

Planning a Birthday Party

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

A Leah will turn twelve next Saturday, so she and her best friend Noah are planning a small birthday party. They meet in Leah's kitchen on Tuesday evening with pens, paper, and Noah's laptop. First, they write a simple guest list. Leah wants to invite eight classmates and her cousin Mia. They count the chairs in the living room—there are only seven! Noah suggests borrowing three folding chairs from his parents. Next, they talk about food and drinks. Leah's favourite cake is chocolate with strawberry cream, but Noah prefers lemon cake. They decide to bake both types. Leah's mum will help them use the oven Friday after school. For snacks they choose popcorn, carrot sticks, and small cheese sandwiches. Noah types a note: "Buy juice (orange and apple) and two big bottles of mineral water." Music is also important. Leah creates a short playlist of happy pop songs. Each song is about three minutes long, and the list has twenty songs—enough for one hour. Noah says they can press "repeat" if the party lasts longer. They plan two simple games. The first is "Guess the Drawing," where one person draws a picture, and the others shout words until someone is right. The second game is a short treasure hunt: Leah will hide ten paper stars around the house, and the guest who finds the most wins a small box of chocolates. Finally, they think about decoration. Noah brings colourful balloons, and Leah makes a paper banner that says "Happy Birthday!" with bright markers. They add a reminder on the to-do list: "Decorate the room on Saturday at 9 a.m." Leah looks at the list and smiles. With clear jobs and good teamwork, she feels sure the birthday party will be fun and stress-free.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

| WORD / PHRASE | DEFINITION | EXAMPLE SENTENCE |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| laptop | a small computer that you can carry and use on your lap | <i>I use my laptop to watch movies in bed.</i> |
| favourite | liked more than anything else | <i>Chocolate is my favourite ice cream flavor.</i> |
| playlist | a list of songs that are played in a certain order | <i>She made a playlist of her best songs for the party.</i> |
| borrow | to take something from someone for a short time and then return it | <i>Can I borrow your book to read this weekend?</i> |
| decorate | to make a place look nice by adding things to it | <i>We will decorate the room with balloons for the party.</i> |
| treasure hunt | a game where players try to find hidden objects by following clues | <i>The children are excited for the treasure hunt in the garden.</i> |
| banner | a long piece of cloth or paper with words on it, used for decoration or to give information | <i>They hung a banner that said 'Congratulations!' in the room.</i> |
| repeat | to do something again | <i>If the music stops, just press repeat to play it again.</i> |

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. Leah needs to _____ three chairs from her parents for the party.
2. Noah types a note on his _____ to remember the shopping list.
3. They plan to _____ the room with balloons and a paper banner.
4. Leah's _____ cake is chocolate with strawberry cream.
5. The children will play a _____ to find hidden paper stars.
6. If the songs end, they can just press _____ to hear them again.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

Why do Leah and Noah meet in the kitchen?

- A. To plan the party and use Noah's laptop.
- B. To bake cakes for the party.
- C. To count the chairs in the living room.
- D. To write a music playlist.

Question 2

What is Leah's role in the treasure hunt game?

- A. Drawing pictures for a game.
- B. Hiding paper stars around the house.
- C. Choosing prizes for winners.
- D. Creating the music playlist.

Question 3

What do Leah and Noah plan to do if the party lasts longer than the music playlist?

- A. Add more songs to the playlist.
- B. Press repeat to play the songs again.
- C. Stop the music and play games.
- D. Ask guests to bring their own music.

Question 4

What food do Leah and Noah decide to prepare for the party?

- A. Just popcorn and sandwiches.
- B. Chocolate and lemon cakes only.
- C. Popcorn, carrot sticks, and cheese sandwiches.
- D. Pizza and ice cream.

Question 5

What is the purpose of Leah's paper banner?

- A. To list the party's agenda.
- B. To add decoration with a birthday message.
- C. To cover a wall in the living room.
- D. To use as a game prop.

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. Paragraph 3 discusses the choice of cakes. Do you think having two types of cakes is a good idea for a small party, and why?

2. In paragraph 5, Leah and Noah plan two games for the party. Which game do you think will be more popular with the guests, and why?

3. Paragraph 6 mentions decorating with balloons and a banner. How important do you think decorations are for creating a party atmosphere?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 A

Q2 B

Q3 B

Q4 C

Q5 B

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 borrow

FIB2 laptop

FIB3 decorate

FIB4 favourite

FIB5 treasure hunt

FIB6 repeat

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. Why do Leah and Noah meet in the kitchen?

✓ A — To plan the party and use Noah's laptop.

The passage states they meet in the kitchen with pens, paper, and Noah's laptop to plan the party.

✗ B — To bake cakes for the party.

They plan to bake cakes on Friday, not during this meeting.

✗ C — To count the chairs in the living room.

They count chairs later, but their main purpose was planning.

✗ D — To write a music playlist.

Creating a playlist is part of the planning, not the sole reason for meeting.

2. What is Leah's role in the treasure hunt game?

✓ B — Hiding paper stars around the house.

Leah is responsible for hiding ten paper stars around the house for the treasure hunt.

✗ A — Drawing pictures for a game.

Drawing pictures is part of a different game.

✗ C — Choosing prizes for winners.

The prize is mentioned but not specifically chosen by Leah in the text.

✗ D — Creating the music playlist.

Leah creates the playlist, but this is unrelated to the treasure hunt.

3. What do Leah and Noah plan to do if the party lasts longer than the music playlist?

✓ B — Press repeat to play the songs again.

Noah suggests pressing 'repeat' if the party lasts longer than one hour.

✗ A — Add more songs to the playlist.

They do not plan to add more songs.

✗ C — Stop the music and play games.

Stopping music is not mentioned as an option.

✗ D — Ask guests to bring their own music.

Guests bringing music is not mentioned in the passage.

4. What food do Leah and Noah decide to prepare for the party?

✓ C — Popcorn, carrot sticks, and cheese sandwiches.

The passage mentions they choose popcorn, carrot sticks, and small cheese sandwiches.

✗ A — Just popcorn and sandwiches.

Carrot sticks are also included, not just popcorn and sandwiches.

✗ B — Chocolate and lemon cakes only.

Cakes are not the only food mentioned.

✗ D — Pizza and ice cream.

Pizza and ice cream are not mentioned in the passage.

5. What is the purpose of Leah's paper banner?

✓ **B — To add decoration with a birthday message.**

The banner says 'Happy Birthday!' and is part of the decorations.

✗ **A — To list the party's agenda.**

The banner is not used for listing an agenda.

✗ **C — To cover a wall in the living room.**

It is not mentioned to cover a wall.

✗ **D — To use as a game prop.**

The banner is not used as a game prop.

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