

Lecture Four: Reading and comprehension

Read the text and do the tasks bellow:

Have you ever heard the terms acid and base? Acids and bases play important roles in your life. Acids and bases can be found in just about everything. Almost every liquid you see is either acid or a base. The only liquid that is not an acid or a base is distilled water.

The word acid comes from the Latin word acidus, which means "sharp". Acids usually have a sour taste. Examples of acids are lemon juice and vinegar. Most citrus fruits have a lot of acids, as do tea and yogurt. Not all acids can be eaten. Some of them can be very harmful. Some acids can bum holes in clothing or skin. These strong acids are used to produce dyes, plastic, fertilizers, and more.

A base is a bitter-tasting chemical. Egg whites and ammonia are bases. Soap is also made from a base. Did you know that your blood is base? There are many bases that can be eaten, but there are many that are very dangerous to touch, taste, or smell.

Acids and bases are opposites. Therefore, when you mix them together, they can neutralise each other. Mixing them together takes a bite of potency away and makes them weaker. When there is too much of an acid, a base will be added to counteract the acidity. Gardeners are constantly working to get the right balance in the soil. If there is too much acid, plants won't grow.

Adapted from: S. Kartchner Clark's "Daily Warm'ups Reading"

A) COMPREHENSION. (08 pts)

1/ The text is about (Choose the correct answer)

- a. The nature of acids and bases.
- b. The roles of acids and bases.
- c. How to get acids and bases.

2/ Are these statements true or false?

- a. All acids are harmful.
- b. Bases have no taste.
- c. Acids are as harmful as bases.
- d. Mixing bases and acids makes a balance.

3/ Answer the following questions:

- a. Are all acids consumable? Justify.
- b. What should be done to reduce acidity?
- c. Why do the gardeners try to reduce the acidity of the soil?

4/ In which paragraph is it mentioned that not all liquids can be classified as acids and bases?

5/ What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text?

- a. which (§2).
- b. that (§3).
- c. they (§4).

B) TEXT EXPLORATION. (07 pts)

1/ Find in the text words or phrases that are closest in meaning to the following.

- a. vital (§1). b. damaging (§2). c. continually (§4)