
PART

Reading Comprehension Skills **II**

In each unit, you will work on a different reading skill. The first exercises in each unit are easy. But then they become more difficult. You should do the exercises in order. Do not skip any of the exercises.

Be sure to read the directions before you begin to work. In some of the exercises, you must work with another student. Be sure to do that. You will improve your English that way.

The Answer Key for all units begins on page 259.

UNIT 1

Previewing and Predicting _____

PREVIEWING

Before you start on a trip, you usually look at a map. It helps you plan your way. Then you know what to expect as you travel. This is a good idea in reading, too. Look before you read. Then it is much easier to understand.

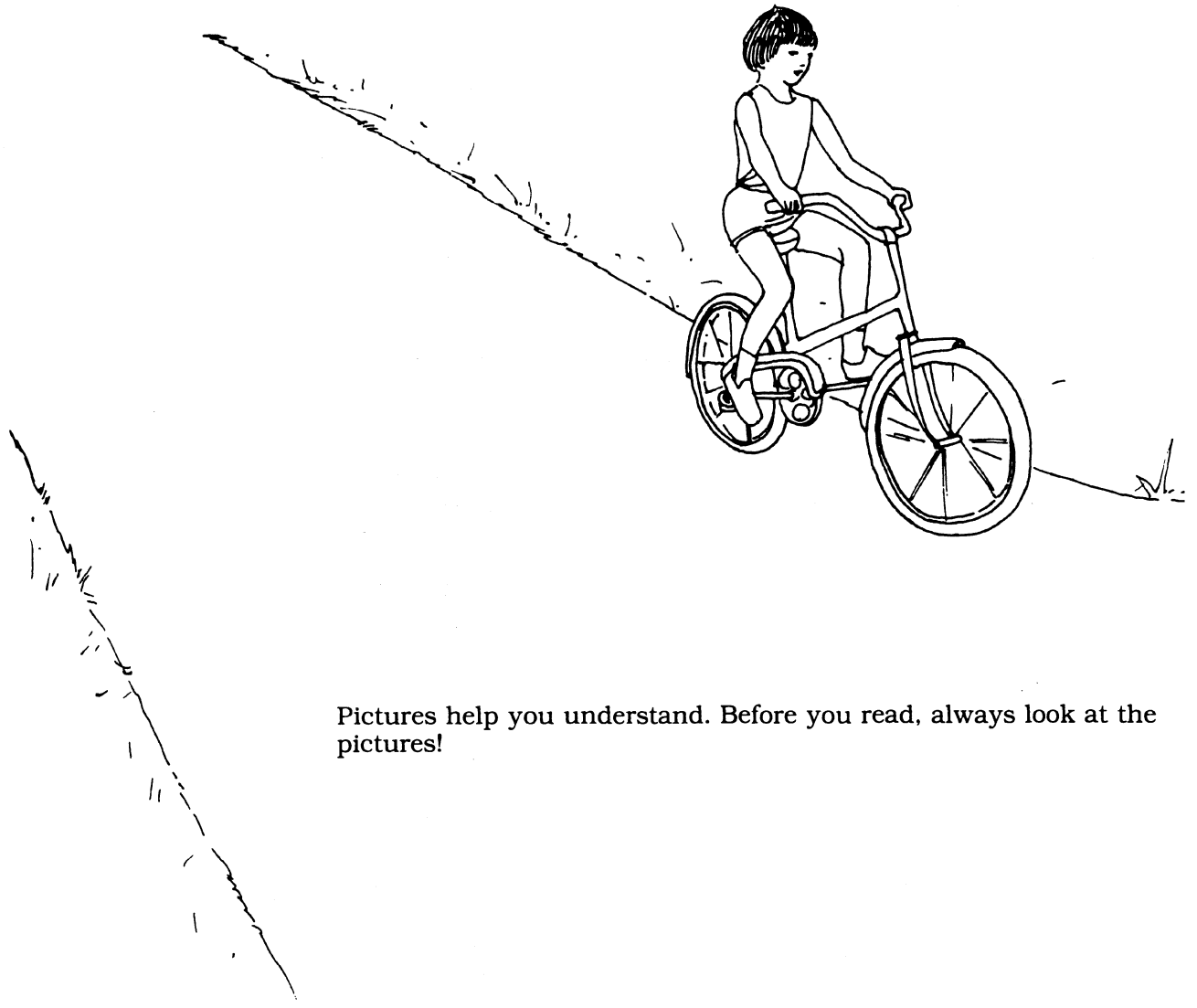
That is what you do when you **PREVIEW**.

