

ISEE Middle Level Reading Comprehension Practice Test Questions

The ISEE Independent School Entrance Examination Middle Level Reading Comprehension section contains six reading passages. The passage includes topics related to history, science, literature and contemporary life. The strategy to answer the question is to read the passage first to get an overall view to understand the main idea, facts and details.

Reading Comprehension

1 It is often said that elephants are particularly 14 Yet the belief that elephants have a
2 afraid of mice. But there is abundant evidence 15 particular fear of mice is very persistent. Many
3 that this is not the case. According to the 16 years ago, a popular writer asserted that
4 director of the National Zoological Park in 17 elephants are afraid of mice because small
5 Washington, D.C., the elephants in the zoo pay 18 mouse-like animals found in their wild haunts
6 no attention whatever to the many mice that 19 sometimes crawl up the trunks of the huge
7 up in the elephants' hay. Nor is there any 20 beasts when they are feeding and dig their
8 evidence that elephants in the wild exhibit any 21 claws
9 particular fear of mice. Of course it is quite 22 into the elephants' trunks. The elephants
10 possible that individual elephants may have 23 become frantic and blow violently but are
11 such a fear, but most zoologists who have 24 unable to dislodge the mice. This story, which
12 experience with wild elephants say that their 25 has captured the imaginations of many, is
13 two greatest fears are dogs and human beings.

The main purpose of this passage is to

- (A) show that most elephants are afraid of dogs.
- (B) argue that a myth about elephants is not true.

- Ⓒ explain why the elephant's trunk is so sensitive.
- Ⓓ imply that elephants are more fearful than people.

Which statement about elephants' fears is best supported by the passage?

- Ⓐ Not all elephants fear the same things.
- Ⓑ Elephants fear only what they have seen.
- Ⓒ Elephants never fear anything larger than they are.
- Ⓓ Elephants fear one thing in the wild, another in captivity.

According to the passage, most elephants react to mice with

- Ⓐ affection.
- Ⓑ disgust.
- Ⓒ indifference.
- Ⓓ panic.

In line 16, the word "asserted" most nearly means

- Ⓐ claimed.
- Ⓑ discovered.
- Ⓒ feared.
- Ⓓ proved.

Which phrase means most nearly the same as "found in their wild haunts" (line 18)?

- Ⓐ pursued by wild elephants
- Ⓑ hunting wildly for elephants to torment
- Ⓒ living in the wild where the elephants live

Ⓓ came across the elephants when they were acting wild

Which best describes the way the passage is organized?

Ⓐ A series of contradictory examples is presented.

Ⓑ A series of problems is stated with no solutions given.

Ⓒ A popular view is challenged by presenting evidence contradicting that view.

Ⓓ An opinion is stated in the second sentence and reversed in the last sentence.