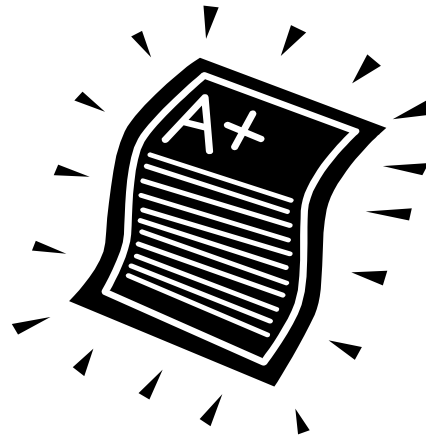


Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_



*Increasing Achievement for Schools,  
Teachers, & Students*

Pre Test

*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 13.*

## **Confessions of a Teenage Driver**

What kind of driver are you? I think I'm a good one, although, according to the National Highway Safety Institute, I'm not, just because I'm sixteen. They maintain that kids my age die three times more often in car wrecks than all drivers of all other ages. They say that we accumulate higher crash rates and more deaths for the number of us driving than other drivers. That's really hard for me to believe, even though I suppose they can't lie about it.

Obtaining a driver license was all I ever really aspired to since the first instant I comprehended what a car actually is. Did you experience the identical emotion? I was unable to sleep a single second the entire night before I suffered through the learner's permit exam, and before I went to try for my *real* license, I didn't sleep for an entire week! My parents swore they didn't sleep, either, but for an entirely different reason. According to them, they were too emotionally tortured by the mental image of me driving all alone.

I told them to cease their excessive worrying, and I guaranteed that I would be careful, that I wouldn't act stupid behind the wheel and have to relinquish my license as a consequence. That appeared to give them scant comfort, but parents are determined to worry about everything, no matter what. I foolishly hoped I'd heard the end of it, until my dad showed me a couple of newspaper articles.

One of them was about in-car video cameras, like the ones they use in school buses, which apparently will video everything that happens in the car. If the driver is stupid enough to speed, run a stop sign or a red light, or race with somebody, the camera catches every single move. Once you come home, your parents can play the video and peruse your entire trip, after which you are no doubt grounded for life. Cute, huh?

You know about GPS (global positioning system) trackers that follow everything from enemy positions on the battlefield to airplanes at 40,000 feet. Apparently, some parents are currently utilizing them to track their teens through the kids' cell phones. Using that method, they are totally aware of where you are driving all of the time. No more dropping by places you were told not to go!

But wait, it only gets more horrifying! If your parents are willing to fritter away \$2,500, they can purchase a so-called "black box" that sends speed and braking information from your car to their home computer. Can you envision being greeted at the front door by an exasperated parent holding *that* little download? At the cheap end of the spying spectrum, there's the Tell-My-Mom.com bumper sticker. Naturally, the sticker doesn't *do* anything, but it does allow other drivers to report your tag number to a website your parents can **peruse** to ascertain whether you've been a naughty boy or girl behind the wheel. The outcome of that scenario promises no fun at all.

*Confessions of a Teenage Driver*

I don't know about you, but I'm not exactly ecstatic to learn of these innovations. Next thing we know, they'll be putting nanny cams in our backpacks. Naturally, I've seen the stats that say that drivers aged 16 to 24 have more accidents and get more tickets than any other group of drivers. But, so far, I've avoided contributing to those statistics.

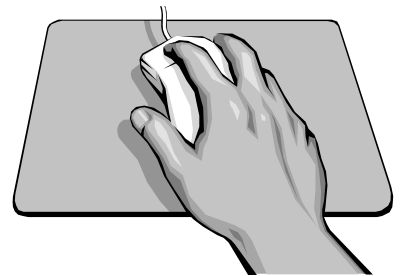
I questioned my dad at length about whether he was actually planning to place me under some kind of extensive surveillance, now that he's aware of some of the methods he can use to accomplish such a lofty objective. At first, he stared straight at me and said absolutely nothing. When he finally spoke, he asked, "How do you know I'm not already doing it?" Then, he began laughing hysterically, got up, and walked out of the room! Like I said, I'm a pretty good driver, and I try to be safe. Now, I guess I'll be making a very serious attempt to become an even better driver because what if he really *is* following every move I make?

