

Name _____

Date _____

Grocery Store or Farmers' Market?

When most people decide to buy food, they go to a grocery store. Grocery stores sell many different kinds of food in just one store. Some grocery stores also carry household goods such as aluminum foil, cleaning supplies, and diapers. A grocery store is a convenient place to shop for the kitchen and beyond.

Despite the ease of shopping in a grocery store, some people decide to buy their food from other places. Farmers' markets are one alternative to grocery stores. At a farmers' market, local farmers sell the foods they grow to customers. The foods they sell often include fruits, vegetables, and meats. Most of these foods are freshly harvested with no artificial additions.



There are several ways in which farmers' markets are less convenient than grocery stores, however. For example, packaged foods usually are not sold at farmer's markets. Many farmers do not accept credit cards or checks as payment for their goods. What is more, most farmers' markets are only open for business once or twice each week. While this often deters some shoppers, others are willing to accept these inconveniences in exchange for the fresh and local food found at farmers' markets.

Deciding whether to shop for food at grocery stores or at farmers' markets is a personal choice. This choice reflects a person's values about life and about food. Those who value convenience and variety will probably choose to shop at a grocery store. People who value freshness and enjoy supporting local farmers probably will prefer the farmers' market. Fortunately, most communities provide options for both kinds of shoppers.

1) The main purpose of this passage is to

- A. compare two places where people buy food
- B. convince readers that farmer's markets are superior to grocery stores
- C. explain why the smartest people shop at grocery stores
- D. show that people should be judged based on where they buy their food

- 2) Based on information in the passage, which of the following is LEAST likely to be sold at a farmer's market?
- A. tomatoes
 - B. cucumbers
 - C. noodles
 - D. beef
- 3) Based on information in paragraph 3, it can be understood that grocery stores are
- A. able to accept credit cards
 - B. open on Sundays
 - C. accessible to handicapped people
 - D. willing to package foods
- 4) In paragraph 3 the author writes, "Many farmers do not accept credit cards or checks as payment for their goods." Which of the following conjunctions would best be used to begin this sentence?
- A. In addition
 - B. However
 - C. As a result
 - D. Although
- 5) Based on its use in paragraph 3, it can be understood that **deters** belongs to which of the following word groups
- A. entices, coaxes, convinces
 - B. saddens, upsets, depresses
 - C. aggravates, annoys, frustrates
 - D. prevents, discourages, dissuades
- 6) In paragraph 3, the author most likely mentions that farmer's markets "are only open for business once or twice each week" in order to
- A. assist the reader in his or her own search for an acceptable farmer's market
 - B. explain why farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores
 - C. convince the reader that farmer's markets are too inconvenient to visit
 - D. illustrate the manner in which farmer's markets have changed over time

7) As used in the final paragraph, which is the best synonym for **prefer**?

- A. love
- B. choose
- C. accept
- D. adore

8) Which of the following statements best summarizes the information in the final paragraph?

- A. Most communities provide options for shoppers who value convenience as well as those who value freshness.
- B. People who value convenience and variety will probably choose to shop at a grocery store.
- C. Where a person decides to shop ultimately depends on his or her personal values.
- D. People who value freshness and enjoy supporting local farmers probably will prefer the farmer's market.

9) Would you prefer to shop at a farmer's market or a grocery store? Why? Be sure to use evidence from the passage in your answer.

Answers and Explanations

1) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

The author describes the convenience of grocery stores in paragraph 1 by stating that they “sell many different foods in just one store” and “also carry household goods.” On the other hand, in paragraph 2 the author describes the advantages of farmer’s markets. The author writes that they sell “fruits, vegetables, and meats,” and mentions that “most of these foods are freshly harvested with no artificial additions.” These are a few examples of how the author compares two places (grocery stores and farmer’s markets). The author continues to make such comparisons for the remainder of the passage, ending with the statement that, “Deciding whether to shop for food at grocery stores or at farmer’s markets is a personal choice.” Using this information, it can be understood that **(A)** is the only choice that accurately reflects the passage’s primary purpose, making it correct.

Because the author never writes that convenience is better than freshness or that freshness is better than convenience, he or she does not imply that one of these traits is better than the other. Using this information, we can understand that the author is not attempting to convince readers that farmer’s markets are superior to grocery stores. This allows us to rule out **(B)**.

The author also never uses the word “smart” to describe customers of either grocery stores or farmer’s markets, nor does the author say anything to support the idea that grocery store shoppers, in particular, are the smartest. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

Rather than suggesting that people should be judged based on where they buy food, the author actually states in the last paragraph that it is “fortunate” that both grocery stores and farmer’s markets exist. So **(D)** is incorrect.

2) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

The author states in paragraphs 2 and 3 that farmer’s markets usually carry “fruits, vegetables, and meats,” but not “packaged foods.” Noodles usually are sold in packages such as boxes or bags, making them unlikely to be sold at a farmer’s market. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, and beef fit both of the description of what farmer’s markets usually carry. Therefore they are likely to be sold at a farmer’s market. This means **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are incorrect.

3) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Paragraph 3 describes why farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores. The author states that one reason for this is that "many farmers do not accept credit cards." Based on the author's reasoning, in order for it to be true that grocery stores are more convenient than farmer's markets, it must also be true that grocery stores are able to accept credit cards. This means **(A)** is the correct choice.

Though paragraph 3 does state that "most farmer's markets are only open once or twice a week," this does not necessarily mean that farmer's markets are not open on Sundays. This allows us to rule out **(B)**.

Paragraph 3 does not reference handicapped people or stores packaging their own foods, so **(C)** and **(D)** are incorrect.

4) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In paragraph 3 the author writes, "There are several ways in which farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores, however." This lets us know that the author is about to provide several ways in which farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores. The author continues to say, "For example, packaged foods usually are not sold at farmer's markets. Many farmers do not accept credit cards or checks as payment for their food. What is more, most farmer's markets are only open for business once or twice each week." Here, the author is listing the ways in which farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores. Because the reason that many farmers cannot accept credit cards or checks as payment for their food comes second in this list, we can understand that the author is saying this reason *in addition* to the first reason. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The conjunction *however* is used to indicate a contradiction. A contraction is not called for to begin the sentence in question. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

The conjunction *as a result* is used to indicate a consequence or effect. A consequence or effect is not called for to begin the sentence in question. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

The conjunction *although* is used to indicate an occurrence of something in spite of something else. An indication that there is an occurrence of something in spite of something else is not called for to begin the sentence in question. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

5) D

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

deter (*verb*): to discourage or restrain from acting or proceeding.

In paragraph 3, the author writes, "For example, packaged foods usually are not sold at farmer's markets. Many farmers do not accept credit cards or checks as payment for their food. And most farmer's markets are only open for business once or twice each week. While this often deters some shoppers, others are willing to accept these inconveniences in exchange for the fresh and local food

found at farmer's markets." In this quotation, the author introduces three reasons why farmer's markets are inconvenient. Any inconvenience is negative. This negativity deters some shoppers. Using this information, we can infer that deter means the opposite of persuade. This notion is further substantiated as the author goes on to say that while this is true, other shoppers are not deterred; they accept these inconveniences. This lets us know that *deters* belongs to the word group including *prevents*, *discourages*, and *dissuades*. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *entices*, *coaxes*, *convinces* are all positively charged words. This is the opposite of what we are looking for.

Although the word groups *saddens*, *upsets*, *depresses* and *aggravates*, *annoys*, *frustrates* have the negative charge we need, they simply describe emotional responses and do not involve the act of dissuading, or discouraging. This rules out **(B)** and **(C)**.

6) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In the first sentence of paragraph 3, the author states that "There are several ways in which farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores, however." The author provides support for this statement by mentioning that "Many farmers cannot accept credit cards," that "packaged foods usually are not sold at farmer's markets," and that "most farmer's markets are only open for business once or twice a week." Using this information, we can understand that the author most likely mentions that farmer's markets are only open for business once or twice a week in order to explain why farmer's markets are less convenient than grocery stores. Choice **(B)** is correct.

Knowing about the operating schedules of farmer's markets would not help the reader to locate a farmer's market, so **(A)** is incorrect.

Though the author does imply that markets "only open for business once or twice a week" are "inconvenient," he or she does not say that inconvenience is a reason not to visit a farmer's market. The author also does not mention how farmer's markets have changed over time. He or she only compares them with grocery stores. This rules out choices **(C)** and **(D)**.

7) B

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

prefer (*verb*): to like better or choose above other options.

This question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings.

In the final paragraph, the author describes the values that cause people to shop at either grocery stores or farmer's markets. The author explains that some people "will choose to shop at a grocery store," but that others "will prefer the farmer's market." Context should help us recognize that "prefer" and "choose" have synonymous meanings. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Both **(A)** and **(D)** are incorrect because the words *love* and *adore* are too positive or strong in meaning.

In **(C)**, *accept* implies the idea that something is being offered. However, *prefer* means that something is being chosen.

8) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

The author begins the final paragraph by saying, "Deciding whether to shop for food at grocery stores or at farmer's markets is a personal choice." This lets us know that the author believes that different people will choose different places to shop. The author continues to say, "This choice reflects a person's values about life and about food." Using this information, we can understand that the information in the final paragraph can best be summarized by the idea that where a person decides to shop ultimately depends on his or her personal values. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because the author mentions the idea that most communities provide options for shoppers who value convenience as well as those who value freshness as a side note to his or her main point.

The author does say in the final paragraph that "People who value convenience and variety will probably choose to shop at a grocery store." However, this is only one side of the author's main point, as it leaves out the idea that people who value freshness and enjoy supporting local farmers probably will prefer to shop at a farmer's market. Choice **(B)** is incorrect.

The author does say in the final paragraph that, "People who value freshness and enjoy supporting local farmers probably will prefer the farmer's market." However, this is only one side of the author's main point, as it leaves out the idea that people who value convenience and variety will probably choose to shop at a grocery store. Choice **(D)** is incorrect.