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Introduction

An inference is a conclusion based on evidence and knowledge. This book teaches students what an inference is and how to make good inferences based on evidence and knowledge. It will also help students improve critical reading and higher level thinking skills. Before students begin making inferences, it is important to lead them through the brief lessons in the beginning of the book. Readers in grades one and two will become familiar with making inferences as they read.

What is an Inference

An inference is a conclusion based on evidence and knowledge. Study each picture below and read each sentence. Using what you know and what you have experienced, complete each sentence.

Example:



Rob did not go to school today, because he was not feeling well.

I know this because he has a thermometer in his mouth.



1. Paula didn't want to get _____ when she walked to her friend's house.

I know this because she has an _____.



2. Today is someone's _____.

I know this because _____
_____.



3. The baby birds are waiting for their mother to _____.

I know this because _____
_____.



4. It was _____ outside when Barb walked her dog.

I know this because _____
_____.

Feelings

Use your knowledge and evidence to infer how each person feels in each sentence below. Find your answer in the choice box, and write it on the blank line. Each answer can only be used once.

- | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| scared | frustrated | tired | proud | surprised | excited |
| | disappointed | embarrassed | jealous | sick | |

- When the football player scored a touchdown, Sam jumped out of his seat and yelled, "Hurray!" _____
- After trying to solve the math problem over and over, Rosa put her head down on her desk and sighed. _____
- Our puppy, Sophie, started shaking when she heard the thunder. _____
- When Mike finally learned to ride his bike, he couldn't stop smiling. _____
- Grandpa said he didn't get much sleep last night. _____
- Larry opened his birthday present and grinned, because he didn't expect a puppy. _____
- The first graders knew there would be no recess when they heard the thunder. _____
- Barb thought it wasn't fair that her older sister was allowed to go to the movies with a friend and Barb wasn't. _____
- Dad took some medicine and laid down to take a nap. _____
- On my first day of school I needed help, but I didn't ask for it. _____

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What Will Happen Next?

Read each sentence. Below each sentence, read the three choices for your answer. Use your knowledge and evidence to infer what will happen next. Circle the sentence you have chosen.

1. Sue carried a backpack and waved as she walked out the door.
 - a. The girl will go shopping.
 - b. The girl will take her dog for a walk.
 - c. The girl will wait for the school bus in front of her house.
2. The boy carried a trumpet down the hall at school.
 - a. The boy will go to the lunchroom.
 - b. The boy is on his way to band practice.
 - c. The boy is going to play the trumpet at recess.
3. Two children talked and giggled at the library.
 - a. The children will roll on the floor laughing.
 - b. The librarian will tell them to leave the library.
 - c. The librarian will remind them that the library is a quiet place.
4. The little girl walked with her dad as he pushed a shopping cart.
 - a. The child will pay for the food in the cart.
 - b. The child will help her dad find the food and put it in the cart.
 - c. The child will taste the food.
5. A girl and a boy each carried a bucket and a shovel on the beach.
 - a. The girl and boy will go jump in the waves.
 - b. The girl and boy will sit under a beach umbrella.
 - c. The girl and boy will make a sandcastle.
6. We saw a lady buying yarn at a craft store today.
 - a. The lady will cut up the yarn and glue the pieces on a piece of paper.
 - b. The lady will make a blanket to put on her bed.
 - c. The lady will make a leash for her dog.
7. Three kids were each rolling a snowball to make it bigger
 - a. The children will throw the big balls of snow at each other.
 - b. The children will carry the huge balls of snow into the house.
 - c. The children will make a snowman.
8. A girl dressed up like a witch walked down our street.
 - a. The girl will run down the street scaring people.
 - b. The girl will fly into the sky on her broomstick.
 - c. The girl will go trick or treating.

Mick

Read the story. Use your knowledge and evidence to infer the answers below.

Our new puppy, Mick, is black and white, and he fits in my backpack. He's a happy dog, and he makes us laugh. If you ask him a question, he tilts his head. He always does this when you start a question with "Mick, do you want to...?"

Mick spends a lot of time looking out the windows. He also wanders around the house looking at everything. Sometimes, we have to search for him. My little sister, Sherry, likes looking for Mick when he hides. One day, Mom, Dad, Sherry, and I went to the beach for the day.