Read this passage.

The first time you try it, ask someone to help you. You may fall if no one holds you up. It is a good idea to start on the sidewalk. The street may be dangerous. After you start, do not stop. Try to go faster. That will help you to stay up. Remember, even little children can do this. And once you learn how, you will never forget!

What is this passage about? _____

If you cannot tell, look at the picture on the next page.

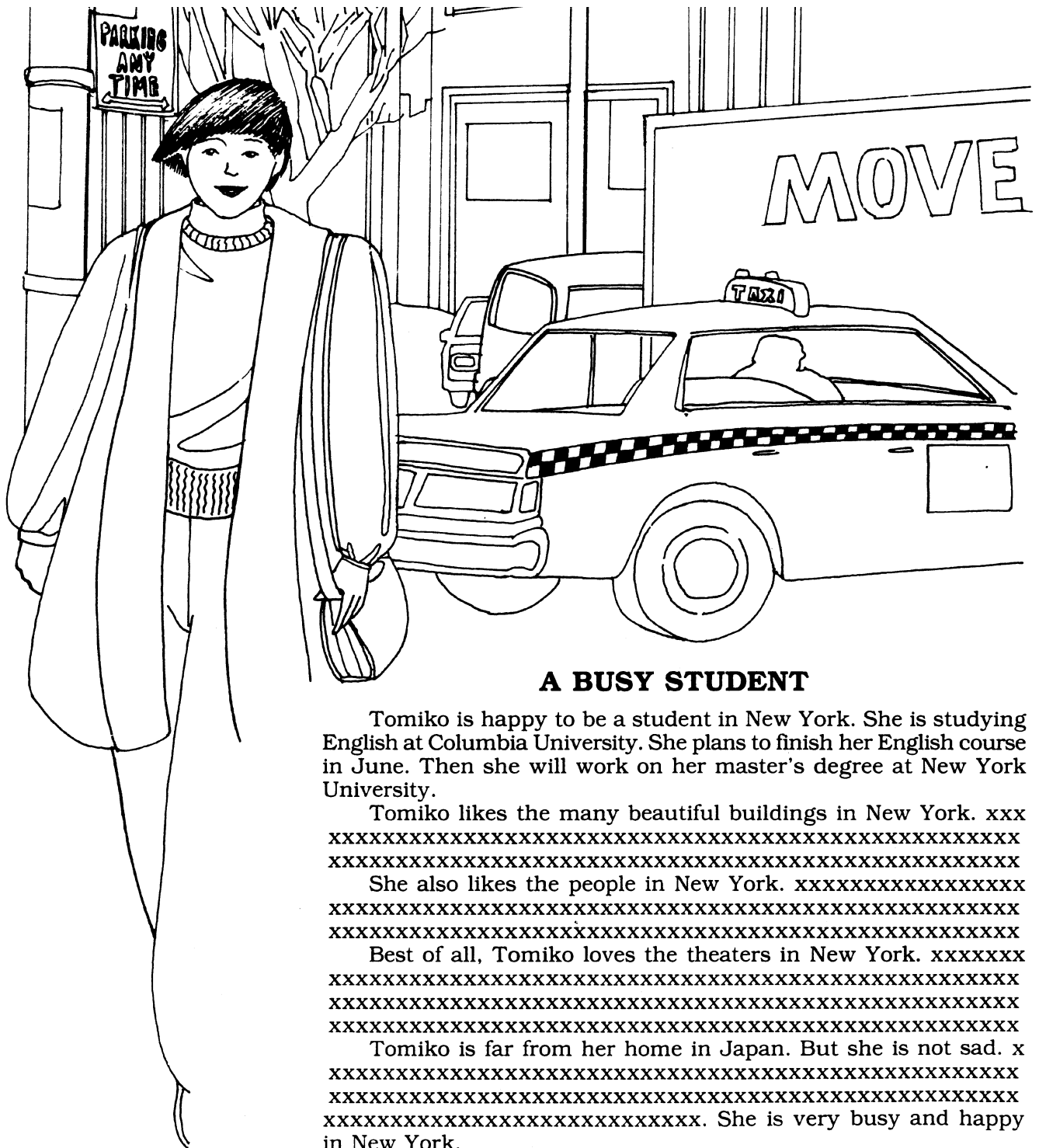


Pictures help you understand. Before you read, always look at the pictures!