1. What does the narrator think of the safety devices mentioned in the passage?
  - A. He is looking forward to trying them out.
  - B. He does not want one in his car.
  - C. He thinks his parents should have one in their car.
  - D. none of the above
  
2. Which detail supports your answer to the first question?
  - A. The narrator did not sleep the night before he took his learner's permit test.
  - B. The narrator wants a Tell-My-Mom.com bumper sticker.
  - C. The narrator worries that his dad has some kind of surveillance in his car.
  - D. none of the above
  
3. Right after he describes the in-car camera, the narrator talks next about:
  - A. NHTSA accident statistics for teenage drivers
  - B. a tattletale website
  - C. a GPS device
  - D. none of the above
  
4. How are a GPS device and a "black box" alike?
  - A. Both can run video games.
  - B. Parents can use both to track teens.
  - C. Both can be used to reconstruct accidents.
  - D. none of the above



*Confessions of a Teenage Driver*

5. Why should parents worry about teenage drivers?
- A. Teenage drivers have too many friends in the car with them.
  - B. Parents worry about everything.
  - C. NHTSA driving statistics
  - D. none of the above
6. What can you infer about the narrator's confidence in his own driving?
- A. He is scared to drive on crowded highways.
  - B. He is eager to have a camera in his car to show that he is a good driver.
  - C. He has no interest in obtaining a license and driving a car.
  - D. none of the above
7. From information in this passage, you could conclude that:
- A. in today's society, it is much more arduous being a spy
  - B. all teenagers are terrible drivers
  - C. sixteen-year-old drivers have a high accident death rate
  - D. none of the above
8. The passage reads, "... a web site your parents can **peruse** ..."
- What does **peruse** mean in the above sentence?
- A. ignore
  - B. find easily
  - C. examine
  - D. none of the above
9. The first paragraph was written to:
- A. get the reader's attention
  - B. use humor to distract the reader
  - C. describe the narrator's feelings about statistics
  - D. none of the above
10. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are 21.
  - B. Parents should not care if their teenagers drive safely.
  - C. Sixteen-year-old drivers should be more careful.
  - D. none of the above



11. The main idea of the last paragraph is to:
- A. show that the narrator is afraid of his father
  - B. show that the narrator's father has his son's attention
  - C. show that the narrator can use big words like "surveillance"
  - D. none of the above
12. Contrast the "black box" with Tell-My-Mom.com:
- A. Parents like the first one; teenagers like the second one.
  - B. One is for cars; the other is for motorcycles.
  - C. One costs a lot; the other costs almost nothing.
  - D. none of the above
13. Where might you find a list of recent automobile accident statistics?
- A. in the "A" book of an encyclopedia
  - B. in an atlas
  - C. in a GPS instructional book
  - D. none of the above

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*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 14 through 30.*

### **Staying Safe in a Tornado**

A tornado, or twister, is a violent windstorm that appears as a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud soaring skyward. The word "tornado" comes from the Spanish and Portuguese verb "tornar," which means "to turn." Tornadoes can occur in storms all over the world. In the Atlantic and Gulf states, for example, they can be caused by hurricane winds. Tornadoes that occur strictly on their own usually do so in a broad area of the American Midwest and South known as Tornado Alley. Other parts of the world, however, have even more tornadoes than this area.

Spring and summer are usually the tornado seasons, but anytime is definitely the right time to think about staying safe during one of these dangerous storms. In most areas where tornadoes are common, the schools and media outlets attempt to educate people concerning safety. Radio and television stations broadcast warnings when tornadoes are forecast. Lots of people around the country buy NOAA Weather Radios. These radios come on automatically when the National Weather Service issues severe weather warnings, and they have backup batteries in the event of a power failure.