When we got home, Mick jumped up and down. He ran to each one of us so we would pet him. Then, he sniffed our beach towels and our beach bags. After being at the beach, we all needed showers. We took turns using the bathrooms. When I was finished with my shower, I went into the kitchen to help Mom with dinner.

Sherry came in the kitchen and asked me, "Sam, do you know where my teddy bears are?" I told Sherry that I hadn't seen her teddy bears for a long time. "What about my little race cars? Have you seen them?" I asked. "No, Sam!" Sherry said.

Mom and Dad looked at each other. Mom said, "My tiny pillows from the living room are missing." Dad's eyes got big. He said, "Sherry, where is your cozy blanket?"

Sherry said, "You mean my baby blanket? I don't know!"

"Wait a minute! "Where's Mick?" Dad said. We looked and looked but couldn't find him. "He really likes your room, Mom and Dad, so let's look there!" I said.

We walked into the bedroom and looked around. "No Mick!" I said. Then, I saw a black and white tail sticking out from under Mom's side of the bed. We peeked under the bed. Mick was curled up on the missing blanket. He rested his head on one of the missing pillows. Sherry's teddy bears and my race cars were scattered around Mick.

"Look! Mick has his own apartment under the bed!" Sherry said. We all giggled. Now, when something is missing, Mom says, "Be sure you look in Mick's apartment!"

- The reader infers that Mick is curious because he _____
_____.
- When the family returned home from the beach, Mick jumped up and down and wanted everyone to pet him. Mick showed that he is _____
to see the family.
- _____ probably likes to play hide and seek because
_____.
- I think Mick is a small dog because _____.
- I know Mick is comfortable under Mom's bed because _____
_____.

What Will Happen Next?

Read each sentence. Use your knowledge and evidence to infer what will happen next. Choose your answer from the choice box.

shoe store	library	theater	high school	elementary school
park	playground	airplane	dentist	principal

1. Josh closed his eyes and imagined looking out the window at the blue sky below. Josh is going on an _____.
2. Peggy had been waiting for so long to see this funny movie about a family with five dogs. Peggy is going to the _____.
3. Bob and Sandy packed a lunch and found a blanket to use for their picnic. They're going to the _____.
4. For the past couple of days Tom brushed his teeth and flossed carefully. Tom is going to the _____ soon.
5. Two third grade boys were fighting in the lunchroom. Now, they are on their way to see the _____.
6. Lori looked at her books and saw that they were overdue. Lori will ask her mother to drive her to the _____.
7. Mike's mom looked at his sneakers and said, "Those sneakers are worn out. You can't wear them to gym class." Mike and his mom will make a trip to a _____.
8. Suzy gathered all her school supplies and looked forward to going to third grade. Soon, Suzy will get on the bus and go to her _____.
9. Rosie couldn't wait to go down the slide and swing on the swings. Rosie and her dad are going to go to the _____.
10. Mark and Sally hoped that the teenagers at their new school would be friendly. Mark and Sally are going to a _____.

More Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings. For example, **for** and **four** are spelled differently and have different meanings. I waited **for** you to call me. My little sister is **four** years old. Use your knowledge and evidence to infer which word belongs in each sentence below. Write the correct word on the line.

1. I will be _____ years old tomorrow. (**ate, eight**)
2. Do you _____ the names of the nine planets? (**know, no**)
3. Our car wouldn't start, so a man had to _____ it away. (**toe, tow**)
4. We dug a _____ in our yard so we could plant a tree.
(**hole, whole**)
5. "Should _____ pack my suitcase for the trip?" I asked. (**eye, I**)
6. The team cheered when they _____ the soccer game. (**won, one**)
7. Janet tried to untie the _____ in her shoe laces. (**not, knot**)
8. Will you _____ to me when you're away at camp? (**right, write**)
9. In class, I had to read _____ from my math book.
(**aloud, allowed**)
10. The airplane flew _____ into the sky. (**high, hi**)
11. Mom says I always _____ when it's time for bed.
(**grown, groan**)
12. Lee asked his mom to _____ him new sneakers. (**by, buy**)
13. Would you like a bowl of _____ for lunch? (**chilly, chili**)
14. I watched the ship _____ across the lake. (**sail, sale**)
15. Did you know a basement is also called a _____? (**seller, cellar**)