How to preview a short passage:

1. Read the title.
2. Look at the pictures (if there are any).
3. Read the first few sentences in the first paragraph.
4. Read the first line of the other paragraphs.
5. Read the last sentence of the last paragraph.
6. Watch for names, dates, and numbers.

Read the passage on the next page. It will help you learn how to preview.



A BUSY STUDENT

Tomiko is happy to be a student in New York. She is studying English at Columbia University. She plans to finish her English course in June. Then she will work on her master's degree at New York University.

Tomiko likes the many beautiful buildings in New York. xxx
 xxx
 xxx

She also likes the people in New York. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 xxx
 xxx

Best of all, Tomiko loves the theaters in New York. xxxxxxxx
 xxx
 xxx
 xxx

Tomiko is far from her home in Japan. But she is not sad. x
 xxx
 xxx
 xxx. She is very busy and happy in New York.

Now turn the page and answer the questions.

Circle the best answer. Don't look back at the passage.

1. This passage is about
 - a. an American student in New York.
 - b. a Japanese student in New York.
 - c. a Japanese student in Japan.
 - d. a Japanese man studying in New York.
2. Tomiko is
 - a. unhappy.
 - b. happy.
 - c. lonely.
 - d. not busy.
3. She goes to plays in
 - a. large theaters.
 - b. small theaters.
 - c. New York.
 - d. all of the above.
4. Tomiko has
 - a. few interests.
 - b. few friends.
 - c. many interests.
 - d. nothing to do.

Now read the whole passage.

Passage A

A BUSY STUDENT

Tomiko is happy to be a student in New York. She is studying English at Columbia University. She plans to finish her English course in June. Then she will work on her master's degree at New York University.

Tomiko likes the many beautiful buildings in New York. In fact, she plans to become an architect. Then she can build great buildings, too.

Tomiko also likes the people in New York City. There are many different kinds of people. They speak many languages. Tomiko has made new friends from other countries.

Best of all, Tomiko loves the theaters in New York. She goes to plays almost every week. Sometimes the plays are in theaters on Broadway. Sometimes the plays are in small theaters in other parts of the city.

Tomiko is far from her home in Japan. But she is not sad. She goes to classes every day. She visits her friends. She goes to see new places. And she attends many plays. She is very busy and happy in New York.

Check your answers in the Answer Key on page 259.

How many did you answer correctly? _____

You can learn a lot about a passage if you read just a few important sentences. This is the reason for **Previewing**.

Previewing is one of the most important reading skills.
You should always preview before you read. You will find that you understand more if you preview first.

Preview this passage. Read only the underlined sentences. You will have 30 seconds to preview.

Passage B

**LANGUAGE LEARNING IN
THE UNITED STATES**

Most people in the United States speak only one language: English. They do not learn to speak a second language. High schools teach languages. But very few students learn to speak well. Why don't Americans speak other languages?

First, most Americans never travel to other countries. The United States is a very large country. Americans can travel a long distance and not leave the United States. They do not need to learn a second language.

Second, one of the countries next to the United States is Canada. Most people in Canada speak English. Some Americans live near Canada. They travel there often. But they do not have to learn a new language.

Third, many people in other parts of the world speak English. If Americans travel to other countries, they can speak English there, too.

Some Americans think that it is a mistake to speak only English. They believe it is very important to learn a second language. Maybe someday other Americans will agree. Then more people will speak a second language in the United States.

Now turn the page and answer the questions.

Circle the best answer. Don't look back at the passage!

1. Most Americans never learn to speak
 - a. English.
 - b. a second language.
 - c. to people in other countries.
 - d. fluently.
2. Most Americans speak only English because
 - a. they can't learn another language.
 - b. they never travel to other countries.
 - c. other languages are not important.
 - d. they don't have language classes in school.
3. In other parts of the world,
 - a. everyone speaks English.
 - b. no one speaks English.
 - c. many people speak English.
 - d. everyone speaks a second language.
4. Some Americans think it is a mistake to
 - a. learn other languages.
 - b. speak only English.
 - c. travel to other countries.
 - d. go to school.

Check your answers in the Answer Key on page 259.

