

Day 1

What is your favorite season of the year? If you said winter, you are one of the few people who feel that way. Only seven percent of people say they like winter best, making it the least popular season of all. Winter is often cold, and many people dislike dealing with snow and ice. While a gentle snowfall might be rather nice to see, some winter storms are wretched. The worst of these, by far, is the blizzard. The combination of snow, driving wind and dangerous cold disrupts life and puts people at risk. If you live in an area that sees a lot of cold winter weather, it is essential to know about blizzards. While many people enjoy some winter weather, blizzards can create deadly situations.

1. What does wretched mean?
 - a. pleasant
 - b. miserable
 - c. calm
2. What does essential mean?
 - a. important
 - b. basic
 - c. optional
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is a blizzard?
 - a. A gentle snowfall that occurs during winter.
 - b. Any type of precipitation that falls during winter.
 - c. A dangerous storm that involves strong wind and very cold temperatures.

Day 2

Many people think that a blizzard is any winter storm that brings deep snow and lots of ice. A blizzard is actually a winter storm with sustained winds of at least 35 miles per hour. Those sustained winds can create a whiteout. A whiteout is induced by snow blowing around in the air which limits visibility. Even if there is no snow with the storm, strong winds can lift snow from previous storms, making it very hard to see. This is known as a ground blizzard. The inability to see the surrounding area is one of the biggest perils people face in a blizzard. People have even gotten lost in their own yards during blizzards because they couldn't see their front door.

1. What does induced mean?
 - a. caused
 - b. prevented
 - c. maintained
2. What does perils mean?
 - a. joys
 - b. dangers
 - c. commons
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about today's passage?
 - a. Driving during a blizzard can be incredibly dangerous.
 - b. Driving during a blizzard is easy if the driver is careful.
 - c. People travel as usual during most

Day 3

In order for a storm to be considered a blizzard, the winds must be sustained for three hours. Many storms bring fast winds, snow, and cold temperatures. However, if they last less than three hours, they don't qualify as a blizzard. Three hours or more of sustained blizzard conditions is dangerous. Anyone caught outside in such a storm runs the risk of frostbite or worse. For a long time, it wasn't clear how blizzards form. Due to current weather monitoring stations and satellites, experts can track the development of storms. This allows experts to predict blizzards with greater accuracy. When it is clear where the trajectory of the storm will take it, people can be warned so they can prepare by shopping for supplies.

1. What does sustained mean?
 - a. brief
 - b. trickle
 - c. continuous
2. What does trajectory mean?
 - a. path
 - b. weather
 - c. power
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the main idea of today's passage?
 - a. Not all winter storms qualify as blizzards, which are very dangerous storms.
 - b. People should be very serious about preparing for blizzards.
 - c. For many years, it was unclear how blizzards develop.

Day 4

When conditions made it seem possible for a blizzard to form, the National Weather Service used to issue a blizzard watch. This meant that a blizzard was possible, although it was not conclusive that one would form. The name of the warning has recently been changed and is now called a winter storm warning. When it is clear that a blizzard has formed and is on its way, the National Weather Service issues a blizzard warning. This tells people to take steps to close schools and businesses. It also alerts road and repair crews that people will be in need of their services. People are encouraged to refrain from traveling during a blizzard because it is so dangerous. Even airports close because it is dangerous to fly in a blizzard.

1. What does conclusive mean?
 - a. delay
 - b. certain
 - c. possible
2. What does refrain mean?
 - a. avoid
 - b. continue
 - c. repeat
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. Which of the following statements about blizzards is correct?
 - a. A blizzard warning means that a blizzard could possibly form.
 - b. Most people ignore blizzard warnings.
 - c. Blizzard warnings are serious signs that dangerous weather is coming.

Day 5

Modern conveniences like electricity and gas are helpful during storms. However, people should still prepare for blizzards in case those modern conveniences fail. Electrical services can fail due to sustained high winds and ice. Good emergency supplies to have on hand include candles, flashlights, and batteries. Blankets, warm clothing, and hand-warmers are also important to have on hand because if people lose power during a blizzard, indoor temperatures can become dangerously cold. Having a source of heat that doesn't require electricity is ideal. A battery-powered weather radio is important for keeping up with information about the storm. People are also advised to have a good supply of food at home since travel will be limited. In case of loss of power, it is also important that people have canned food that doesn't need to be cooked.

While snow can be very fun to play in, most people find blizzards to be miserable to deal with. Blizzards are a combination of some of the worst parts of winter, and they can be incredibly dangerous as well. Thanks to modern warning systems, they are less dangerous now. Years ago, people were surprised by blizzards, but this is no longer the case. Advanced warning systems give people a chance to prepare. With a good blizzard survival plan, people can ride out the storm as comfortably as possible.

1. What does conveniences mean?

- a. services
- b. deals
- c. companies

2. What does ideal mean?

- a. optional
- b. best
- c. impossible

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write a summary of today's passage.

Answer Key

Day 1

1. b
2. a
4. c

Day 2

1. a
2. b
4. a

Day 3

1. c
2. a
4. a

Day 4

1. b
2. a
4. c

Day 5

1. a
2. b
4. Answers will vary