

Introduce yourself.

Read and Summarize these paragraphs. Then answer the True or False questions.

--A truck was **overloaded** and turned over as it negotiated a tight turn. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The truck lay on its side **obstructing** both lanes of traffic. The police arrived, but there was nothing they could do. There was nowhere for the traffic to go. The road was narrow and there were **steep ditches** on both sides. The **wrecker** arrived, but it wasn't big enough to lift the truck. Eventually a truck with a **crane** arrived and lifted the truck back **upright**. Meanwhile, traffic had **backed up** for miles. It took hours to clear out.

T or F

1. People died.
2. The truck was empty.
3. The police could do nothing.
4. The truck was down in the ditch.
5. The road was narrow.
6. The wrecker couldn't help.
7. The crane saved the day.
8. Traffic was backed up for miles.

--Nancy Lawlor collects **bouquets**--flowers from hotels and weddings and corporate events. Then she gives them away to people in need, often **breaking down** larger bouquets so there's more to go around. She calls her **nonprofit** organization Flower Power. She got started when noticing beautiful flowers that had been set up for a **convention**. She asked what would happen to the flowers when the convention was over. She was told they would go to the **dumpster**. She offered to take them. She made them into hundreds of small bouquets and delivered them to hospital patients. She loves to see the patients cheer up as she hands them a bouquet of beautiful flowers.

T or F

1. Nancy collects flowers that are no longer needed.
2. She sells them to poor people.
3. She puts smaller bouquets together into larger ones.
4. She delivers them to hospital patients.
5. Most patients don't want flowers because they are allergic to them.

--A couple in California got a huge surprise last year while they were walking in their garden. They found over 1,000 gold coins under a tree. The coins are worth over \$10 million. They counted 1,427 coins. They are all in mint condition. The coins are from the period 1847 to 1894. Some of them are very rare and could be worth up to \$1 million each. The couple said they were walking their dog and they saw some rusty cans sticking out of the ground under an old oak tree. When they dug down, they were shocked at what they found.

T or F

1. A couple found some buried money on the beach.

2. The coins aren't worth much because they are so old and in poor condition.
3. The couple saw some rusty cans sticking out of the ground.
4. Dig up and dig down mean the same thing.

--Britain will soon ban smoking in cars with children. Britain's government wants to reduce the harm cigarette smoke does to children. When children are in a car with smoke, they inhale it into their lungs. This is called passive smoking. Many studies say passive smoking is almost as harmful as actually smoking a cigarette. The British government said it looked at research that found children who sat in smoke-filled cars had health problems. Britain's leader David Cameron said the problem is particularly bad in cars because there is so little space, so the car fills with smoke very quickly. The new law will make it illegal for anyone to smoke in a car that has a child in it.

T or F

1. Britain will ban smoking in cars.
2. Passive smoke is not dangerous.
3. Smoke is worse in cars because the smoke fills the small space quickly.
4. Children who sit in smoke-filled cars have fewer health problems.

—If I could be 18 again, what would I do differently? That's easy. I would focus more on following my own dreams and worry less about doing what other people think I should do. When I was in high school, I loved my drama classes. I performed in several plays and fell in love with acting. I planned on focusing on theatre in college. However, my father felt like that would be a bad choice. He said the number of people who actually make money from acting is very small. He insisted I major in something that would provide me with a paycheck each month. I ended up majoring in business. I've worked in business management for the last twenty years. Yes, I make a good salary and can afford a nice apartment and nice car, but I hate my job. I feel like I have wasted a big part of my life doing something that bores me. I'm thinking about quitting my job and moving to Los Angeles. If I get an agent, I might get some acting jobs. I might not make much money, but I would be doing something I really love.

T or F

1. He wishes he had taken his father's advice.
2. In high school, he loved acting.
3. In college he wanted to major in business.
4. His father stressed majoring in something that would pay well.
5. He loves his job in business management.
6. He can't afford a nice car and apartment.
7. He is thinking about moving to L.A. to pursue acting.

Which one of these stories did you enjoy the most?

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever found anything valuable in an unlikely place?
2. How do you feel about banning smoking around children? Are there other things that should be banned besides smoking?
3. Complete this sentence: If I could be 18 again, I would...