

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Luthier

*A luthier is a person who makes guitars or any other stringed musical instruments. In this passage, a reporter interviews a guitar maker named Joe Ripner.*

**Reporter:** Can you tell us how you got started making guitars?

**Joe Ripner:** Well, I have played guitar ever since I was about 12, and I also have a lot of experience working with wood. I have my own shop and make custom furniture. So after a few years of making furniture, it was only natural that I would start thinking about whether I could make a guitar. Turns out I could.



**Reporter:** What goes into making a guitar?

**Joe Ripner:** First you have to design the style and shape. From there, you have all kinds of decisions such as scale length and what kind of wood to use for the body of the guitar. Rosewood is a common wood to use for the body, but you can use all kinds of exotic woods. Cedar or spruce is often used for the soundboard. Then there is the actual process of building the guitar: that involves measuring, cutting, and gluing the pieces of wood together.

**Reporter:** How long does it take you to make a guitar?

**Joe Ripner:** There is usually 15-20 hours of shop time to make the actual structure, and then several more hours of set up, setting up the neck and checking the frets. The stringing takes a certain amount of time, and of course you have to apply multiple layers of finish. All the layers have to dry and be polished before the next layer can be added. So there is some waiting in between steps.

**Reporter:** How much do you charge for your custom guitars?

**Joe Ripner:** Depending on the wood I use and the complexity of the design, my guitars cost between 400 and 800 dollars.

**Reporter:** What do you like best about making guitars?

**Joe Ripner:** I like spending the time getting to know one object so well. I make guitars one at a time, so it's almost like I get to watch the instrument being born over a few weeks. Then it goes out in the world and has a life of its own, being played by someone I may never even meet.

- 1) The reporter most likely interviewed Joe Ripner to
- A. find out the cost of a guitar made by him
  - B. get a chance to meet a famous musician
  - C. learn more about an unusual job
  - D. get to know him better as a person
- 2) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that Joe Ripner became a luthier because he
- I. likes to play the guitar
  - II. has experience working with wood
  - III. has plenty of free time
- A. I only
  - B. I and II only
  - C. II and III only
  - D. I, II, and III
- 3) In paragraph 3, Joe Ripner says, "I have my own shop and make custom furniture." This statement is intended to
- A. teach a basic lesson
  - B. illustrate an upcoming point
  - C. provide an example
  - D. clarify an earlier statement
- 4) Based on its use in paragraph 5, it can be understood that the word **exotic** belongs to which of the following word groups?
- A. costly, expensive, valuable
  - B. plain, simple, unadorned
  - C. hard, solid, strong
  - D. different, uncommon, unusual



## Answers and Explanations

1) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In this interview, the reporter asks questions like, “What goes into making a guitar?” and “How long does it take you to make a guitar?” All of the questions focus on Joe Ripner’s job as a guitar maker. They do not ask about his personal life. This means that the reporter most likely interviewed him to learn more about the unusual job of making guitars. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the reporter does ask how much Joe Ripner charges for his guitars, this is only one question asked. This means that the reporter did not likely do the interview just to find out the cost of a guitar. If that was the main reason, the reporter would not have asked any other questions. This eliminates **(A)**.

The reporter does not suggest that he or she gets a chance to meet a famous musician by interviewing Joe Ripner. In fact, Joe says that he “may never even meet” the people who play his guitars. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

The reporter focuses on questions about Joe’s unusual job, not about his personal life. This means that the reporter most likely did not interview him to get to know him better as a person. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

2) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

At the beginning of the passage, there is an introduction to the interview. It reads: “A luthier is a person who makes guitars or any other stringed musical instruments. In this passage, a reporter interviews a guitar maker named Joe Ripner.” Since a luthier is a person who makes guitars, and Joe Ripner is a guitar maker, we can understand that Joe is a luthier.

So, we know that Joe Ripner is a luthier, and that a luthier is a person who makes guitars. But why did Joe decide to become a luthier? The information we need to answer this question can be found in paragraph 3. After being asked how he “got started making guitars,” Joe replies, “Well, I have played guitar ever since I was about 12, and I also have a lot of experience working with wood. I have my own shop and make custom furniture. So after a few years of making furniture, it was only natural that I would start thinking about whether I could make a guitar.” This lets us know that since Joe has played guitar since he was 12, and since he has a lot of experience working with wood, it was only natural that he would start thinking about whether he could make a guitar, or in other words, about whether he could become a luthier. This supports **option (I)** and **option (II)**.

The passage does not provide information to suggest that Joe has plenty of free time. In fact, because he makes custom furniture *and* custom guitars, he probably has very little free time. This eliminates **option (III)**.

Therefore **(B)** is correct

3) D

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

To answer this question, it helps to use context. Context is the text that surrounds the statement in question. In this case, the statement in question comes from paragraph 3, in which Joe Ripner responds to a question about how he got started making guitars. Joe says, "Well, I have played guitar ever since I was about 12, and I also have a lot of experience working with wood. I have my own shop and make custom furniture." Notice how, in the sentence before the sentence in question, Joe says that he has a lot of experience working with wood. In the sentence that comes directly afterward, he says that he has his own shop and makes custom furniture. Joe tells us this in order to clarify, or explain, how he came to have a lot of experience working with wood. If he did not provide this extra information, it would have been unclear where his experience came from. Using this information, we can understand that the statement in question is intended to clarify an earlier statement. This means **(D)** is correct.

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

4) D

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**exotic** (*adjective*): of foreign origin or character; not native; unusual.

In paragraph 5, Joe Ripner says, "Rosewood is a common wood to use for the body, but you can use all kinds of exotic woods." This means that rosewood is a common wood, but different kinds of less common woods can also be used. Since these other woods are different and uncommon, we can understand that *exotic* would belong in the word groups *different*, *uncommon*, *unusual*.

Therefore **(D)** is correct.

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

5) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 7, Joe discusses how long it takes him to make a guitar. He says: “There is usually 15-20 hours of shop time to make the actual structure, and then several more hours of set up, setting up the neck and checking the frets.” Since setting up the neck and checking the frets are steps involved in making a guitar, we can understand that a neck and frets are both parts of a guitar. This means **(A)** is correct.

Although Joe says some parts of the guitar are made out of wood, we do not know whether the neck and frets are made out of wood. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

Earlier in the interview, Joe says that the soundboard is often made of cedar or spruce. But we do not know from the interview whether the neck and frets are parts of the soundboard. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

Joe does not discuss the order of the steps involved in making a guitar. He says that the set up time at the end involves “setting up the neck and checking the frets,” but this does not necessarily mean that the neck and the frets are the last parts to be made. This eliminates **(D)**.

6) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the reporter asks what Joe likes best about making guitars in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan each of the questions in the interview, since the question will likely tell us what information can be found in the response. The final question reads: “What do you like best about making guitars?” This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in the response to the final question.

In response to the final question, Joe says: “I like spending the time getting to know one object so well. I make guitars one at a time, so it’s almost like I get to watch the instrument being born over a few weeks. Then it goes out in the world and has a life of its own, being played by someone I may never even meet.” This tells us that Joe likes getting to know one object so well. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

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

7) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Near the end of the passage, we learn that "Depending on the wood I use and the complexity of the design, my guitars cost between 400 and 800 dollars." This lets us know that the price of one of Joe Ripner's guitars must fall within the range of \$400-\$800. \$764 is the only price that falls within this range. This means choice **(C)** must be correct.

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