

# HIPPO 4 Sample

Preliminary Round

## Reading

Time allowed: 40 minutes



### Reading Task 1

Read the text and circle the best option to complete each gap – a, b, c, or d.

#### Humans and pets

We love 0)\_\_\_\_\_ pets, we really do. For many of us, they are our closest companions—trusted, loyal, and just 1)\_\_\_\_\_ important as our children or members of the family. They are also excellent listeners 2)\_\_\_\_\_ never have a bad word to say about us. Our pets are also great at 3)\_\_\_\_\_ even the biggest secrets.

Research shows that, aside from 4)\_\_\_\_\_ certain diseases, pets are good for us. Pet owners enjoy greater fitness, lower stress, and more happiness. Having a pet can lower blood pressure, make us feel less lonely, and provide opportunities for more exercise and outdoor activities. It can 5)\_\_\_\_\_ help us make new friends, for example during dog walks or training sessions.

Cats, in particular, have always been seen as quite mysterious. Cats have lived close to humans for a very long time, and they have never become fully domesticated. They are also very different to dogs. Dogs are generally friendly, loving and patient, while cats are often seen as always wanting to do their own thing. It's difficult to say if this 6)\_\_\_\_\_ is actually true or not.

There have been many studies of the relationship between humans and dogs. But our 7)\_\_\_\_\_ of the relationship between humans and cats is not as thorough. Recently, scientists at the University of York interviewed over 150 cat owners. The aim of their study was to 8)\_\_\_\_\_ the personalities of the cats with the personalities of their owners. The study showed that calm owners usually had calm cats, and that nervous owners 9)\_\_\_\_\_ had nervous cats. Scientists still have one more question to answer. Is this because people like to choose pets with similar personalities? Or is it because with time, animals 10)\_\_\_\_\_ similar to their owners?

Example: (a) our

b) your

c) their

d) his

## Reading Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions below. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d.

### Who Is Coco Gauff?

Para. 1

Cori "Coco" Gauff is a professional tennis player. She became well known after defeating Venus Williams, one of the top female tennis players in the world, at Wimbledon. It happened in 2019, when Coco was just 15 years old, and her picture appeared in newspapers across the world. That year, Coco also won her first title in a competition for single players. In 2021, she added a second singles title to her name and also played in the quarterfinal of the French Open. Coco was added to the U.S. Olympic team in June 2021, but was not able to participate GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ health issues.

#### Early Life and Family

Para. 2

Cori "Coco" Gauff was born on March 13, 2004, in Delray Beach, Florida. She was the first child of her parents, who then went on to have two boys, Corie's younger brothers. She was named Cori after her father, Corey, and received his nickname of Coco as well. Gauff's father played basketball at Georgia State University, and her mother, Candi, was a gymnast at Florida State University. Her grandmother, Yvonne Odom, was the first black pupil in her high school back in 1960s, GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ was a challenging experience. During her tennis career, Coco has displayed the same strong character and confidence as her grandmother.

Para. 3

Coco spent her early years in Georgia. Her mother was a teacher, while her father worked in the pharmaceuticals industry in a senior management role. To support Coco's tennis training and career, her parents opted to leave their jobs and move back to Delray Beach, Florida. Candi began to home-school her daughter, GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ Corey became his daughter's coach.

#### Early Tennis Career

Para. 4

Because Coco's parents were athletes, they encouraged their children to take up a sport. Coco began playing tennis at the age of 6. By the time she was 10, she had travelled to France to work with Patrick Mouratoglou, who coaches Serena Williams, another top female tennis player. Coco has GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ train with Mouratoglou, but her father remains her main coach.

Coco's father, Corey, believes that it can be a mistake to just concentrate on one sport. "Be a well-rounded athlete – that's one thing we emphasized with Coco early on; she was into gymnastics, soccer, basketball, and running. We wanted her to develop as a total athlete, enjoy the experience and develop the skills."

Coco won her first national junior title in 2014, followed by some international wins the following year.

#### Professional Tennis Career

In January 2019, Coco told friends and family her goal for the year was to become one of the top 100 ranked players in the Women's Tennis Association. She was ranked 685 at the time. In June 2019, a 15-year-old Coco managed to get a place in the Wimbledon

tournament in London. In the first round she played against Venus Williams. Williams was not only a five-time champion at Wimbledon, but she and her sister Serena were Coco's tennis idols. However, Coco won the competition.

Coco made it to the fourth round of Wimbledon in 2019, the youngest player to do so since 1991. Her success drew so much attention it inspired the term "Cocomania." Soon afterward, she lasted until the third round of the U.S. Open, again the youngest to accomplish this since 1991.

In 2020, Coco shared in an interview that before her success at Wimbledon in 2019, she'd experienced the pressure to do well fast. She also admitted that she had struggled with depression for about a year. But things changed for the better after she realized that she needed to have a more positive attitude towards herself and the tennis game. Coco understood that she no longer needed to play to make other people happy. Coco ended the interview with these words: "I came out of it stronger and knowing myself better than ever."

**Example: This text is about**

- a) a tennis player.
- b) a tennis match.
- c) a tennis coach.
- d) tennis equipment.

## Reading Task 3

A) Read the three texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, or C.

### Text A, Charlie's Restaurant

Charlie's is one of the latest additions to the restaurant scene in Townbury. Designed for families, the restaurant has two large play areas, one indoors and one outdoors. Both spaces benefit from having a member of staff making sure everyone is safe. This means that parents can simply sit back and relax, as well as have a good look at the menu and pick out their favourite dishes

What the restaurant offers in terms of space and kids entertainment, GAP) \_\_\_\_, is not matched by their menu. How many different main courses would you expect to choose from when you treat yourself to dinner? Ten? OK, maybe eight is still acceptable right? Well, Charlie's offers three. That's including the one vegetarian dish.

The waiting staff, however, are quick to point out that the chefs only use the freshest local ingredients, and that the menu changes on weekly basis. Is that enough to convince me to make Charlie's one of my regular restaurants? Only on the days I cannot get a child minder!

### Text B, Maria's Restaurant

We visited Maria's restaurant last week to celebrate my grandmother's birthday. Gran really enjoyed a selection of international dishes, some of which she hadn't tried before.

Our waiter was really keen to make our visit a special experience. He brought us some bread and olive oil at the beginning of the meal, and didn't charge us for it. But it took almost an hour before the main dishes arrived at the table. I think they just needed a few more people working in the kitchen that day.

I must say that the dining area is quite small and the tables were really close together. We GAP) \_\_\_ hear each other because of other people's loud conversations, and there were kids running around the tables, which was annoying. But I guess a limited dining space is the price you pay if you want to eat in the centre, next to all the other entertainment the city has to offer.

### TEXT C, Black's Restaurant

My work colleague recommended this restaurant, hidden away in a small village near my city. He said that it served some of the best food he had ever had. I finally managed to book a table there last week, and I must admit, none of the dishes disappointed! In fact, the main course was unbelievable.

It's a shame, however, that the people who work there don't seem to be very interested in the guests. Our waiter was checking his phone when he was taking our order! When I pointed it out, he didn't even apologise. That's when I decided that I wouldn't be leaving a tip.

When the bill arrived, I first thought someone had made a mistake. It seemed impossible for two people to have eaten food worth over two hundred pounds. But when I checked it, it GAP) \_\_\_ to be accurate, so I just paid up. I don't think I'll be going back there soon!

**Which text does the following?**

**Example** Describes a restaurant located in Townbury.

A

