

Name _____
Date _____

The New Law

In this passage, Rodolfo and Chen talk about a new law.

Rodolfo: Hey Chen, have you heard about the new law that makes it illegal to talk on a mobile phone while driving?

Chen: Yeah, I have.

Rodolfo: Well, what do you think about it?

Chen: I like it. I think it will make driving safer.

Rodolfo: How will it do that?

Chen: It will make drivers concentrate on the road and not on their phones. Talking on the phone while driving can be very dangerous.

Rodolfo: I guess that's true.

Chen: Well, what do you think about it?

Rodolfo: I don't like the new law.

Chen: Really? Why?

Rodolfo: Because I want to be able to talk on my mobile phone while I drive. Now that it's illegal, I don't talk to my mother anymore.

Chen: You don't?

Rodolfo: No. Before, I used to talk to her for hours. Now I never do. See, I commute to work. Each morning I drive an hour to work. Each evening I drive an hour back home. I used to talk to my mom during my commute. Now I never do.

Chen: You can't talk to her when you get home?

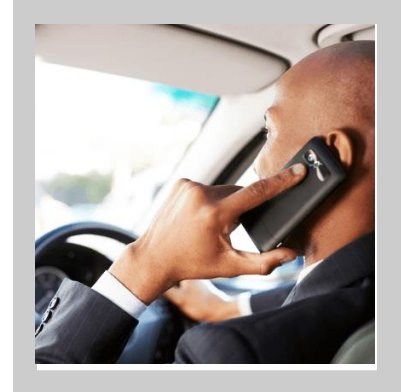
Rodolfo: No.

Chen: How come?

Rodolfo: Because I have other things to do. I have to clean the house, make dinner for my kids, do the laundry, and prepare for the next day at work. When I'm not doing those things, I like to relax. Sometimes I read. Sometimes I watch a movie.

Chen: Talking to your mom isn't relaxing?

Rodolfo: No way! Conversations with my mom are intense!



1) Which word describes Rodolfo best?

- A. safe
- B. young
- C. busy
- D. lazy

2) How many children does Rodolfo have?

- A. two
- B. three
- C. five
- D. The passage does not give this information.

3) What is one thing Rodolfo does to relax?

- A. He plays video games.
- B. He reads.
- C. He does the laundry.
- D. He makes dinner.

4) What is the MAIN question discussed in this passage?

- A. How often should you talk to your mother?
- B. What is the best way to relax after work?
- C. Is okay to talk on the phone while driving?
- D. When is the best time to be out on the road?

5) As used at the end of the passage, it can be understood that the word **intense** belongs to which word group?

- A. hard, difficult, stressful
- B. amusing, playful, fun
- C. easy, relaxing, calming
- D. dull, tiresome, boring

6) What are your feelings on the new law in the passage? Are you for it or against it? Why? Explain.

Answers and Explanations

1) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In the middle of the passage, Rodolfo explains to Chen all the things he has to do in a day. Rodolfo says, “Each morning I drive an hour to work. Each evening I drive an hour back home. I used to talk to my mom during my commute. Now I never do.” When Chen asks why Rodolfo can’t talk to his mother when he gets home, Rodolfo answers, “Because I have other things to do. I have to clean the house, make dinner for my kids, do the laundry, and prepare for the next day at work. When I’m not doing those things, I like to relax. Sometimes I read. Sometimes I watch a movie.” Based on all the things that Rodolfo has to do in a day, we can understand that he does not have very much free time. If he does not talk to his mother while driving, he has no other time to call her. Since Rodolfo does not have very much free time, we can describe him as busy. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Before the new law, Rodolfo talked on his mobile phone while driving. Chen says, “Talking on the phone while driving can be very dangerous.” Since Rodolfo chose to do something that can be very dangerous, we cannot describe him as safe. This eliminates **(A)**.

The passage does not give any information about Rodolfo’s age (aside from the fact that he has a job and kids). This means we cannot tell if he is young or not. Therefore choice **(B)** is incorrect.

The passage does not provide information to support choice **(D)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

2) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

Rodolfo talks about his children once, near the end of the passage. He says, “I have to clean the house, make dinner for my kids, do the laundry, and prepare for the next day at work.” Since he says “kids” instead of “kid,” we know he has more than one child. But not enough information is provided to answer the question of exactly how many children Rodolfo has. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) B

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

Near the end of the passage, Rodolfo says, “When I’m not doing those things, I like to relax. Sometimes I read.” This tells us that Rodolfo sometimes reads to relax. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The passage does not provide evidence to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) CCore Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In the beginning of the passage, Rodolfo asks Chen a question: "Hey Chen, have you heard about the new law that makes it illegal to talk on a mobile phone while driving?" Chen gives Rodolfo his answer. Then Chen asks Rodolfo the same question: "Well, what do you think about it?" Although Chen and Rodolfo do talk about other things throughout the passage, they are all ultimately related to the question about whether it is okay to talk on the phone while driving. This is, therefore, the main question discussed in this passage, and choice **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide evidence to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) ACore Standard: **Craft and Structure**

intense (*adjective*): extreme, strenuous, strong, or passionate, as in feelings or emotions.

At the end of the passage, Chen asks, "Talking to your mom isn't relaxing?" Rodolfo answers, "No way! Conversations with my mom are intense!" This tells us that something intense is not relaxing. If Rodolfo's conversations with his mom are not relaxing, then they likely make him feel strong emotions such as excitement, anger, or worry. This means that intense belongs to the word group hard, difficult, stressful. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Amusing, playful, and fun are all words to describe something that could be relaxing. But Rodolfo says his conversations with his mom are not relaxing. This means intense does not belong to this word group. This means choices **(B)** and **(C)** are incorrect.

If something is intense and not relaxing, then it is not necessarily dull, tiresome, or boring. The word intense could describe both something boring and something exciting. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.