

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS**

Read the text and then answer the questions.

How do people hear? Look in a mirror, and you will see that your ears are shaped a little like a funnel. That shape *amplifies* sounds you hear, which means it makes them louder. Those sounds travel in waves from your outer ear (the part that you can see) into a tiny tube called the *ear canal*. At the end of the ear canal is your eardrum.

When sounds reach your eardrum, they make it *vibrate*, or move back and forth. On the other side of your eardrum are the three smallest bones in your body. They are in your middle ear. When your eardrum vibrates, those three bones also vibrate. One of them pushes on the *oval window*. That is a special covering for your inner ear. When the oval window gets pushed in and out, it causes vibrations in a special fluid in your inner ear. That vibration is sent to special nerve cells. Those nerve cells tell your brain what you are hearing.

1. What is this text about?

- (A) It is about bones in the human body.  
 (B) It is about how people hear.  
 (C) It is about eardrums.  
 (D) It is about the human brain.

2. Which of these happens first when a person hears something?

- (A) The oval window gets pushed in and out.  
 (B) The eardrum vibrates.  
 (C) Nerve cells tell your brain what is heard.  
 (D) Sound is amplified in the outer ear.

3. Which word means to *move back and forth*?

- (A) amplify  
 (B) pushes  
 (C) vibrate  
 (D) eardrum

4. Which is a synonym for *fluid*?

- (A) liquid  
 (B) eardrum  
 (C) oval window  
 (D) funnel

5. Which word refers to making sound louder?

- (A) vibrate  
 (B) amplify  
 (C) cover  
 (D) nerve

**SCORE**

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

\_\_\_ / 5

**Total**

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1. (Y) (N)

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\_\_\_ / 5

**Total**

Sounds can be loud or soft; they can also have a high or low pitch. So when we measure sound, we measure its loudness and its pitch. The loudness of a sound is measured in *decibels* (dB). For example, when you speak in a normal voice, the sound you make is about 60–70 dB. A rock band’s performance generates about 100–120 dB of sound. It is important not to listen for a long time to very loud sounds; they can damage your hearing.

The pitch of a sound tells us how fast the sound waves are vibrating. High-pitched sounds such as violin music make sound waves that vibrate very quickly. Low-pitched sounds such as large drums make sound waves that vibrate slowly. We measure the *frequency*, or speed, of those sound waves in *hertz* (Hz). The higher the pitch of the sound, the more quickly the sound waves move up and down. The lower the pitch, the more slowly the sound waves move up and down.

1. What do we know about sound based on the first sentence of the text?

- (A) It is measured in hertz.
- (B) It is measured in decibels.
- (C) It can damage your hearing.
- (D) Sounds vary.

2. What parts of a sound can be measured?

- (A) loudness and pitch
- (B) violin and drum
- (C) motorcycle and voice
- (D) waves and pitch

3. Which is the root word in *frequency*?

- (A) quench
- (B) freckle
- (C) free
- (D) frequent

4. Which word is a sound measurement?

- (A) violins
- (B) frequency
- (C) vibrate
- (D) decibels

5. Which is a synonym for *damage*?

- (A) improve
- (B) harm
- (C) measure
- (D) create

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**DIRECTIONS**

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Have you ever had your hearing tested? Hearing tests let you know the range in the volume of sounds you hear. They also let your doctor and your parents know if you have difficulty hearing. Here is how a hearing test works: The school nurse or a doctor has you wear a special set of headphones. Then, you hear a series of *tones*, or sounds. The nurse or doctor directs you to raise your hand or press a button whenever you hear a sound. Some of the sounds are very soft, and some are louder. That helps to measure the decibel levels you can hear. Some of the tones are low-pitched, and some are high-pitched. That helps to measure the frequencies you can hear. If you cannot hear sounds that you should be able to hear, the hearing test will show that. Then you, your parents, and your doctor can decide what to do for your hearing.

