



"Fruit Fly Fix"

Reading Comprehension Assessment

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Name _____
 Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

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

Fruit Fly Fix

It is breakfast time. You have been looking forward to eating a nice ripe banana ever since you woke up. Just when you reach for the delicious piece of fruit on your counter, you see something that makes you much less hungry: a swarm of fruit flies!

Fruit flies are tiny insects that are attracted to ripe or rotting fruits and vegetables. The flies not only eat the fruit, they also lay their eggs there. A single fruit fly can lay up to 500 eggs on the surface of a piece of fruit. Within eight days, the fruit flies that hatch from these eggs are full adults that can then lay their own eggs. As you can see, what might start out as a small fruit fly problem can become very large very quickly.



Although there is a chance fruit flies can carry germs on to your food, this is not very likely. Fruit flies are annoying, but they probably will not hurt you. Because they are such a **nuisance**, however, most people want to get rid of these pesky bugs as quickly as possible. Some people use pesticide sprays on the fruit flies. Although this will kill the flies, it will also spread harmful poison all over your kitchen. Luckily, there is also a completely safe way for you to get rid of fruit flies in your house.

The first step is for you to remove all fruits or vegetables from your counter. Store these items in the refrigerator or in sealed containers. Clean up any spilled juice or bits of food that might be on the floor. Take out the trash and empty the recycling bin. Wash any dirty dishes that are in your sink. Doing all of these things will stop new fruit flies from finding food or places to lay their eggs.

Next, make a trap to catch all of the remaining fruit flies in your house. First, fill a small bowl with a few tablespoons of vinegar. Then, put a piece of very ripe or rotting fruit into the vinegar. Cover the bowl very tightly with a sheet of plastic wrap and poke a few very small holes in the wrap with a fork. If all goes according to plan, the flies will enter the trap through the holes but will be unable to fly back out. This trap will catch all of the remaining fruit flies. You can either kill these flies or release them outdoors.

Fruit flies can be a pest, but they do not have to make you crazy. With a little effort, you can get existing flies out of your house and prevent new ones from taking over your kitchen.

1) In reading this passage, we learn that fruit flies

- I. die immediately after they lay their eggs
 - II. can grow into adults after only 8 days
 - III. are mostly harmless
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

1) C

Question Type: Global

The author never states that fruit flies die immediately after laying their eggs. This eliminates **option (I)**. In paragraph 2, the author says that “within eight days, the fruit flies that hatch from these eggs are full adults that can then lay their own eggs.” It only takes 8 days for a fruit fly to grow from an egg to an adult. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 3, the author says that “fruit flies are annoying, but they probably will not hurt you.” In other words, fruit flies are bothersome, but not dangerous. The author does state that they might spread germs onto your food, but then says that this is “not very likely.” Based on this information, we can see that fruit flies are mostly harmless. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

2) A

Question Type: Vocabulary

nuisance (*noun*): a pest; an irritant; something annoying or bothersome.

In paragraph 3, the author writes: “because they are such a nuisance, however, most people want to get rid of these pesky bugs as quickly as possible.” We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what the word nuisance most nearly means. The author says that “fruit flies are annoying, but they probably will not hurt you.” In other words, fruit flies can bother you, but they are not dangerous. The words “pesky” and “annoying” in these quotations help us know that a nuisance is something that annoys or bothers you. Therefore **(A)** is correct. Based on the above information, we can tell that we are looking for words that mean annoying or bothersome. Saying that something can be dangerous is not the same as saying it bothers you. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Based on the above information, we can tell that we are looking for words that mean annoying or bothersome. Saying that something grows fast is not the same as saying it bothers you. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Based on the above information, we can tell that we are looking for words that mean annoying or bothersome. Saying that something is very small is not the same as saying it bothers you. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) D

Question Type: Detail

In paragraph 3, the author says: “some people use pesticide sprays on the fruit flies. Although this will kill the flies, it will also spread harmful poison all over your kitchen.” According to the author, the pesticide sprays will work very well, but they contain harmful poison, which makes them dangerous to use in your kitchen. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) B

Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 5, the author explains how readers can make a trap to catch fruit flies. After the flies are caught, the author says, “you can either kill these flies or release them outdoors.” Some people might want to kill the flies, but others might want to let them free outside. This quotation shows that the author thinks that some people do not like killing insects; some would rather bring them outside instead of killing them. Therefore **(B)** is correct. In paragraph 5, the author gives readers a way to make a fruit fly trap. Because the author is explaining ways that readers can get rid of fruit flies, the author assumes that people want to get rid of them. If the author assumed that some people did not mind having them in the house, the author might say something like “if you want to get rid of the fruit flies” or “for those of you who want to get rid of the flies.” The author assumes that no one wants to have fruit flies in their house. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 5, the author describes a trap readers can make to catch fruit flies. This trap involves filling a small bowl “with a few tablespoons of vinegar” and a piece of fruit. If fruit flies will be lured (attracted) to the trap because it has vinegar in it, then fruit flies must like vinegar. It would not make sense to put vinegar into a trap if fruit flies did not like vinegar. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 5, the author explains how readers can make a trap to catch fruit flies. She explains how to make the trap in few steps. The trap is simple: put vinegar and fruit into a bowl and cover it with plastic wrap. Then poke a few holes into the wrap. Fruit flies can get into the trap, but they cannot get out. Based on the author’s description, you can easily make a fruit fly trap using common objects from your house. The author does not suggest that making a fruit fly trap is difficult. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.