

TEXT 1 — STORY

Questions 1–5

The Last Lap

The whistle was only ten minutes away, and Priya's stomach felt like a washing machine on spin. The school cross-country ran twice around Banksia Oval, then out along the creek track and back. Last year she had finished near the end, and a boy from Year 6 had laughed. She had not forgotten.

Her dad had given her one piece of advice that morning. "Don't race the others," he said. "Race the clock in your head. Start slowly and save something for the end." Priya had rolled her eyes, but now the words rattled around in her mind like pebbles in a tin.

At the whistle, forty runners surged forward. Priya let them go. By the first bend she was almost last, and her legs itched to speed up. She counted her breaths instead: in for three steps, out for three. Slowly, steadily, the creek track slid beneath her sneakers while the gum trees swayed overhead.

At the creek, the front runners were already tiring. A tall girl stumbled, gasping, and Priya eased past her. Then she passed a boy clutching his side. By the time the oval came back into view, she was sixth, and the crowd's cheering rose like a wave.

With one hundred metres left, she gave everything she had. She did not win. She finished fourth, but when she crossed the line, her dad was waving both arms above his head, and she realised that she was grinning so widely her cheeks hurt. For the first time, the race had felt like her own.

1. How many times did the course go around Banksia Oval?

- A one time
- B three times
- C five times
- D two times

2. In the second paragraph, the words "rattled around in her mind" suggest that her dad's advice

- A was hard to hear clearly
- B made her feel very sleepy
- C was quickly forgotten
- D kept coming back to her

3. Why did Priya's stomach feel like "a washing machine on spin"?

- A She was very nervous.
- B She felt sick from lunch.
- C She was cross about rain.
- D She was excited by a prize.

THE WORKED ANSWERS TO THOSE 3 QUESTIONS

1. How many times did the course go around Banksia Oval? [Detail]

Correct answer: D — two times

- What is the question asking? It asks for a fact that the text states.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “ran twice around Banksia Oval”
- The first paragraph gives the number of laps.
- So the correct answer is D (two times).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (one time): Tempting if you only noticed the oval at the start; the text says the course went around it twice before heading out along the creek.
 - B (three times): Three laps would make a longer race, but the text gives no third lap. It says the runners went twice around the oval, then out to the creek track.
 - C (five times): Five is far too many. Numbers in a question like this are easy to mix up, so find the word ‘twice’ in the first paragraph and match it.
- Check it against the evidence. Check the detail: “ran twice around Banksia Oval” points to ‘two times’, so the other choices do not fit.

LOS: EN3-RECOM-01: reads and comprehends texts for wide purposes, analysing text structures and language

KEY TAKEAWAY

Go back to the text and find the exact words that answer the question, then match them to an option.

2. In the second paragraph, the words “rattled around in her mind” suggest that her dad’s advice [Vocab]

Correct answer: D — kept coming back to her

- What is the question asking? It asks what a word means in this text.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “rattled around in her mind like pebbles in a tin”
- Pebbles in a tin keep knocking about, so the advice keeps returning.
- So the correct answer is D (kept coming back to her).
- Why the other options are wrong:

- A (was hard to hear clearly): 'Rattled' sounds noisy, so you might think the advice was hard to hear. But Priya heard it perfectly well; the pebbles-in-a-tin picture is about the words bouncing around in her head.
- B (made her feel very sleepy): She is too nervous to feel sleepy. Her stomach is like a washing machine, so the words are keeping her wide awake, not making her drowsy.
- C (was quickly forgotten): The opposite is true. Words that rattle around in your mind do not disappear; she acts on them in the race, so they were far from forgotten.
- Check it against the evidence. Use the context clue: "rattled around in her mind like pebbles in a tin" points to 'kept coming back to her', so the other choices do not fit.

LOS: EN3-VOCAB-01: extends Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary and analyses word meanings

KEY TAKEAWAY

Reread the sentence, put each option in place of the word, and see which one still makes sense.

3. Why did Priya's stomach feel like "a washing machine on spin"? [Inference]

Correct answer: A — She was very nervous.

- What is the question asking? It asks what the clues in the text show.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "Priya's stomach felt like a washing machine on spin."
- A churning stomach is a sign of nerves.
- So the correct answer is A (She was very nervous).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- B (She felt sick from lunch.): The stomach comparison is about her feelings, not her lunch. Nothing in the text says she ate anything, and the sentence is about ten minutes before the race.
- C (She was cross about rain.): Rain is never mentioned. The gum trees sway and the creek track is dry enough to run on; her worry is about last year and the race, not the weather.
- D (She was excited by a prize.): A prize would be a happy reason, but she is not excited. She remembers being laughed at last year, which is why her stomach is churning with nerves.
- Check it against the evidence. Look for the clue: "Priya's stomach felt like a washing machine on spin." points to 'She was very nervous', so the other choices do not fit.

LOS: EN3-RECOM-01: reads and comprehends texts for wide purposes, analysing text structures and language

KEY TAKEAWAY

When the text does not say it directly, use the clues it gives, then ask: what must be true?

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