When you hear a tornado warning, you should go immediately to a sheltered area. If you are inside a building, you should go to a central, windowless room or hall, and if

*Staying Safe in a Tornado*

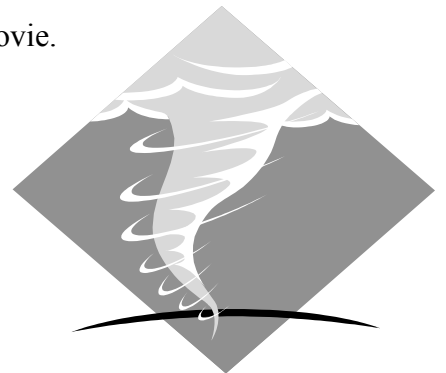
that area is below ground, you will be even safer. Be sure to get under furniture or into an inside doorjamb, in case the ceiling starts to come down. The safest structures are usually concrete block homes, especially those with a central, windowless room. If the home has a storm cellar, go downstairs, and secure any doors to the outside. If you are in a mobile home, however, you should get out immediately. These homes cannot withstand tornadoes and strong winds, so it is **imperative** that you locate a **designated** shelter.

Although you might believe otherwise, all categories of vehicles are extremely dangerous to remain inside of during a tornado. If you see a tornado, you should park your car quickly and safely, taking care not to stop in a traffic lane, and hurry to a sturdy building, or quickly lie down in a ditch. Never stay in a car that is in or near the path of a twister. No matter the weight of a vehicle, it can easily be picked up or thrown around by the extreme winds of a tornado. Some people try to take shelter under bridges and overpasses during a tornado, but those places are dangerous because the material they are made of can fall on you.

Remaining outside during a tornado is never safe, either. Although so-called storm-chasers appear on television outside videoing funnel clouds rushing toward them, don't even consider doing such a thing. Dorothy and her dog, Toto, safely rode out a tornado in the movie "The Wizard of Oz," but that was strictly special-effects, and special effects have never been known to keep anyone safe in real life.

So the next time you hear a tornado-warning, think first about staying safe. If you *really* want to see such a storm up close and personal, rent the movie "Twister," and count the cows as they fly by!

14. This passage is mostly about:
- A. how to become a storm-chaser
  - B. the damage tornadoes can do
  - C. how to stay safe when a twister hits
  - D. none of the above
15. Which detail tells you where the name "tornado" came from?
- A. "Tornado" is from the Spanish verb "tornar."
  - B. Tornadoes, or twisters, got their name from a famous movie.
  - C. Tornadoes are named after Tornado Alley.
  - D. none of the above
16. What should you do when you hear a tornado warning?
- A. Grab your video camera, and run outside.
  - B. Go to a sheltered area.
  - C. Turn on your NOAA radio.
  - D. none of the above



*Staying Safe in a Tornado*

17. How is a twister different from a tornado?
- A. Twisters rotate counter-clockwise; tornadoes rotate clockwise.
  - B. Twisters occur in Third World countries; tornadoes occur in the U.S.
  - C. Twisters destroy mobile homes; tornadoes destroy tractor-trailers.
  - D. none of the above
18. What causes more people to be injured in a wind storm?
- A. remaining outside
  - B. going down into the basement
  - C. living in Tornado Alley
  - D. none of the above
19. What can you infer from the passage about the importance of tornado warnings?
- A. Warnings don't make much of a difference.
  - B. Warnings are more of a nuisance than anything else.
  - C. Warnings help people prepare.
  - D. none of the above
20. You should never stay in your car during a tornado because:
- A. your insurance coverage might be canceled
  - B. cars can be picked up by a tornado
  - C. the car should be parked in a traffic lane
  - D. none of the above
21. The passage reads, “. . . that you locate a **designated** shelter. . . ”  
What does **designated** mean the way it is used in the passage?
- A. selected
  - B. safe
  - C. nearby
  - D. none of the above
22. What was the author's purpose for mentioning “The Wizard of Oz” movie?
- A. to confuse the reader
  - B. to encourage the reader to watch the movie and learn more about tornadoes
  - C. to show the reader the difference between real-life tornadoes and made-up ones
  - D. none of the above
23. Which is the best summary of this passage?
- A. Tornadoes are dangerous.
  - B. Tornadoes can occur anywhere.
  - C. NOAA radios are necessary.
  - D. none of the above



