

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

1 Read this sentence.

Celine stayed home from school today because she was feeling under the weather.

The author used the phrase under the weather to show that Celine

- (A) was getting rained on.
- (B) was feeling sick.
- (C) was happy.
- (D) didn't like the temperature.

2 Read this sentence.

Terry knew the math test was going to be a piece of cake when he saw that it had the same problems that he had practiced last night.

The phrase a piece of cake means

- (A) the test tasted like cake.
- (B) the test was shaped like a cake.
- (C) the test had pictures of cakes on it.
- (D) the test would be easy to complete.

3 Read this sentence.

The distance from Tony's house to school was exactly 1.2 miles as the crow flies.

The phrase as the crow flies most likely means

- (A) in a straight line.
- (B) if Tony was a crow.
- (C) a crow flew from Tony's house to school every day.
- (D) birds like to fly around the school.

4 Read this sentence.

The school bus driver asked the children not to go hog wild when they arrived at the amusement park for their field trip.

The phrase go hog wild most likely means

- (A) to oink like a pig.
- (B) to play in the mud.
- (C) to get overly excited.
- (D) to eat a ham sandwich.

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

5 Read this sentence.

Ashley and Sarah got upset with each other when they didn't see eye to eye on how the game was supposed to be played.

The author used the figurative expression see eye to eye to communicate that

- (A) the girls weren't the same height.
- (B) the girls couldn't come to an understanding.
- (C) that someone is blind.
- (D) to poke someone in the eye.

6 Read this sentence.

Gurnoor was having difficulty finding the remote campsite which seemed to be in the middle of nowhere.

The author used the phrase in the middle of nowhere to show that

- (A) the campsite has been closed down for the summer.
- (B) Gurnoor will never be able to find the campsite.
- (C) the closest building to Gurnoor is at least fifty miles away.
- (D) Gurnoor was far away from civilization.

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

7 Read this sentence.

Amara and Jacoby had to wander around the parking lot looking for their car because they lost their bearings.

The phrase lost their bearings means that they wandered around the parking lot because they

- (A) needed the exercise.
- (B) thought their car was stolen.
- (C) were uncertain of their position.
- (D) knew exactly where they parked.

8 Read this sentence.

As the policeman sat on the side of the road, a speeding sports car caught his eye.

The phrase caught his eye means

- (A) to get his attention.
- (B) ran into his eye.
- (C) no one could see anything.
- (D) the car was loud.

9 Read this sentence.

The choir director, Mrs. McMurray, has many fans because she sings like an angel.

The author used the figurative expression sings like an angel to show that

- (A) nobody else in the choir can sing well.
- (B) she dresses like an angel whenever she sings.
- (C) she loves to sing.
- (D) she sings beautifully.

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

10

Read this sentence.

Alicia's thin jacket was not able to protect her face from getting stung by the biting cold wind.

The author used the figurative expression to communicate the idea that

- (A) the air had teeth.
- (B) the air was cold enough to cause pain to the skin.
- (C) Alicia couldn't open her mouth.
- (D) the wind bit her.

11

Read these sentences.

Matthew and Nicholas began pushing each other and fighting. "If you two don't cut it out, I'll send you to your room!" their mom said.

The phrase cut it out means

- (A) stop.
- (B) continue.
- (C) laugh out loud.
- (D) get a knife.

12

Read this sentence.

The toy was so popular at Christmas that it was scarce as hen's teeth in the stores.

The author used the phrase scarce as hen's teeth to help the reader see that the toy was

- (A) easy to find.
- (B) chicken feed.
- (C) rare.
- (D) sharp.

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

13

Read these sentences.

Rene needed to ask his neighbor for a ride to school. His neighbor wasn't his favorite person, but he needed his help. "Ask Bernice nicely," Rene's mother said. "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

The author used the phrase catch more flies with honey than with vinegar to convey that

- A you are a flyswatter.
- B you like to eat sweet things.
- C everybody likes honey.
- D more can be accomplished by being nice than unpleasant.

14

Read these sentences.

Courtney lost her favorite bracelet. Her best friend was going away for the entire summer. She just found out that she had to go to summer school. As a result, Courtney felt down in the dumps.

The phrase down in the dumps most likely means

- A sad.
- B bringing the garbage to the end of the driveway.
- C excited.
- D to take a trip down to the landfill.

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

15 **Read these sentences.**

Jodi's grandmother spent months knitting a sweater for Jodi. When Jodi took a look at it, she really disliked the colors. She couldn't tell her grandmother that, so she told a little white lie instead.

The phrase white lie is used to show that Jodi told

- (A) a huge made-up story.
- (B) the truth.
- (C) a lie that is told to avoid hurting someone's feelings.
- (D) a lie that is told about things that are white.

16 **Read this sentence.**

The school play was getting too expensive. The team planning it had gone all out, but didn't have enough money to pay for it all. The principal came in to speak with the group. "You have some great ideas here. Now let's see where we can cut corners to make this play a success. We may have to change the scenery and the playbook to save some money; otherwise the play can't go on."

The phrase cut corners probably means

- (A) cut the edges of the play's program.
 - (B) clip some coupons.
 - (C) use money wisely and try to save by spending only what is necessary.
 - (D) to make the stage circular.
-

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

17

Read this sentence.

Juan cracked up when his grandpa told him the hilarious joke about the squid and the lobster.

The author used the phrase cracked up to help the reader see that Juan

- (A) laughed.
- (B) cried.
- (C) was upset.
- (D) broke a tooth.

18

Read this sentence.

As the autumn wind blew, leaves were dancing in the air.

What idea was the author most likely trying to express by describing the leaves as dancing in the air?

- (A) Music was playing outside.
- (B) It was really cold.
- (C) The ground was full of leaves.
- (D) The leaves were lightly moving around each other as they fell.

19

Read this sentence.

As they camped in the wilderness on the moonless night, a blanket of darkness surrounded the family as they went to sleep.

What idea was the author most likely trying to express by describing the night as a blanket of darkness?

- (A) They forgot to bring blankets for the trip.
- (B) The family was cold.
- (C) Darkness completely surrounded them.
- (D) The air was as warm as a blanket.

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

20

Read this sentence.

As Warren and Brad were climbing Mt. Everest, they were looking forward to standing on the summit where the earth meets the sky.

What idea was the author most likely trying to express by saying the summit is where the earth meets the sky?

- A The top of Mt. Everest is the highest point of land in the sky.
- B Warren and Brad wanted to introduce themselves to the sky.
- C The top of Mt. Everest is easy to get to.
- D Everybody should climb Mt. Everest.



Strategic Thinking:

1. Authors and poets like to use figurative language in order to make writing more interesting and/or to create mental pictures for the reader.
2. Instead of reading the words "literally," it may be helpful to ask yourself what idea or image the author was trying to get across to you when they used the figurative expression.
3. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

1	B
2	D
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	D
7	C
8	A
9	D
10	B
11	A
12	C
13	D
14	A
15	C
16	C
17	A
18	D
19	C
20	A