Number correct: _____

Here is one more passage to preview. Remember to follow these steps:

1. Read the title.
2. Look at the pictures if there are any.
3. Read the first few sentences of the first paragraph.
4. Read the first line of all the paragraphs.
5. Read the last sentence in the last paragraph.
6. Watch for names, dates, and numbers.

You will have 30 seconds to preview this passage.

Passage C



BODIES ON ICE

In very cold parts of the world, scientists study the past. They find animals frozen in the ice. The animals look alive, but they are not. They were frozen many years ago.

Russian scientists found a large animal called a mastodon in the ice. It looked like an elephant. But it was larger, and it had lots of hair. In fact, the elephant is the mastodon's younger cousin.

In 1984, American scientists were working near the North Pole. They found the body of a man frozen in the ice. This man went to the North Pole in 1846. He died, and his friends buried him in the ice. Today, his body looks the same. It did not change at all in the ice.

These facts interest doctors. They have some patients who are very sick. No one can help these patients. But some day there may be a new medicine for them. These doctors want to save people for the future. Maybe patients can be frozen until there is medicine to help them.

Answer the questions on the next page. Don't look back!

Circle the best answer. Don't look back!

1. Scientists are studying the past
 - a. in the ice.
 - b. in the laboratory.
 - c. in 1848.
 - d. in Russia.
2. Russian scientists found
 - a. a man in the ice.
 - b. a large animal in the ice.
 - c. it was too cold.
 - d. nothing interesting.
3. American scientists worked
 - a. in Russia.
 - b. in the laboratory.
 - c. near the North Pole.
 - d. with a mastodon.
4. Doctors think frozen bodies
 - a. are too cold.
 - b. are near the North Pole.
 - c. are interesting.
 - d. are mastodons.

Check your answers in the Answer Key on page 259.

Number correct _____


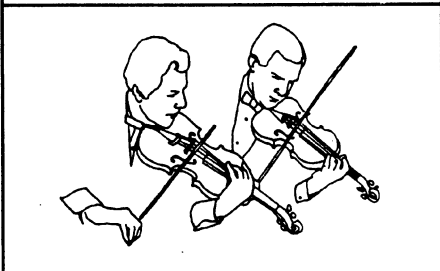


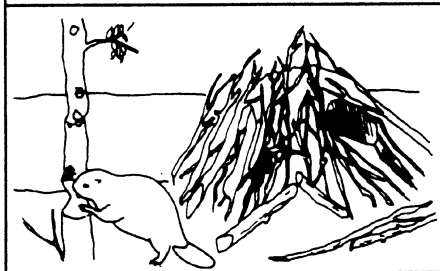
REMEMBER: always preview before you read!

PREDICTING

To *predict* means to tell what will happen. You will be a better reader if you *predict*. As you read, guess what will happen. You can use words and pictures to help you *predict*. Work with another student. The Answer Key is on page 259.

Exercise 1 USING PICTURES TO PREDICT

Find the right story for each picture.

Pictures	Names of stories
1. 	a. Women in Science
2. 	b. How Americans Shop for Food
3. 	c. How Beavers Build Their Homes
4. 	d. When Your Child Goes to the Dentist
5. 	e. The Violin in the Symphony Orchestra

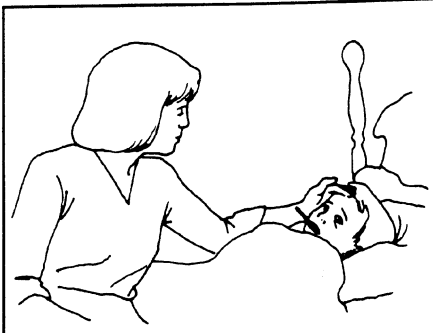
Exercise 2 GUESS WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

Look at each picture. Predict what will happen next. Find the best sentence for each picture. Work with another student.

Pictures

What will happen next?

1. _____



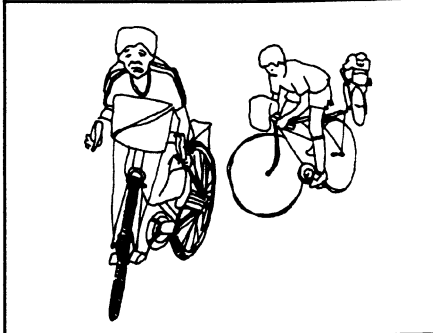
- a. Henry will play with his friends all day.
- OR
- b. Henry will not go to school today.

