1. Listening:

http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/video-uk/sherlock-holmes

Are these sentences *True* or *False?*

a. Sherlock Holmes was a real person.

b. The books were written in the late 1800s.

c. The author of the books lived at 221B Baker Street.

d. You can visit a pub with a room set up like Sherlock Holmes's study.

e. Roger Johnson thinks the character of Sherlock Holmes is a perfect human.

f. The original stories are very well written.

g. Conan Doyle took his inspiration from real-life crimes.

h. Scientific or forensic policing is now even more important than in Sherlock Holmes's time.

2. Reading:

The Cookies

One day, while my friend and I were traveling through Germany, we were very hungry but we didn't have a lot of money. We decided to stop at a village market to get a few groceries. I chose some cookies and went to the front counter to pay. Near the counter I saw some packaged cookies in a large bin. They looked good and were a lot cheaper than the ones I had in my hand, so I took them instead.

We left the store and looked for a place where we could eat. We found a quiet place under a tree and we ate our sandwiches first, and then the cookies. We thought they were great.

"Let's get these again," I said. "They're cheap and they really taste good."

My friend can read some German, but I can't, so I gave her the package so she could look for the brand name. She looked at it and then started to laugh.

"Why are you laughing?" I asked.

"Because they're dog biscuits!" she said.

Choose the correct answer:

Why did they stop at a village market?

1. There weren't any restaurants around.
2. They were hungry and didn't have a lot of money.
3. Both 1 and 2.

Who was in the story?

1. Two men.
2. A man and a woman.
3. Two women.
4. At least one man.
5. At least one woman.
6. The story doesn't say.

Who thought the cookies were delicious?

1. Both people in the story.
2. Only the person who is telling the story.
3. Only the friend of the person who is telling the story.

Why did the person in the story buy dog biscuits to eat?

1. Because they looked good and were cheap.
2. Because he or she didn't understand the German on the package.
3. Both number 1 and 2.

The Mushrooms

Many people like to eat mushrooms. The mushrooms we buy in the store are safe to eat. Some people like to pick mushrooms in the wild, but they have to be very careful, because some toadstools are poisonous even if they look safe to eat.

When my friend and I returned to our cabin after a day of bird hunting, he suggested we pick the mushrooms growing around there and fry them with the steaks we brought. I thought that was a great idea. After we picked the mushrooms, I went to work cooking dinner. It smelled very good, and we started to eat.

"I'm sure glad you know about mushrooms, Henry," I said while I was eating.

"I thought you were the expert," he said, putting down his fork. "I don't know a mushroom from a toadstool." We stopped eating the food right away and fed some to the dog instead. It walked away. When we went outside later, the dog was lying there dead.

We panicked. We hurried to the nearest town with a hospital, had our stomachs pumped and didn't get back until the next morning.

Then a man came to our door. He said his car had hit a dog the night before. Its leg was hurt, but it went away in our direction before he could get to it. He wanted to apologize if it was ours.

Choose the correct answer:

Who was the mushroom expert?

1. The person telling the story.
2. His friend Henry.
3. Neither of them.

Why did they stop eating the food?

1. Because the dog died.
2. Because they got nervous when they found out neither of them knew about mushrooms and toadstools.
3. Because it didn't taste so good.

Why did they have their stomachs pumped?

1. Because they didn't feel very well after eating the mushrooms.
2. Because the mushrooms were poisonous.
3. Because they thought the dog died because of the mushrooms.

Why did the dog die?

1. It ate some poisonous mushrooms.
2. A man hit it with his car.
3. The story didn't tell us.

The Cat

Our friends invited us to an informal party. The hosts were people we had never met before. When they opened the door to let us in, a beautiful cat ran in ahead of me. I like cats, and I have two cats myself.

After we were inside, I leaned down and asked the cat to come to me. Our hosts asked us to sit down. We all made uneasy conversation for about an hour because when the cat wasn't hanging around me, it was climbing over the chairs, couches and tables. Finally, I told them that their cat seemed to be very friendly with visitors. Their cat? They thought it was ours! They thought that we brought it with us and were impolite enough to let it climb all over everything.

Well, that cat's exit was much faster than its entrance and we had a subject of conversation that relaxed us right away.

Choose the correct answer:

Did the person who wrote the story know the hosts before he or she went to the party?

1. Yes.
2. Yes, but just a little.
3. No.

Why was the conversation uneasy in the beginning?

1. Because the guests didn't like the cat climbing the furniture.
2. Because the hosts didn't like the cat climbing the furniture.
3. The story doesn't say.
4. Both 1 and 2.

Who was the cat's owner?

1. The hosts of the party.
2. The guests who came to the party.
3. Nobody knows.

When did the hosts and the guests finally relax?

1. After they talked about cats.
2. After they found out the cat didn't belong to any of them and put it outside.
3. After they started to enjoy the dinner.