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Read the article “A New Ball Game” before answering Numbers 24 through 29.

A New Ball Game

How are a peach basket and a basketball hoop alike? No, you did not misunderstand. They actually have something in common. Read the story, and you will find out!

A long time ago, there was a gym teacher named Mr. Naismith. He had a hard time keeping his class busy. His students were bored and they talked too loudly. They didn't like to stay inside in winter. Mr. Naismith tried to think of a way to keep his class busy.

Mr. Naismith had an idea. He asked someone at the school to find two boxes, but no boxes could be found. Mr. Naismith got two peach baskets and put them high above the gym floor—one basket at one end of the gym and the other basket at the other end.

Mr. Naismith had a surprise for his students the next day. When they saw the peach baskets, they laughed. Mr. Naismith told them the rules of his new game. There would be two teams. Each team would try to throw a ball into a peach basket. The teams would not play against each other. They would just try to get a ball into their own basket.

There was one main rule: when a player had the ball, he had to pass it to another player. The player who got the ball would throw it into the basket. The students had a hard time passing the ball. Everyone wanted to keep the ball and throw it in the basket.

The players could not push or hit each other. If they did, Mr. Naismith would blow his whistle and that team would get a foul. After three fouls, the other team would get a point.

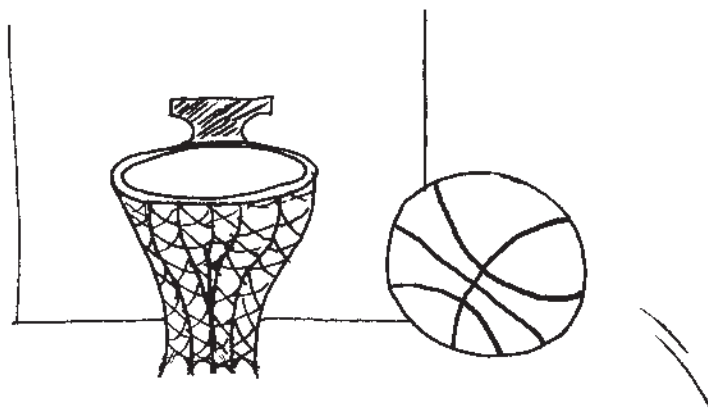
Since there were no holes in the bottoms of the peach baskets, when a player threw the ball into the basket, it stayed there! Mr. Naismith had to climb a ladder to get the ball out of the basket. Then players could shoot the ball again. The game moved at a snail's pace.

Mr. Naismith thought of some changes. He cut out the bottoms of the baskets so that he wouldn't have to climb a ladder to get a ball. In order to

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make the game move faster, the rules of the game changed, too. The teams started to play against each other. Then players could bounce the ball.

The students loved peach basketball. They asked Mr. Naismith to play the game inside and outside, and they showed their friends how to play. Everyone raved about the game. After a while, peach baskets were changed to hoops and nets. Does this sound familiar? Peach baskets became basketball hoops. The game of basketball was invented.



Now answer Numbers 24 through 29. Base your answers on the article “A New Ball Game.”

- 24 Read this sentence from the story.

No, you did not misunderstand.

If *understand* means “get the idea about,” then what does the word *misunderstand* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) to really get the idea
- (G) to get the wrong idea
- (H) to get a good idea about something
- (I) to be the first to get an idea about something

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- 25 Read this sentence from the article.

Mr. Naismith tried to think of a way to keep his class busy.

Which of the following BEST describes how the author connects this sentence to the ideas in the next paragraph?

- (A) The author describes the type of class that Mr. Naismith taught.
- (B) The author tells about an idea Mr. Naismith had to keep his class busy.
- (C) The author compares Mr. Naismith's class to the students' other classes.
- (D) The author explains why the students in Mr. Naismith's class were so bored.

- 26 Read this sentence from the article.

The game moved at a snail's pace.

What does the phrase *at a snail's pace* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) slowly
 - (G) all at once
 - (H) immediately
 - (I) in a convenient way
- 27 What effect did Mr. Naismith's rule changes have on the game of peach basketball?
- (A) It made the game move faster.
 - (B) It made the game more boring.
 - (C) It made it harder for players to score points.
 - (D) It made it harder for players to pass the ball.

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- 28 Read this sentence from the article.

Everyone raved about the game.

Why does the author use the phrase *raved about* in the sentence above?

- F to show that people loved the game
- G to show that people wanted to change the game
- H to show that people knew the game's rules very well
- I to show that people played the game in different places

- 29 Read this sentence from the story.

Does this sound familiar?

Which word means the OPPOSITE of the word *familiar* as it is used in the sentence above?

- A easy
- B new
- C pleasant
- D tricky