Choosing the Best Summary

A summary is a short version of a text that only includes the most important points. It means you **sum up** what you have read.

You can use **SUM** to help you remember what makes a good summary.

S – Shorter than the original

U – Using own words

M – Main points only

Read the texts and their summaries below carefully before choosing which summary is the **best** summary.

Last Wednesday, a dog got into the school. He snuck in through a hole in the fence and ran into the hall in the middle of assembly. The children gasped and laughed in surprise as Mr Sayer stopped his assembly and looked on in shock. It was only when the dog stopped by a group of children for a stroke that Mrs Robinson managed to catch him. Luckily, he was wearing a collar so they called his owner who was able to come and get him. Later that day, Mr Jones made sure the hole in the fence was fixed.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
Mr Sayer had to stop his assembly because the children were excited. ☐	A dog snuck into school and was returned to his owner. ☐
The owner of the dog didn't look after him properly. ☐	Mr Jones fixed the fence at school after a dog got in and interrupted assembly before being returned to his owner. ☐

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Stepping out on to the stage, Jayne felt a shiver down her spine. The judges sat at their table, whispering quietly. Taking a deep breath, she tried to remember everything from her lessons and the hours spent practising at home. Crouching down, she got into her start position and wrapped her arms around herself. Her stomach rumbled noisily and she regretted skipping breakfast. Heart thundering in her chest, she looked up and nodded, before resuming her position and waiting for the music to begin.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
Jayne was nervous because she skipped breakfast. ☐	Jayne is about to perform onstage in a competition and is nervous. ☐
Jayne has spent a lot of time practising for her performance. ☐	Jayne was feeling cold and scared after performing. ☐

Getting a dog is a big commitment. Dogs need walking once or twice a day as well as feeding, toileting and attention. It is not a good idea to get a dog if you are not at home very often.

Choosing the right dog is also important. You will need to take into account the age and character of the dog as well as its exercise needs.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
Getting a dog is the best thing you can do as they all make great pets and love attention. ☐	Getting a dog is a big commitment as they need lots of care. Some dogs like more exercise than others and some like more sleep. ☐
You should think carefully about getting a dog as it is a big commitment and different dogs have different needs. ☐	Dogs need lots of care and attention. You should never get a dog if you're not at home all day. ☐

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As his foot stepped over the gateway, he felt a shiver go down his spine as his imagination ran wild. Owls and bats were flying around, making the whole thing even spookier. He cautiously crept up the broken, overgrown path and towards the front door where something scratched his leg as he stepped up to the porch through the undergrowth.

Then a light flickered on and off in the hallway. This was all that was needed to make him turn back and run as fast as he could, dropping some of his leaflets in his haste.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
The boy was scared by a spooky house and ran away. ☐	The boy was delivering leaflets and was scared but he knew it was in his imagination. ☐
The boy littered in the garden of a scary house after he was scared by the lights flashing. ☐	The owls and bats made the boy nervous so he ran away. ☐

On 6th July 1903, 60 cyclists set off. They covered 2428km in a circular route, through six stages. Eighteen days later, 21 of the original 60 cyclists made it back to the finish line in Paris. The winner was Maurice Garin and Le Tour de France was born. As the tour became more and more popular, the course was made longer and challenging mountain climbs were introduced.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
The first Tour De France took place on 6th July 1903 and was won by Maurice Garin. The race is longer now and has mountain climbs. ☐	The first tour de France was much harder than today's as only 21 cyclists finished the race. The finish line was in Paris. Now it includes mountain climbs. ☐
The Tour de France was created in 1903 and was 2428km long. The winner of the first race was Maurice Garin. ☐	The Tour de France is a cycling race held in France every year. It began on 6th July, 1903 and covered 2428km. ☐

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Every year, more people are cycling to or walking work or school as it is good for their health and a good form of exercise. It is also helpful to the environment. However, car accidents on Australian roads are increasing so pedestrians need to take care crossing roads.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
Walking to school is a good form of exercise and is helpful to the environment. ☐	More and more people are walking to work as it is good for their health and the environment. ☐
More people are walking to places but they should be careful as there has been an increase in car accidents. ☐	There were more car accidents in Australia this year so people are walking to work or school. ☐

Guinea pigs need a large area like a hutch so that they have room to explore. They should have a safe, warm and dry area where they are away from other pets. The temperature must be comfortable. If it gets too hot, they can get heat stroke. Guinea pigs must be in a quiet place. Noises make them scared.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?	
Guinea pigs don't like places to be noisy or wet. ☐	Guinea pigs need a large hutch and a safe area that is dry, warm and quiet, where they can be away from other pets. ☐
Guinea pigs are difficult to care for and you should think carefully before getting one. ☐	Guinea pigs make great pets and are really easy to look after - they don't need much at all. ☐

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A seismograph (say: size-mo-graf) is a special piece of equipment that records earthquakes by drawing them. The base of the seismograph is on the ground and above it a weight hangs from a string. When there is an earthquake, the base shakes with the ground but the weight does not and it draws a line to show how much the ground shook. Scientists use the seismograms to measure how big each earthquake is. The bigger the zigzag lines, the bigger the earthquake.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?

Scientists use seismographs to measure how big an earthquake is. When earthquakes happen the ground shakes and seismographs measure that. ☐	Seismographs are pronounced size-mo-graf - the base is placed on the ground and during an earthquake, a weight above it marks how much the ground moves. The larger the line, the larger the earthquake. ☐
A seismograph measures how much the ground moves during an earthquake. The larger the line, the larger the earthquake. ☐	Seismographs draw zigzag lines to measure the size of an earthquake. Scientists think they are not very reliable though. ☐

At Hope Valley School, last Friday, there was a charity barbecue and fun afternoon to finish off a successful fundraising week. Many children had been collecting money for their local hospice by doing sponsored walks during the week. Friday was the final celebration.

Some parents were running the barbeque and, by the end of the evening, they only had a few bits of food left. Other parents had baked cakes for the cake stall which raised lots of money from sales and was a huge success. Even the local newspaper photographer was there to take photos for their next edition.

Which of the following is the best summary of the text above?

Hope Valley school will be in the newspaper for having a big barbeque and selling out of food. They raised the most money through selling cakes and want to do it again in the future. ☐	Hope Valley School held a successful fundraising week for their local hospice. Children and parents took part and a newspaper photographer took pictures. ☐
Parents at Hope Valley school raised money for a local charity and managed to sell lots of cake and food. They were photographed to be in the paper. ☐	The local hospice needs more money and the head teacher at Hope Valley school helped them out by organising a fundraising event. ☐

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Choosing the Best Summary - Answers

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