

Back to School 3: *The Genius*

Listening



Name: _____

Listen and answer the questions.



1. What is the most likely reason Alexis can't run?
 - a. She is tired.
 - b. She injured her leg.
 - c. She has to do research.
2. What do you need to use crutches well?
 - a. a lot of practice
 - b. strong knees and feet
 - c. strong arms and shoulders
3. How do you use crutches to move?
 - a. Move one crutch and one foot at a time.
 - b. Hop on both feet and balance using the crutches.
 - c. Lean on both crutches and swing your foot forward.
4. Can you make the crutches taller or shorter to fit your body?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. The speaker doesn't say.



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Reading

Name: _____

Read and answer the questions.

The Dewey Decimal System

A library is a great place to do research because the resources are well organized and easy to find. To help you find books on a particular subject, most libraries use the Dewey Decimal System.

Librarian Melvil Dewey designed this system in 1873. He wanted to label each book with a number that would give its location in the library. He thought it

would be more useful to organize books by topic, rather than just by author. He assigned a range of numbers to each topic. For example, all books about the natural sciences and math are numbered between 500 and 599.

Each number in the range represents a smaller topic. For example, all the books about biology begin with the number 574. After the topic number, there is a decimal point (.), followed by a unique number for the book. With this system, you can quickly find all the information you need for your research.



1. How does the Dewey Decimal System organize books?
 - a. by age
 - b. by author
 - c. by subject
2. How does the Dewey Decimal System help you do research?
 - a. It makes books easy to find.
 - b. It lets you research outside a library.
 - c. It holds a lot of information in one place.
3. If a book's number begins with 550, what do you know about it?
 - a. It is about biology.
 - b. It is about natural sciences or math.
 - c. It is the only copy of the book in the library.
4. Where is the decimal point in a Dewey Decimal System number?
 - a. before the topic
 - b. at the end of the book number
 - c. between the topic number and the book number

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Writing

Name: _____

Read the two ideas for the science fair. Circle the correct word.

1



I'm going to research Mars for my science fair project, so I made a list of questions:

- Which planet is ***larger* / *largest***: Earth or Mars?
- Which is the ***closer* / *closest*** planet to Mars?
- Are any planets ***older* / *oldest*** than Mars?
- Which area of Mars is the ***more* / *most*** interesting to scientists today?

2

I'm going to research whales for my science fair project, so I made a list of questions:

- What kind of whale lives the ***longer* / *longest***?
- Are blue whales ***bigger* / *biggest*** than humpback whales?
- What is the ***farther* / *farthest*** distance a whale travels?
- Which whales make the ***most* / *more*** beautiful sounds?



Choose a topic to research for a science fair. Write four questions to guide your research. Use comparative and superlative adjectives.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



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Speaking

Name: _____

Look at the picture. What is strange about this library?
Tell a classmate what is strange.



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Teacher's Guide

Listening Answer Key

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a

Audio Script

ALEXIS: Did you hear Vince? He asked me if I wanted to go for a run! He and his friends thought that was pretty funny, but it was just mean! They knew I couldn't run at all. They saw my crutches leaning against the table!

Crutches help a lot when you've injured your leg, your knee, or your foot and you can't put your full weight on your leg. They're hard to use at first, but you get used to them quickly.

You stand on your good leg, and then you lean forward on the crutches, with one under each armpit. You hold on to the middle of each crutch. Then you balance on both crutches and swing your good leg forward. So it's one step with the two crutches, and then one step with your good leg.

You need a lot of strength in your arms and shoulders, but you can move along easily after just a little practice. It helps to adjust the height of your crutches, so they fit right under your armpits and are easy to hold with your hands.

Reading Answer Key

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. c

Writing Answer Key

1. larger, closest, older, most (interesting)
 2. longest, bigger, farthest, most (beautiful)
- Students should list at least four research questions on a topic and should use comparative and superlative adjectives correctly.

Speaking Answer Key

Example of correct answers:

- There is a refrigerator in the library.
- A monkey is climbing / playing.
- A student is skating in the library.
- A flower is growing out of a book.

