

**ANSWER KEY** for Week 1 (April 13th)

**Lesson 1: How can we achieve happiness? (Paragraph)**

*Answers will vary. Check that each sentence begins with a capital and ends with proper punctuation.*

**Grammar Review - Nouns**

*(Nouns are in bold)*

|               |                |                  |               |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>circus</b> | spectacular    | <b>pizza</b>     | <b>house</b>  |
| erase         | <b>eraser</b>  | <b>diamond</b>   | forget        |
| slimy         | <b>Charles</b> | destroy          | <b>dog</b>    |
| build         | carefully      | <b>McDonalds</b> | sing          |
| <b>street</b> | <b>pillow</b>  | <b>baseball</b>  | <b>joy</b>    |
| soft          | <b>brain</b>   | beautiful        | <b>beauty</b> |

**Lesson 2. Informational text - “Simone Biles”**

1. C
2. E & F
3. D

4. Possible answer: *Her training helps her be successful because without training she would not be such a good gymnast.*

5. Possible answer may include: *Biles doesn’t let the situation - winning or losing - determine if she is happy or not. She still enjoys gymnastics even when she isn’t first place.*

## Lesson 1 - Informational Text

In this informational text, Benjamin Koch discusses his experiences in Tibet, a region in Central Asia. While in Tibet, Koch stayed with a group of people with no permanent home, known as nomads. As you read, take notes on how the author describes the Tibetan nomads' way of life.

### ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

by Benjamin Koch | 2015

A few summers ago, I was lucky to travel to Tibet, the “roof of the world.” Tibet is a small country surrounded on all sides by gigantic snowy mountain peaks. For thousands of years, these towering mountains acted like a fence, keeping people from entering the country. That’s one reason why explorers and writers have called Tibet the roof of the world. It’s hard to get to. The other reason is Tibet’s high elevation. When I climbed mountain passes<sup>1</sup> over 17,000 feet above sea level, I gasped for air. I was more than three miles high!

Years ago, the people of Tibet were nomads — people without permanent homes. The ground in Tibet is much too rocky and thin to grow crops, so Tibetans centered their daily life and survival on the yak<sup>2</sup>. The yaks provided the nomads with nearly everything they needed — milk, butter, meat, and wool for clothes and ropes. Even yak dung was used for fires.

Tibetan nomads would lead their herds of yak and sheep across pastures<sup>3</sup>, valleys, and mountainsides in search of the best grazing lands. They did not live in permanent homes made of wood, brick, or stone.

Times are changing in Tibet, and more and more people live and work in villages and cities. But there are still nomads who survive on the high plateau<sup>4</sup> just as their ancestors did.

### BECOMING A MODERN NOMAD

Some friends and I were traveling with our teacher, Dudjom Dorjee, to Kham, in the eastern part of Tibet. Dudjom was born in Tibet and lived the first years of his life as a traditional nomad. Because of political problems, Dudjom’s family had to flee to India when he was still young. We were following Dudjom back to his birthplace and getting a taste of that ancient, nomadic way of life — with a few modern updates.

We had the advantage of automobiles — a luxury that nomads have happily survived without. When it comes time for a nomad family to move, they pack all their things into large backpacks that they strap over their yaks. A typical family might need from 30 to 50 yaks to carry all their supplies. My friends and I had more than 50 bags to carry. We stuffed them into a bus, while we piled into four-wheel drives.

### PROBLEMS ALONG THE WAY

When it comes to crossing rough country, yaks are the true all-terrain travelers. Many times, the nomads have to cross raging rivers. For the loyal and determined yaks, crossing is not a problem. But when we had to cross a river, our four-wheel drives turned out to be not so loyal or reliable. We got stuck in the muddy banks of the river, and it took at least a dozen people pushing to get us out.

When nomads arrive at their destination, they are so skilled at setting up their large yak-hair tents that

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<sup>1</sup> a route through a mountain range or over a ridge

<sup>2</sup> a type of large ox

<sup>3</sup> land covered with grass

<sup>4</sup> an area of high, level ground

they have them up in minutes. My friends and I, with our fancy super-modern tents, weren't quite as quick. At one campsite, I remember wrestling with one of my tent poles trying to pass it through the loops of my tent. Some smiling nomad kids approached and had me set up in no time, though they'd never seen a tent like that before.

Nomad families often compete to see who will be the first to have their tent up, a fire going, and hot tea poured.

