



TABE 13&14



READING PRACTICE ITEMS

LEVEL A

Read the Passage.

Then answer the questions that follow

Buying Local

1. In many European countries, people typically visit their local merchants on a daily basis. People travel to the local butcher, baker, and seller of fruits and vegetables to buy what they need for their meals that day. In America, however, often the opposite is true. Many Americans do their weekly food shopping at large grocery stores. These stores belong to chains¹ with locations across the country. Many of the stores' products are not produced in the areas where the stores are located. Instead, fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products are shipped in from locations around the country and even around the world.
2. In the past, America's towns were filled with locally owned and independent specialty shops, much like the shops in Europe. In the 1920s, chain stores began to take over in America. By the 1950s, large supermarkets and the migration to suburban locations were taking hold in the country. These large stores offered a one-stop shop for all items at a lower cost than the local competition. Additionally, these stores often advertised a wider selection of products for the consumer. Americans were enticed by the convenience and affordability that chain stores were able to provide. In effect, chain stores pushed the local merchants and business owners out because small local businesses could not afford to compete. In recent years, a "buy local" movement has sprung up around the country to shift the attention back to local businesses. Buying local is a way to encourage people to support local businesses rather than large chains.
3. Supporters believe that buying local has several advantages. First, it supports the local economy. Because local small business owners are part of the community, they are interested in the welfare of that community. The money they make goes back into the community rather than to a large corporation. The employees hired by these local businesses often know a lot about the businesses' products and provide great customer service. After all, the people they are helping could be their next-door neighbors!
4. Buying local also creates local jobs and helps to grow local businesses. Workers earn wages from these businesses, which they spend in their communities. In addition, businesses pay taxes, which helps to support local growth and development. Both wages and taxes contribute to the health and welfare of the community as a whole.
5. Buying local produce also has health benefits. Almost as soon as fruits and vegetables are picked, they begin to lose some of their nutrients. Instead of being picked and then shipped for hundreds of miles, locally grown produce goes from the farm to the table quickly, sometimes on the same day. Being able to buy freshly picked produce means that the food we put on our tables is as nutritious as it can be.
6. Shopping at large stores is certainly convenient, but buying local is a way for all of us to support our community and ourselves.

¹chains: large stores owned by the same corporation



1. Read the sentence from paragraph 4.

Both wages and taxes contribute to the health and welfare of the community as a whole.

Which key idea does the sentence support?

- A. Americans shop mostly at large chain grocery stores.
- B. Buying locally helps create local jobs and grow local businesses.
- C. Large grocery stores offer items at lower costs than local competition.
- D. Americans who buy locally are healthier than people who shop at chain stores.

2. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A.

Which statement explains how paragraphs 3 and 4 develop the author's claim that buying local is a better option?

- A. The paragraphs suggest that buying local helps the country.
- B. The paragraphs suggest that buying local is more affordable.
- C. The paragraphs suggest that buying local helps local economies.
- D. The paragraphs suggest that buying local is healthier for people.

Part B.

Which sentence from the article best supports the answer to question Part A?

- A. "Supporters believe that buying local has several advantages."
- B. "The money they make goes back into the community rather than to a large corporation."
- C. "The employees hired by these local businesses often know a lot about the businesses' products and provide great customer service."
- D. "After all, the people they are helping could be their next-door neighbors!"

3. Which of these is most likely the author's purpose for writing this article?

- A. The author wants the reader to understand how grocery stores have changed since the 1920s.
- B. The author wants the reader to understand that European grocery stores are superior to American grocery stores.
- C. The author wants the reader to understand that grocery stores stopped selling locally grown products during the 1950s.
- D. The author wants the reader to understand that the new trend of buying local produce has many important benefits for Americans.

4. How does the author provide effective support for the main idea that local businesses support the local economy?

- A. In many European countries, people typically visit their local merchants on a daily basis.
- B. Many of the stores' products are not produced in the areas where the stores are located.
- C. In the past, America's towns were filled with locally owned and independent specialty shops, much like the shops in Europe.
- D. Buying local is a way to encourage people to support local businesses rather than large chains.

5. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A.

Which statement describes how the author explains the impact of grocery chain stores on local economies?

- A. Chain stores hire workers outside the community.
- B. Chain stores provide a larger selection of products.
- C. Chain stores take tax dollars from the local community.
- D. Chain stores import goods and services from other countries.

Part B.

Which statement from the article best supports the answer to part A?

- A. “Instead, fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products are shipped in from locations around the country and even around the world.”
- B. “The money they make goes back into the community rather than to a large corporation.”
- C. “After all, the people they are helping could be their next-door neighbors!”
- D. “Instead of being picked and then shipped for hundreds of miles, locally grown produce goes from the farm to the table quickly, sometimes on the same day.”



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Reading Practice Answer Key

LEVEL A

1. B
2. Part A - C
Part B - A
3. D
4. D
5. Part A - D
Part B - A

