ESLR 50  Drawing Conclusions Practice Handout #1

We use many words: Drawing Conclusions, Making Inferences, Taking a Good Guess, etc. but they all mean the same thing. You are using your brain to put together ideas in the reading and get an answer that is outside the reading. You are making an “educated guess” about what you think is very probably true, even though the story does not say it directly.

For each sentence you have three ideas (a, b, & c).
Mark ONE answer in each group as a GOOD INERENCE.
Are the other answers facts, opinions, weak inferences, or just wrong?

1. Mary’s cat gave birth to kittens yesterday.
   ______ a) Mary has a cat.
   ______ b) Mary’s cat is a female.
   ______ c) There were seven kittens.

2. There was an earthquake in my hometown that destroyed many houses.
   ______ a) There was an earthquake in the place I come from.
   ______ b) Many people were killed.
   ______ c) Many people were homeless after the earthquake.

3. John remembered to feed the dog.
   ______ a) John was supposed to feed the dog.
   ______ b) John fed the dog.
   ______ c) The dog is a little chihuahua.

4. If I win a million dollars in the lottery, I am going to travel around the world.
   ______ a) I won a million dollars.
   ______ b) I am going to travel around the world.
   ______ c) I bought a lottery ticket.

5. The mother gave the little boy his lunch in a paper bag when he left for school.
   ______ a) The little boy has a paper bag with his lunch in it.
   ______ b) The mother made the lunch.
   ______ c) The little boy is probably not going to eat lunch at home.

6. You cannot graduate from this university until you pass the language exam. Pat graduated last June.
   ______ a) Pat passed the language exam.
   ______ b) Pat has graduated.
   ______ c) The language exam is difficult.

7. I like my new car better than my old car. My old car did not have air conditioning.
   ______ a) I have two cars.
   ______ b) I like my new car better than my old car.
   ______ c) My new car has air conditioning.
1. Dr. Camuti treated sick cats. He often went to their homes. One day a red-haired woman asked him to see her big orange cat. The cat hid under the bed when it heard the doctor coming. Dr. Camuti and the woman crawled under the bed to catch the cat. He shouted, “I’ve got the cat!” But the woman yelled, “Ouch!”

2. Harold and June planted corn, beans, and carrots. June planted marigolds nearby. “I’m glad that marigold plants keep bugs away from other plants,” she said. “Just keep the vegetables away from the black walnut tree,” Harold said. “Last year we planted seeds near it. Almost nothing came up there. But the rest of the garden did well.”

3. The baby finally came home from the hospital. But Ken did not like his new baby brother. “Take it back!” he yelled. “What’s wrong?” his mother asked. “You got the baby because I’m not good enough for you,” Ken said. Ken’s parents talked with him for a long time. They told Ken that the baby would need special care at first. But they would still have time for Ken. They loved both Ken and the baby. This made Ken feel much better. He even held the baby in his arms.

4. Joey baked cornbread. He mixed cornmeal, flour, eggs, milk, baking powder, and butter. Then he put the cornbread in the oven for thirty minutes. When it was done, it was two inches high. Joey liked it so much that he made some more cornbread. But this time he forgot to put in the baking powder. The cornbread came out flat. It looked like a tortilla!
1. Restaurants come in many shapes in Los Angeles, California. One building looks like a large chili bowl. Another one is shaped like a hot dog. For a fast snack, you can drive through a building that looks like two doughnuts.

2. Travelers often stop to wonder at unusual buildings. There's a house made of salt in Grand Saline, Texas. Both Kentucky and Tennessee have houses built from coal. In a town in Maine, visitors gape at a building made from paper. A tour of a house in Florida tells how this house was carved from coral.

3. One of the most deadly fish in the world is the puffer. In Japan this fish is called fugu. Some people in Japan like to eat fugu. Cooks have been trained to remove the poisonous parts from the fish. Then they arrange the raw fish into beautiful designs and serve it. Even so, up to one hundred Japanese die from fugu poison each year.

4. Scientists are working to make computers think more like people. People say things such as "add a little more." Today's computers cannot use "little." "Little" is not a real amount. They can only use terms like "five ounces."

5. Many years ago in Europe, people did not swim. They thought they would get sick. But a hundred years ago doctors decided swimming was healthy after all. Swimming then became part of the Olympic games.

1. You can suppose that:
   a. these restaurants serve the best food
   b. all the restaurants serve doughnuts
   c. these buildings were designed by cooks
   d. the shapes tell the main food that is served

2. From this story you can tell that unusual houses are:
   a. tourist attractions
   b. pleasant to live in
   c. not very popular
   d. usually built of wood

3. From this story you can tell that:
   a. eating fugu is safe
   b. most Japanese eat fugu
   c. eating fugu is a daring deed
   d. puffers are found only in Japan

4. From this story you can tell that:
   a. computers will think like people in twenty years
   b. computers would not understand what a bunch means
   c. people think like machines
   d. computers give the wrong information

5. From this story, you cannot tell:
   a. when doctors decided swimming was OK
   b. why people long ago were afraid to swim
   c. when swimming became part of the Olympics
   d. where people were afraid to swim
1. The name John Wayne is often used to describe a perfect soldier or military hero. The actor John Wayne did make movies in which he played tough, strong soldiers. But oddly enough, he never actually served in the armed forces.

2. Are the names Paul, John, Ringo, and George familiar to you? They were members of the famous rock group called the Beatles. At first the Beatles were influenced by the songs of Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry. Later they gave us a type of rock music all their own.

3. Experts study people who are good at influencing others. They find that people with influence can figure out what other people want and why they want it. They can do this even when the people say they want something else or give reasons that aren't the real ones.

4. We all use the phrase, "national holiday" for days like July 4 and Labor Day. But there are no such holidays. The Federal government does not have the power to make one day a holiday for the whole country. Each state votes on whether to make a certain day a legal holiday.

5. Scientists used to think that the praying mantis was deaf. Now they know that a praying mantis has one ear near its stomach. No other creature of any kind is known to have only one ear.

___ 1. From this story, it is impossible to tell:
   a. what kinds of roles John Wayne played in the movies
   b. what kind of person the name John Wayne describes
   c. whether John Wayne served in the armed forces
   d. why John Wayne never served in the armed forces

___ 2. You can suppose that the Beatles:
   a. were born in South America
   b. became famous after Elvis Presley
   c. liked each other a lot
   d. wrote "Love Me Tender"

___ 3. This quality of people with influence might be called:
   a. "not seeing the forest for the trees"
   b. "finding a diamond in the rough"
   c. "seeing beneath the surface"
   d. "making the best of a bad thing"

___ 4. From this story, you know that:
   a. there are no holidays celebrated by all states
   b. there is no holiday celebrated by one state alone
   c. a national holiday should be called a state holiday
   d. all states celebrate the same holidays

___ 5. From this, you can tell that the way the insect hears:
   a. is not its most unusual feature
   b. was not easy for scientists to understand
   c. is with its stomach
   d. is the same way people hear