

Summarising task

Instructions for use: Fill out using Acrobat Reader then save to your PC once completed.

Question 1

Read the passage below and...

1. Create a title for the passage related to the main idea.
2. Accurately summarise the text.

Picture this: a herd of elephants flies past you at sixty miles per hour, followed by a streak of tigers, a pride of lions, and a bunch of clowns. What do you see? It must be a circus train! One of the first uses of the circus train is credited to W.C. Coup. He partnered with P.T. Barnum in 1871 to expand the reach of their newly combined shows using locomotives. Before circus trains, these operators had to lug around all of their animals, performers, and equipment with a team of more than 600 horses. Since there were no highways, these voyages were rough and took a long time. Circuses would stop at many small towns between the large venues. Performing at many of these small towns was not very profitable. Because of these limitations, circuses could not grow as large as the imaginations of the operators. After they began using circus trains, Barnum and Coup only brought their show to large cities. These performances were much more profitable and the profits went toward creating an even bigger and better circus. Multiple rings were added and the show went on. Today, Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus still rely on the circus train to transport their astounding show, but now they use two.

1. Main idea related title for the passage:

2. Summarise the passage in your own words.

Question 2

Read the passage below and...

1. Create a title for the passage related to the main idea.
2. Accurately summarise the text.

How do you say “Holy cow” in French? The fastest thing in France may just be the fastest ground transportation in the world. The TGV (*Train à Grande Vitesse*: French for very high speed) is France’s national high speed rail service. On April 3rd, 2007, a TGV test train set a record for the fastest wheeled train, reaching 357.2 miles per hour. In mid 2011, TGV trains operated at the highest speed in passenger train service in the world, regularly reaching 200 miles per hour. But what you may find most shocking is that TGV trains run on electric power not petrol. Now if you’ll excuse me; I have a record to catch.

1. Main idea related title for the passage:

2. Summarise the passage in your own words.