



“Helicopters”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Helicopters are very different from airplanes. They can do three things that airplanes cannot do. First, when airplanes move upward, they must also move forward, but helicopters can move straight up without moving ahead. Second, helicopters can fly backward, which airplanes cannot do. Third, helicopters can use their rotors to **hover** in the air (stay in one place) which is impossible for planes.

Because helicopters can **perform** actions that airplanes cannot, they are used for different tasks. Since helicopters can take off without moving forward, they do not need a runway for takeoff. They are used in **congested** areas where there is no room for airplanes or in **isolated** areas which do not have airports. Because they can hover, they are used on firefighting missions to drop water on fires. They are used in logging operations to lift trees out of forests. Helicopters are used as air ambulances to airlift patients out of situations which are difficult to reach by **conventional** ambulances. The police use helicopters to follow suspects on the ground or to search for cars on the ground. Of course, helicopters have military uses because of their design and capabilities.

Questions:

1) Helicopters are able to...

- A. move straight up.
- B. fly backward.
- C. hover.
- D. All of the above



2) When airplanes move upward...

- A. they must move forward.
- B. they must move sideways.
- C. they must move backwards.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

3) Helicopters are used in firefighting because...

- A. they can reach difficult spots.
- B. they can hover above the fire.
- C. their rotors can put out the fire.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

4) How are helicopters used as ambulances?

- A. They chase suspects on the ground.
- B. They airlift people out of accidents.
- C. They can drop water on fires.
- D. They lift trees out of forests.

5) Why don't helicopters need runways?

- A. They can take off without moving forward.
- B. They can hover in the air.
- C. They can fly backward.
- D. They are small.



Vocabulary:

1) **Hover** means...

- A. stay in one place in the air.
- B. move straight up in the air.
- C. go backwards in the air.
- D. fly sideways.

2) The best synonym for **perform** is...

- A. fly.
- B. do.
- C. lift.
- D. can.



3) If an area is **congested** it is...

- A. crowded.
- B. popular.
- C. cut off.
- D. in the city.

4) If an area is **isolated** it is...

- A. crowded.
- B. popular.
- C. cut off.
- D. in the city.



5) **Conventional** means...

- A. for a large group of people.
- B. created for the first time.
- C. for emergency use.
- D. regular.