2. _____



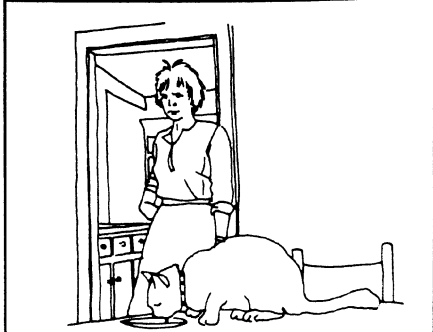
- a. This family will buy tickets.
- OR
- b. This family will meet a friend at the airport.

3. _____



- a. They will stop and rest.
- OR
- b. They will go faster.

4. _____



- a. Mary will give the cat a nice dinner.
- OR
- b. Mary will put the cat outdoors.

Exercise 3

Will you find these ideas in the story? Check Yes or No.

Boston: A Good Place to Live

	Yes	No
1. There are many poor people in Boston.		
2. The spring flowers are beautiful in Boston.		
3. There are many universities in Boston.		
4. Jobs are hard to find in the Boston area.		
5. Winters in Boston are cold and snowy.		
6. Boston City Hall is very beautiful.		
7. There are many famous old buildings in downtown Boston.		
8. People are not very friendly in Boston.		
9. The Charles River flows by the city. People like to walk along the river in the parks.		
10. Apartments are very expensive and hard to find.		

Exercise 4

Will you find these ideas in the story? Check Yes or No.

Modern Dentists: How They Can Help You

	Yes	No
1. Dentists hurt your teeth.		
2. Dentists have many new machines.		
3. Some dentists play the radio for their patients.		
4. Some dentists will pull out all your teeth.		
5. A nurse cleans your teeth at the dentist's office.		
6. The dentist's office is very comfortable.		
7. Dentists want everyone to have healthy teeth.		
8. A visit to the dentist is too expensive.		
9. The dentist may x-ray your teeth.		
10. Modern dentists must study for many years.		

Exercise 5

PREDICTING THE NEXT IDEA

EXAMPLE

Yesterday, there was a big snowstorm in Boston.

Which idea comes next?

- a. It was a warm, sunny day.
- b. It was very cold, but the snow on the trees looked beautiful.
- c. Only one inch of snow fell.

The correct answer is b.

- a. is not correct. It is not warm and sunny in a snowstorm.
- c. is not correct. In a big snowstorm, many inches of snow fall.

Read the sentence. Then tell which idea comes next. Work with another student.

1. There were many good shows on TV last night. The Smith family stayed home.
 - a. They turned off the TV and went to bed early.
 - b. The only interesting show was about traveling by bicycle.
 - c. They saw a play, a music show, and the news.
2. John and Alice Babson are not happy with the school in their town.
 - a. Their children love to go to school.
 - b. The classes are very crowded.
 - c. It is a beautiful building.
3. The roads were covered with ice and were very dangerous today.
 - a. Sam drove home very quickly.
 - b. Sam took a long time to drive home.
 - c. Sam enjoyed driving home.
4. Boston is a nice place to live in, but New York City is more fun.
 - a. New York is a very dangerous city.
 - b. There are many interesting things to do in New York.
 - c. There are no good restaurants in New York.
5. Fly Happy Time Airlines! Take an exciting trip to Holiday Island.
 - a. This trip is very expensive.
 - b. Holiday Island has warm, sunny weather.
 - c. Happy Time Airlines is never on time.
6. Alex had trouble falling asleep last night. He was awake until 3 a.m.
 - a. This morning, he feels rested and ready to work.
 - b. This morning, he is very hungry.
 - c. This morning, he feels very tired.

7. Dr. Hammond was busy with his patients all day. He did not have time for lunch.
 - a. He may not be hungry at dinner time.
 - b. He had a very easy day.
 - c. He will be very hungry at dinner time.

8. Judy and Alan moved to a new apartment near the university.
 - a. Now they need a car to drive to class.
 - b. Now they can walk to class every day.
 - c. Now they will not be near the university library.

9. Max works all day in a shoe store. At night, he takes business classes at the university.
 - a. Max wants to have his own business some day.
 - b. Max has lots of free time.
 - c. Max is not very busy.

10. "Eat at Joe's Diner! We serve breakfast from 6 to 10!"
 - a. No one likes the breakfasts at Joe's!
 - b. And the breakfast costs only \$1.00!
 - c. The food is cold and the service is slow!