**A Homework Story**

**1** You never know what you will learn when you do your homework, and you may be smarter than you think. My friend told me this interesting story about a math student. One day, the student, George, arrived late for a university math class. When he went in and sat at his desk, he saw that there were two math problems written on the board. He thought that these were homework problems, so he quickly wrote them down. Later, at home, he worked very hard to solve these math problems. They were very difficult and it took him several days. Finally, he took his completed homework to the professor’s office. He apologized for finishing so late. The professor just said to put the homework on his desk.

**2** Early on a Sunday morning about six weeks later, George heard a knock on his front door. It was the professor! He was very excited, and was shouting, “Congratulations!” George was very confused. Finally, he understood what happened. The two problems that were on the board in class were not for homework. They were two famous problems in statistics that no one ever solved! The professor only wrote them on the board as examples of unsolved problems.

**3** Because George was late to class, he didn’t know that the problems were unsolved, and he didn’t think they were impossible. He thought there must be a solution, so he worked until he found it. Of course, the professor was very impressed by George’s intelligence. His solutions to the problems were later published. I think the lesson in this story is to always do your homework!

**Choose the best response.**

1. How many math problems did George solve?
   1. one
   2. two
   3. four
2. Where did George work on the problems?
   1. at his professor’s office
   2. in class
   3. at home
3. How long did it take George to solve the problems?
   1. a few days
   2. a few weeks
   3. a month
4. What didn’t George know about the problems?
   1. They were very difficult.
   2. They were previously unsolved.
   3. They were impossible.

**Monkey Math**

**1** Researchers at Duke University recently tested the math skills of college students and monkeys. Unlike previous experiments, both the monkeys and the humans took the same test. Surprisingly, researchers found that monkeys were almost as accurate as college students in math tasks with addition. The participants (human and monkey) had to quickly add up the number of dots on a screen. The task required them to give a quick estimate of the sum. Both the monkeys and the humans answered in about one second. The humans were correct about 94% of the time, and the monkeys were correct about 76% of the time.

**2** The scientists say that the results show monkeys can do mathematical thinking. Researchers are beginning to understand that the ability to do math is not just a human characteristic. Studying animals’ math skills can help us understand how humans do math. The study also shows that some types of math skills are not learned, but are common to all humans, and some monkeys, too. Previous studies have shown that rats, birds, and other animals can also do simple math tasks.

**Read the inference. Can you make the inference based on the article? Choose A or B.**

1. In earlier experiments, humans and animals did not take the same test.
2. yes
3. no
4. Researchers chose college students because they are very good at math.
5. yes
6. no
7. Monkeys are smarter than rats and birds at doing math.
8. yes
9. no
10. Researchers did not expect monkeys to be as accurate as college students.
    1. yes
    2. no

**Complete the sentence. Choose A, B, or C.**

1. I didn't know how to set up my new computer, so when my brother visited me last weekend, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everything for me.
   1. interacted
   2. certified
   3. installed
2. One \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of my new cell phone is that you can record videos with it.
   1. consequence
   2. feature
   3. item
3. What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ did you use to learn how to play the guitar?
   1. lesson
   2. concept
   3. method