### **IT'S COLD UP THERE!**

The weather in Tibet is cold, and the brutal wind seems to show no mercy. Sitting inside a nomad tent, though, you'd never know it. With a warm fire burning in the mud stove and the snug black walls of the tent, you are as comfortable as can be. This was not the case in the fancy modern tents my friends and I slept in. I remember shivering through my four sweaters, three pairs of pants, and blanket, listening to the chill rain hit my tent.

Tibetan children were especially curious about us "modern nomads" and sometimes came peeking into our tents!

### **HAVING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE**

On this trip, I learned that it takes much more than snug tents and thick, hearty<sup>5</sup> tea to survive. You need the right attitude. Everywhere we traveled, the Tibetans were generous, happy, and curious. It might be a monk<sup>6</sup> warming my frozen hands in his fur robes. It might be a family of nomads taking a break to dance and sing in a circle, or a handful of kids watching me with beaming smiles.

Though their lives are full of challenges, the nomads never take their day-to-day problems too seriously. They know how impermanent<sup>7</sup> things are, including their homes. We modern nomads learned some of these lessons. Perhaps when we cross the raging rivers or face the cold bitter days of our lives, we'll do it with a lot more of the right attitude — the same attitude that shines from the bright smiles of the Tibetan nomads.

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**For the following questions, choose the best answer or answer with complete sentences.**

#### **1. Which statement describes the central idea of the text?**

- A. Tibetan nomads know how to survive in difficult conditions and keep a positive outlook on life.
- B. Tibetans nomads have learned to be thankful for what they have because they don't have much.
- C. The number of nomads in Tibet is decreasing because it's not considered a fulfilling way of life.
- D. Technology would help Tibetan nomads live fuller and more successful lives out in nature.

#### **2. Which detail from the text best supports the answer to question 1?**

- A. "Times are changing in Tibet, and more and more people live and work in villages and cities."
- B. "Some smiling nomad kids approached and had me set up in no time, though they'd never seen a tent like that before."
- C. "Nomad families often compete to see who will be the first to have their tent up, a fire going, and hot tea poured."
- D. "Though their lives are full of challenges, the nomads never take their day-to-day problems too seriously."

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<sup>5</sup> Hearty (adjective) : filling

<sup>6</sup> a member of a religious community of men

<sup>7</sup> Impermanent (adjective) : not lasting; temporary

**3. Which of the following describes how the information in the text is organized?**

- A.The author describes how Tibetan nomads survived in the past and how they are surviving today.
- B.The author describes who the Tibetan nomads are and then his personal experiences spending time with them.
- C.The author details his experiences as a Tibetan nomad and then compares his experiences to other nomads.
- D.The author compares what he liked and disliked about his experiences as a modern nomad.

**4. In the text, the author describes how positive the Tibetan nomads are despite how hard their lifestyle is. How do you think they remain so positive?**

**5. Describe a time when you or someone you know encountered something challenging but kept a positive attitude.**

**6. What traits do you think would be important for a Tibetan nomad to possess? How do you think your lifestyle has shaped the person you are?**

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**Lesson 2 - Grammar Review - Verbs** (action words)

Exercise A: Circle the verbs in the chart.

|        |         |           |           |
|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| took   | kitchen | walking   | whispered |
| candle | green   | discover  | bookshelf |
| salty  | sharpen | queen     | dancing   |
| borrow | invent  | invention | write     |
| town   | drive   | silly     | think     |
| throw  | car     | sidewalk  | build     |
| scary  | scare   | forgive   | eat       |

Exercise B: Underline the action verb(s) in each sentence. There could be more than one.

1. We ran across the yard.
2. My brother cleaned and organized his room.
3. The students read and analyzed the story.
4. I left my phone in the car.
5. She wants new shoes for her birthday.
6. The monkeys and pandas escaped from the zoo!
7. Everybody watched the game and cheered for their team.
8. The teacher wrote the answers on the board.
9. The weeds grew quickly in the garden.
10. The diamond sparkled in the sunlight.

Exercise C: Write sentences using the verbs provided. You may change the tense of the verb (ex. carry → carried, buy → bought). For 7-10 you must use both verbs in one sentence.

1. carry: \_\_\_\_\_
2. buy: \_\_\_\_\_
3. break: \_\_\_\_\_
4. consider: \_\_\_\_\_
5. practice: \_\_\_\_\_
6. slip: \_\_\_\_\_
7. dance, sing: \_\_\_\_\_
8. write, edit: \_\_\_\_\_
9. make, sell: \_\_\_\_\_
10. listen, ask: \_\_\_\_\_