

# Reading: The Escape Artist

Read the passage, then circle the letter next to the correct answer for each question.

## The Escape Artist

An octopus has no bones. That sounds like a small fact until you work out what it means: an octopus the size of a football can squeeze through a gap the size of a coin, so long as its beak fits through. The beak is the only hard part of it.

Aquarium keepers learned this the hard way. In the 1870s, staff at an aquarium in Brighton kept finding fish missing overnight from a tank that nothing should have been able to reach. Eventually somebody stayed up to watch. The octopus was climbing out of its own tank after dark, crossing the floor, helping itself, and getting home before morning.

Octopuses are also difficult to keep because they get bored. Keepers give them jars to unscrew and toys to pull apart. An octopus with nothing to do will usually find something to do, and the keepers rarely like what it picks.

1. What is the only hard part of an octopus?  
☐ (A) Its beak    ☐ (B) Its skull    ☐ (C) Its shell    ☐ (D) Its spine
2. Why can an octopus squeeze through very small gaps?  
☐ (A) It is extremely slippery    ☐ (B) It has no bones    ☐ (C) It can hold its breath  
☐ (D) It is always very small
3. What problem did the Brighton aquarium have?  
☐ (A) The tanks kept leaking    ☐ (B) Visitors were feeding the animals  
☐ (C) Fish were disappearing overnight    ☐ (D) The octopus refused to eat

4. How did the staff finally work out what was happening?
- (A) They asked the visitors    (B) They emptied the tank
- (C) They read about it in a book    (D) Somebody stayed up to watch
5. In this passage, "helping itself" means the octopus was —
- (A) taking the fish without permission    (B) carrying fish to other tanks
- (C) feeding the smaller fish    (D) cleaning out its own tank
6. Why do keepers give octopuses jars and toys?
- (A) To stop them getting bored    (B) To keep them warm    (C) To help them grow
- (D) To teach them to swim
7. "the keepers rarely like what it picks" suggests that a bored octopus —
- (A) goes to sleep    (B) gets into mischief    (C) stops eating
- (D) becomes friendly

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Answer Key: 1) A · 2) B · 3) C · 4) D · 5) A · 6) A · 7) B