

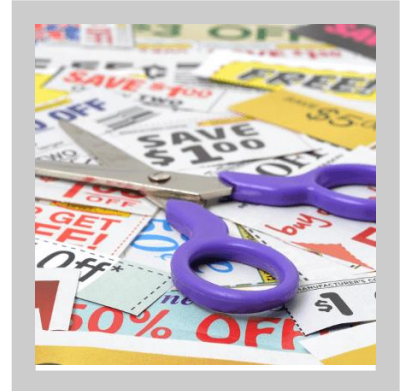
Name _____

Date _____

The Truth About Coupons

Lots of people use coupons when they shop. Coupons are tickets that give people discounts on different items. For example, if a carton of eggs costs \$3, it might cost \$2 with a coupon. You can get coupons in the mail, from the newspaper, or even from a website. Many people use coupons because they think they will save a lot of money.

The truth is that coupons do not always save you money. People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it. Also, it takes time to find the coupons you want, cut them out, and organize them. Then you have to make sure you have the correct ones when you go to different stores. Spending hours cutting out coupons may not be the best use of your time.



Stores take the time and money to print coupons because they know a coupon can make a person come into a store. And once people are inside a store, they usually buy something. This means that coupons may help a store earn money without helping you save any.

1) The author of this passage argues that coupons

- A. are an unfair trick stores use
- B. never save people money
- C. may not be worth using
- D. take too much time to organize

2) Based on its use in paragraph 1, it can be understood that **discounts** belongs to which of the following word groups?

- A. payments, money, cash
- B. chances, breaks, opportunities
- C. sales, transactions, purchases
- D. decreases, reductions, subtractions

3) In paragraph 2, the author writes, "The truth is that coupons do not always save you money." The purpose of this sentence is to

- A. provide an example
- B. introduce an idea
- C. answer a question
- D. solve a problem

4) In paragraph 2, the author writes, “People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it.” An example of this is if a person

- A. has a coupon for strawberry yogurt but really wants blueberry yogurt
- B. gets a coupon for a box of crackers that is buy one, get one free
- C. buys bread with a coupon even though he or she did not plan to buy bread
- D. plans to buy apples but once at the store decides to buy bananas and grapes, too

5) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that the disadvantages of using coupons include

- I. buying things that you do not need because you have a coupon
- II. having to spend a lot of time to find and organize your coupons
- III. not getting coupons for the things you really want

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, III

6) According to the author, stores take the time and money to print coupons in order to

- A. help people save money
- B. force people to buy things they do not want
- C. advertise the stores and the things they sell
- D. make people come into a store

7) The passage suggests that coupons may not be as beneficial as they seem. However, there are ways that coupons can save you money. When do you think coupons actually are beneficial? Explain your ideas.

Answers and Explanations

1) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Many people use coupons because they think they will save a lot of money.” In paragraph 2, however, the author states, “The truth is that coupons do not always save you money.” The author explains that sometimes people buy things they do not need just because they have a coupon. He or she also says that it takes time to cut out and organize coupons. In the final paragraph, the author notes that “coupons may help a store earn money without helping you save any.” Since the author states that using coupons may take a lot of time but not save people money, we can understand that the author argues that coupons may not be worth using. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “Stores take the time and money to print coupons because they know a coupon can make a person come into a store. And once people are inside a store, they usually buy something.” However, it is too extreme to say that the author argues that coupons are an unfair trick stores use. The author does not suggest that it is unfair of stores to print coupons; he or she only explains why they do it. This eliminates **(A)**.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “The truth is that coupons do not always save you money.” The author argues that coupons may not always save people money, but this is not the same thing as saying that coupons never save people money. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Also, it takes time to find the coupons you want, cut them out, and organize them.” From this statement we can understand that the author may agree that coupons take too much time to organize. However, the author does not argue this point in the passage. Instead, he or she argues that coupons may not be worth using because they take time to organize and can make people buy things they do not need. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) D

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

discount (*noun*): an amount deducted from the usual list price.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Coupons are tickets that give people discounts on different items. For example, if a carton of eggs costs \$3, it might cost \$2 with a coupon.” This tells us that if a coupon gives people a discount on something, that item will cost less money. In the example given in the passage, a coupon gives people a discount on a carton of eggs. This discount means that the price of eggs decreases from \$3 to \$2. From this we can understand that discount means a reduction in price. This tells us that the word discounts belongs to the word group *decreases, reductions, subtractions*. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Although a discount is related to the price of an item, it does not mean *payments, money, or cash*. A discount is not how you pay for something. This means **(A)** is incorrect.

Some people may believe that a discount gives them a chance to buy something for a lower price, but discount does not mean *chances, breaks, or opportunities*. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

Although a discount is related to the sale of an item, it does not mean *sales, transactions, or purchases*. A discount is not the act of selling or buying something. This eliminates **(C)**.

3) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In the first sentence of paragraph 2, the author writes, “The truth is that coupons do not always save you money.” To understand the purpose of this sentence, it is helpful to look at the context surrounding it. In the previous sentence, at the end of paragraph 1, the author writes, “Many people use coupons because they think they will save a lot of money.” The author moves from the idea that many people think they will save money using coupons, in paragraph 1, to the new idea that coupons do not always help people save money, in paragraph 2. This tells us that the purpose of this sentence is to introduce an idea. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

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

4) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it.” This means that people buy something that they did not plan to buy because there is a coupon for it. If a person buys bread with a coupon even though he or she did not plan to buy bread, this is an example of someone buying something he or she did not plan to buy because there is a coupon for it. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

None of the other choices is an example of someone buying something that he or she did not plan to buy because there is a coupon for it. Therefore choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are incorrect.

5) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 2, the author provides reasons why “coupons do not always save you money.” These reasons could also be considered disadvantages of using coupons. The author writes, “People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it.” This tells us that the disadvantages of using coupons include buying things that you do not need because you have a coupon. This supports **option (I)**.

In paragraph 2, the author writes that “it takes time to find the coupons you want, cut them out, and organize them. Then you have to make sure you have the correct ones when you go to different stores.” This is another problem with using coupons, so this tells us that the disadvantages of using coupons include having to spend a lot of time to find and organize your coupons. This supports **option (II)**.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “People often buy something just because they have a coupon for it. They might not need it or even want it.” But this does not mean that not getting coupons for the things you really want is a problem with using coupons. This tells us that the disadvantages of using coupons do not include not getting coupons for the things you really want. This eliminates **option (III)**.

Therefore **(B)** is correct.

6) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses why stores print coupons in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of the final paragraph reads: "Stores take the time and money to print coupons because they know a coupon can make a person come into a store." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in the final paragraph. In the final paragraph, the author writes, "Stores take the time and money to print coupons because they know a coupon can make a person come into a store." This tells us that stores take the time and money to print coupons in order to make people come into a store. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

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