*Staying Safe in a Tornado*

24. What can you infer about storm-chasers from the passage?
- A. They are in the business of building shelters.
  - B. They carry a lot of insurance.
  - C. Their work is extremely dangerous.
  - D. none of the above
25. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
- A. Tornadoes can be exciting.
  - B. It's fun to rent "The Wizard of Oz."
  - C. The American West is known as Sandstorm Alley.
  - D. none of the above
26. What happens when you pay attention to tornado warnings?
- A. You have a good opportunity to see a funnel cloud.
  - B. Your chances for survival increase.
  - C. You have a chance to lie down in a ditch.
  - D. none of the above
27. What was the author's purpose for writing the first sentence?
- A. to describe what a tornado looks like
  - B. to impress the reader with adjectives
  - C. to frighten the reader
  - D. none of the above
28. The passage reads "... it is **imperative** that you locate. . . " a shelter. What does **imperative** mean the way it is used here?
- A. optional
  - B. extremely important
  - C. a bad idea
  - D. none of the above
29. From the description of what a tornado can do to a bridge, you can tell that:
- A. you should not take shelter under one during a tornado
  - B. it is okay to take shelter under a bridge during a tornado
  - C. tornadoes do not affect bridges
  - D. none of the above
30. Where would you look to learn more about tornadoes?
- A. in the index of a book about safety
  - B. in the "T" book of an encyclopedia
  - C. in the table of contents of a novel about hurricanes
  - D. none of the above



*Read the following selection. Then answer questions 31 through 43.*

## **The World of the Vikings**

The Vikings, also called the Normans (Northmen), were Germanic people who traditionally were farmers in Scandinavia. The Vikings were also known as superior sailors who sailed 60-foot shallow boats. These boats, called dragon ships, had no cabins or below-deck space, and the men slept out on deck. A huge, square sail with lots of colors woven into it was attached to the center mast, and on the front of the boat, the Vikings placed a carved dragon's head to frighten their enemies.

Most people considered the Vikings to be barbarians. They had the reputation of being quite vicious among those who fought against them in wars. The Vikings were tall and strong, with wild, long, flowing beards. Their enemies considered them exceptionally bloodthirsty. Excellent sailors and skilled warriors, they sailed their ships up rivers to enemy ports, where they stole horses and pillaged the countryside. They stole gold and jewels from church altars and even killed monks and priests.

Even so, the Vikings were not wild-haired, dirty savages. In fact, they were ages ahead of other civilizations when it came to personal grooming. For example, they regularly used combs, razors, and tweezers in their cleaning and grooming rituals. In addition, the Vikings used soap long before others did so in Europe, and they bathed far more regularly than did the supposedly "more civilized" Saxons in England.

The Viking warriors were terribly savage, however, with the fiercest among them being known as "Berserkers," which translates to mean "bear shirts," a reference to the animal hides they wore. The word "Berserkers," coupled with the **frenzied** ways in which they fought, brought about the word "berserk," which means "crazy," as we use it today.

Many myths have been told about the Vikings, one of which is that they wore horned helmets. Although this is not true, it is common to see drawings of Vikings similarly clad in cartoons like "Hagar the Horrible" or in movies. The Vikings are also depicted as drinking the blood of their enemies from human skulls. This myth arose from an error in translation from the Icelandic language. In Scandinavian, the translation states that the Vikings drank from "shells" or "bowls," which somehow became twisted into "skulls."

