number Becca was thinking about
- D. it is lower than the number Becca was thinking about

10) What does it mean to give someone a **hint**?

- A. to give someone a clue
- B. to make a question hard
- C. to tell someone to give up
- D. to give someone the answer

11) What number was Becca thinking about?

- A. nineteen
- B. twenty
- C. twenty-one
- D. twenty-two

12) What other number could Becca have been thinking about?

- A. ten
- B. fifteen
- C. twenty-three
- D. twenty-eight

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

Near the beginning of the story, Becca and Kai “ate lunch on the porch. Becca’s mom made sandwiches and lemonade.” Since Becca’s mom made the sandwiches, we can understand that the friends were at Becca’s house. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **B**

Near the beginning, the story says, “The two friends played outside in the morning. They rode bikes and scooters.” We can understand from this that in the morning, the friends rode bikes. This supports **option (I)**. We can also understand from this information that the friends played outside in the morning. This supports **option (II)**. Becca and Kai “played hide-and-seek in the house right after lunch.” Since lunch happens after morning, the friends played hide-and-seek in the afternoon, not the morning. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

3) **D**

Near the beginning, the story says, “They ate lunch on the porch.” We can understand from this that Becca and Kai ate lunch on the porch. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **C**

Near the middle of the story, Becca and Kai do not know what to do. “I know! Let’s play the number game,” said Becca.” We can understand from this that it was Becca’s idea to play the number game. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Becca and Kai play the number game together, but it was Becca alone who came up with the idea to play the number game. This means that it was not Kai’s idea. Therefore **(A)** and **(D)** are incorrect. The story does not provide information to support answer choice **(B)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

5) **D**

Near the middle of the story, Becca suggests that they play the number game. Becca asks Kai what number she is thinking of. “Is it five?” asked Kai. “No, it is higher than five,” Becca said. “Okay, is it one hundred?” We can understand from these sentences that Kai’s first guess was five and his second guess was one hundred. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Five was Kai’s first guess. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Twenty-two was Kai’s last guess. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Kai guesses sixty after he guesses one hundred. This makes sixty Kai’s third guess. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

6) **C**

Near the middle of the story, the friends decide to play the number game. Kai has to guess: “Is it five?” asked Kai. “No, it is higher than five,” Becca said. “Okay, is it one hundred?” From this we can understand that Kai guesses one

hundred after Becca tells him the number is “higher than five.” He guesses one hundred because it is a number that is higher than five. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

One hundred is not lower than twenty-two. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. One hundred is higher than sixty, but that is not the reason Kai guesses it. He guesses one hundred before he guesses sixty, so he is not trying to guess a number higher than sixty. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. One hundred is not lower than sixty. Therefore **(D)** is also incorrect.

7) **B**

In numbers, *higher* means that one number is more than another number. 178 is 1 more than 177. This means that 178 is a *higher* number than 177. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

When a number is *lower* than another number, that number is less than the other number. Since 178 is more than 177, 178 is not lower than 177. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. A number is *between* two numbers when there is a lower number before it and a higher number after it. Here, 177 comes before 178, but there is no number after 178. This means that 178 is not between two numbers. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. When a number is *the same* as another number, that number is equal to the other number. 178 is 1 more than 177, so it is not the same as 177. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

8) **B**

A number is *lower* than another number if it is less than another number, so 239 is lower than 247. This supports **option (I)**. A number is *higher* than another number if it is more than the other number, so 224 is not higher than 256. This eliminates **option (II)**. A number is *between* two numbers if there is a lower number before it and a higher number after it, so 224 is between 220 and 230. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

9) **B**

close (*adjective*): near or in proximity.

When Kai was guessing, he started with five, which was low. Then Kai guessed one hundred, which was high. Kai’s next guess was sixty, which again was high. Since Becca was thinking of the number twenty-two, these numbers were all nearly twenty numbers or more away. So, these guesses were far away. When Kai guessed twenty-five, he was only three numbers away. So, this guess was *close*. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

How close or far away the guess is does not depend on the size of the number, it depends on the nearness to the number being thought about. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. *Far away* is the opposite of close, so Kai’s guess was not close because it was far away. That would not make sense. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Since how close the guess is depends on how near the guess is to the number being thought about, it doesn’t matter whether the guess is higher or lower. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10) **A**

hint (*noun*): a suggestion or tip.

In the middle of the story, Kai has made a few guesses, but he has not guessed correctly. Then “Becca gave Kai a hint.” Becca tells Kai that the number “is between twenty and thirty.” After Becca tells Kai this information, Kai’s guess is “very close.” Since Becca gives Kai a hint after Kai has guessed incorrectly, and after the hint Kai makes a better guess, we can understand that a *hint* is helpful information—a clue. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Giving a hint makes something easier to figure out, not harder. After Kai gets a hint, he makes a better guess. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Since Becca’s hint makes it easier for Kai to figure out the number, Becca did not give him the hint in order to get Kai to give up. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Becca’s hint made it easier for Kai to figure out the answer, but she did not give Kai the answer. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

11) **D**

At the end of the story, Kai makes another guess. “Okay, I think I know. Is it twenty-two?” Becca says, “Yeah! You guessed it.” Since Becca tells Kai that Kai is right when he guesses twenty-two, we can understand that Becca was thinking about the number twenty-two. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

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

12) **C**

In the middle of the story, Becca tells Kai that the number “is between twenty and thirty.” When Kai guesses twenty-five, Becca tells him that “it is lower.” Since the number is between twenty and thirty, but lower than twenty-five, the number must be between twenty and twenty-five. Twenty-three is between twenty and twenty-five. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Ten is lower than twenty. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Fifteen is also lower than twenty. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Twenty-eight is higher than twenty-five. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.