**1.** Which picture would tell a reader more about this text?

- (A) a picture of an ear
- (B) a picture of a musical note
- (C) a picture of a person taking a hearing test
- (D) a picture of a raised hand

**2.** What is the main idea?

- (A) Hearing tests let your doctor and parents know if you have trouble hearing.
- (B) During a test, you hear a series of tones.
- (C) Some sounds are low-pitched, and some are high-pitched.
- (D) Hearing tests require people to wear a special set of headphones.

**3.** Using context clues, which word is the measurement of volume?

- (A) frequencies
- (B) decibel
- (C) headphones
- (D) tones

**4.** Which word refers to low-pitched or high-pitched tones?

- (A) decibels
- (B) headphones
- (C) buttons
- (D) frequencies

**5.** What is a *series*?

- (A) a hearing test
- (B) a tone
- (C) a group of things in order
- (D) a number

**SCORE**

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

\_\_\_ / 5

**Total**

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## A DIFFERENT KIND OF LANGUAGE

When you use language, you say words and the person you are speaking to hears what you say. Then, that person can respond to you. But some people do not hear very well—some people cannot hear at all. People who do not hear are deaf. Because they are unable to hear sound, they don't use spoken language. Instead, they use sign language. In the United States, the sign language many deaf people use is called *American Sign Language* (ASL). ASL is a very common language. In fact, in America, only English and Spanish are more common. Deaf children learn ASL just as children who can hear learn a spoken language.

ASL is a language just as English and Spanish are languages, but ASL uses hand signs and facial expressions instead of spoken words. For example, when you want to say the words *please* or *yes*, you pronounce them aloud, but in ASL, there are special signs for these words. You can learn these signs yourself. To say *please* in ASL, put the palm of your hand on your chest. Now, keeping your hand flat, make a circle with your palm. You have just made the ASL sign for *please*. To say *yes* in ASL, make a fist and then gently move your fist up and down as if it were a head nodding. You have made the ASL sign for *yes*.

Are you interested in learning more ASL? You have several options for learning. Some schools offer ASL classes. There are also online ASL classes that can help you to acquire the language. You can ask your parents about signing up for classes. There are also online ASL dictionaries and pictures. If you decide to learn ASL, you will want to practice every day. That way, you will get better and better at using signs. If you do, you will learn to communicate in a whole new way!



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**DIRECTIONS**

Read "A Different Kind of Language" and then answer the questions.

**1.** How do ASL and English compare?

- (A) They are both languages.
- (B) They both use spoken words.
- (C) They both use signs and facial expressions instead of words.
- (D) They are both languages without sounds.

**2.** Which is **not** a fact about ASL?

- (A) It is offered in classes.
- (B) It is a common language.
- (C) It is not very common.
- (D) It uses hand signs and facial expressions.

**3.** Which could be a purpose for reading this text?

- (A) to learn about new languages
- (B) to become an expert in ASL
- (C) to learn facts about ASL
- (D) to learn about deafness

**4.** What inference can be made about online ASL dictionaries?

- (A) They are guides to pronouncing ASL signs.
- (B) They have pictures of people using ASL signs.
- (C) They offer a way to hear ASL.
- (D) They include syllable guides to ASL signs.

**5.** Which of the following is likely the author's opinion?

- (A) ASL is too hard to learn.
- (B) ASL is an interesting language.
- (C) ASL is exactly like English.
- (D) ASL is boring.

**6.** Which would be the most helpful way to practice ASL signs?

- (A) Practice with people who know ASL.
- (B) Listen to people using ASL.
- (C) Use a sound recorder and then listen to it yourself.
- (D) Read about the history of ASL.

**7.** Why do people with deafness need a language with hand signs?

- (A) They cannot learn ASL.
- (B) They cannot see facial expressions.
- (C) They need a language that they can hear.
- (D) They cannot hear spoken words.

**8.** A person can learn ASL signs if they understand

- (A) how to ride a bike.
- (B) how to write.
- (C) how to walk.
- (D) how to use words.

**SCORE**

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

7. (Y) (N)

8. (Y) (N)

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**Total**