The Vikings roamed freely across the countryside, establishing colonies all across Europe. They even sailed through the wild waters of the North Atlantic to create settlements on the islands of Iceland and Greenland. They plundered France in 810, and they actually burned Paris twice. In 853, they set up a kingdom in England and even founded a colony in Dublin, Ireland. At one point in the late 900's, they sailed to the part of North America known today as the United States. In 911, a Viking chieftain accepted land from France, converted to Christianity, and settled down. Today, this area of France is called Normandy, after the Norman Vikings.



31. Which of the following is another good title for this passage?
- A. The Bloodthirsty Vikings
  - B. A Brief History of the Vikings
  - C. Why the Vikings Wore Bear Shirts
  - D. none of the above
32. Which detail shows how the Vikings took care of themselves?
- A. They ate very well.
  - B. They roamed the countryside.
  - C. They used soap and bathed often.
  - D. none of the above
33. What happened right before the Vikings sailed to North America?
- A. A Viking chieftain settled in France.
  - B. They sailed with “Hagar the Horrible” up a river in Dublin.
  - C. They stole horses and pillaged the countryside.
  - D. none of the above
34. What is the difference between Vikings and “Berserkers”?
- A. Vikings have long, flowing beards.
  - B. The “Berserkers” were known for their gentle ways, and the Vikings were cruel.
  - C. There is no real difference.
  - D. none of the above
35. What caused the Vikings to drink blood from human skulls?
- A. It was a Viking ritual from olden times.
  - B. They thought it would make them strong and brave.
  - C. It was a popular custom of the time.
  - D. none of the above
36. What can you infer about the reason the Vikings built scary-looking ships?
- A. They wanted to throw their enemies off-guard.
  - B. They wanted to be thought of as brave men.
  - C. They thought scary-looking ships would protect them on the open sea.
  - D. none of the above

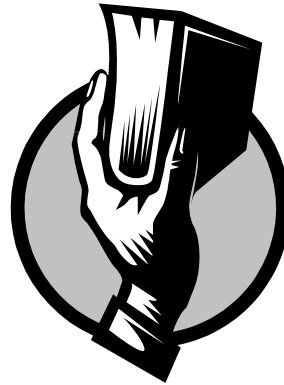
37. What conclusion can you draw from the Saxons' bathing habits?
- A. The Saxons were very well groomed.
  - B. The Saxons probably did not smell very good.
  - C. The Saxons spent a lot of money on soap.
  - D. none of the above
38. The passage reads, "... with the **frenzied** ways in which they fought. . ."
- What does **frenzied** mean?
- A. tending to party a lot
  - B. firing a lot of guns
  - C. uncontrolled
  - D. none of the above
39. The author wrote the fifth paragraph to:
- A. explain how some myths about Vikings are not true
  - B. explain how some myths about Vikings are true
  - C. explain how the Vikings drank from human skulls
  - D. none of the above
40. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. The Vikings were well-known as farmers and boat builders.
  - B. The Vikings were excellent sailors, skilled warriors, and brave explorers.
  - C. The Vikings were good at carving dragon heads.
  - D. none of the above
41. What happened after the Vikings burned Paris?
- A. They were defeated by the English.
  - B. They began to farm in Sweden.
  - C. They began to weave colorful sails.
  - D. none of the above
42. The best summary of the second paragraph is:
- A. The Vikings were horse thieves.
  - B. The Vikings were church-going people.
  - C. The Vikings were known as barbarians in war.
  - D. none of the above



*The World of the Vikings*

43. The information in this passage could best be included in:
- A. a chapter in a book on Scandinavian history
  - B. an instructional booklet on building seagoing ships
  - C. a Farmer's Almanac
  - D. none of the above
- 

44. Where in a book would be the best place to find every mention of a certain item?
- A. in the table of contents
  - B. in the introduction
  - C. in the index
  - D. none of the above



*Confessions of a Teenage Driver* – 9.5  
*Staying Safe in a Tornado* – 9.6  
*The World of the Vikings* – 9.7