Read the text and then answer the questions.

Austin liked to spend time at his friend Devin's house. One of the greatest things about Devin's family was that Devin's older brother, Jacob, had his own band. Jacob and his band practiced in Devin's garage, and Austin really liked to hear them play. One day, Austin and Devin were talking about the band, and Austin suggested they should start a band of their own. Devin wasn't in the least bit interested in being in a band, but he said Austin ought to learn to play the guitar. "Who knows?" Devin said, "You might get really famous." Austin thought about what his friend had said. Maybe it would be a good idea to learn to play the guitar—the electric guitar. Then, when he was good enough at it, he could have a band like Jacob's even if Devin didn't want to join.

1. Who is the main character?
   A. Devin
   B. Austin
   C. Jacob
   D. Dad

2. What is Devin's suggestion for Austin?
   A. He suggests that Austin not come to the house.
   B. He suggests that Austin forget about music.
   C. He suggests that Austin play in Jacob's band.
   D. He suggests that Austin learn to play the guitar.

3. Which prefix could you add to interested to make a word that means "not in the least bit interested?"
   A. hyper–
   B. semi–
   C. un–
   D. sub–

4. Which word from the text can be both a noun and a verb?
   A. idea
   B. interested
   C. band
   D. talking

5. Which word has the same meaning as the phrase ought to?
   A. should
   B. cannot
   C. might
   D. could
Austin had decided he wanted to learn to play the electric guitar. It was originally his friend Devin’s idea, but the more he thought about it, the more Austin liked the idea of being a guitarist in a band. So he asked his parents if he could have a guitar. His mom and dad liked the idea, too, but they thought that an electric guitar might be really expensive. Austin thought so himself. Then one day, he stopped into a music-supply store to look at prices. He noticed a few ads at the store for used guitars. He asked the manager about the ads. “Oh, sure,” the manager said. “People are always selling used guitars. That’s really the best way for a beginner to get an inexpensive instrument.” Now Austin knew how he could get a guitar without spending a lot of money.

1. What do Austin’s mom and dad believe?
   - A) A guitar might be really expensive.
   - B) Austin should not play the guitar.
   - C) Austin can use their guitar.
   - D) A guitar will probably be very cheap.

2. How will Austin get a guitar without spending a lot of money?
   - A) The manager will give him a guitar.
   - B) His mom and dad will give him a guitar.
   - C) He will buy a used guitar.
   - D) He will not get a guitar.

3. Which prefix can be added to expensive to make its antonym?
   - A) in–
   - B) hypo–
   - C) mal–
   - D) super–

4. What does the suffix –ist in the noun guitarist mean?
   - A) very small
   - B) brand new
   - C) special kind
   - D) someone who does something

5. What is inexpensive instrument an example of?
   - A) personification
   - B) alliteration
   - C) simile
   - D) metaphor
Austin wanted to learn to play the electric guitar. His mom and dad thought it was a good idea, too, but they were concerned about the cost, and so was Austin. The solution to the problem turned out to be a used guitar. Austin had discovered that many musicians sell inexpensive, used electric guitars. So he returned to the music supply store where he had seen ads for guitars. He wrote down the names and telephone numbers listed on the ads. He didn’t recognize any of the names he saw on the ads. So his mom and dad insisted on going with him when he went to look at the guitars. The first two guitars he wanted to see had already been sold, but the third one was still for sale, and Austin liked it. In a very short time, Austin had his electric guitar.

1. What is this text mostly about?
   A. the history of the electric guitar
   B. how Austin learns to play the guitar
   C. how Austin gets an electric guitar
   D. where to find an electric guitar

2. What happens before Austin’s mom and dad go with him to look at guitars?
   A. Austin buys the guitar he wants.
   B. Austin writes down the names and numbers listed on the ads.
   C. Austin and his parents look at guitars.
   D. Austin finds out that two of the guitars have already been sold.

3. Which prefix can be added to *sold* to make a word that means “still for sale”?
   A. sub–
   B. ambi–
   C. bi–
   D. un–

4. What does the verb *returned* tell you about Austin?
   A. He has never been to the music-supply store.
   B. He has been to the music-supply store before.
   C. He does not know where the music-supply store is.
   D. He will never go to the music-supply store.

5. What is the tone of the text?
   A. sarcastic
   B. informal
   C. persuasive
   D. guilty
PLAYING IN THE BAND

Austin wanted to play the electric guitar. His friend, Devin, had first suggested the idea, and Austin thought it was a great one. Someday, he wanted to be in a band, but first he had to learn to play. So he bought a used electric guitar from a musician who was selling it. At first, Austin thought it would be easy to learn how to play. Devin’s brother, Jacob, played electric guitar, and it looked easy when Austin watched him. But as soon as Austin tried to play his own guitar, he realized how mistaken he was.

Austin tried to play the same songs he heard Jacob and his band play, but he couldn’t make his guitar sound the same at all. It wasn’t long before he decided he was going to need lessons. Austin’s mom and dad had thought of that, too, and together, the three of them found a guitar teacher. Austin attended the first few lessons, but he began to get bored. His teacher kept giving him little songs and music exercises to do, not real songs like Jacob played. When Austin complained to his mom and dad about it, his mother advised him, “Be patient. You need to learn the basics first so you can sound good later when you play harder songs.” Austin didn’t believe her, but he wasn’t a quitter, either. So he kept going for lessons and practicing.

After a while, Austin started to sound good when he played, and he began to be able to play harder songs. One day, Jacob and his band even let Austin play a song with them. Austin didn’t know if he was ever going to be famous, but it was going to be fun finding out!
Read “Playing in the Band” and then answer the questions.

1. Why does Austin try to play his new guitar as soon as he gets it?
   A. He starts to sound better.
   B. He takes guitar lessons.
   C. He thinks it will be easy to play.
   D. He realizes that playing the guitar is not easy.

2. Why do Jacob and his band sound better than Austin does at first?
   A. They have practiced more and played longer.
   B. They have newer guitars.
   C. They do not practice.
   D. They have a bigger place to play.

3. Which reflects a reasonable purpose for reading this story?
   A. to learn how to play an instrument in a band
   B. to sign up to be in the school band
   C. to read about a character who likes music
   D. to read about a famous musician who plays in a band

4. Which would be a good gift for Austin?
   A. a basketball
   B. a science kit
   C. a guitar songbook
   D. a cookbook

5. What does Austin most likely hope will happen in the future?
   A. He will have his own band someday.
   B. He will stop playing the guitar.
   C. He will never visit Devin and Jacob.
   D. He will play only easy songs.

6. What inference can be made about Austin’s mom and dad?
   A. They do not know Austin wants guitar lessons.
   B. They want to play the guitar.
   C. They wish Austin would not take guitar lessons.
   D. They are glad Austin is taking guitar lessons.

7. At the end of the text, what is Austin’s attitude towards playing the guitar?
   A. bored
   B. confused and frustrated
   C. jealous of Jacob’s band
   D. proud and pleased with his hard work

8. Why doesn’t Austin like his music lessons at first?
   A. His teacher doesn’t give him real songs to play.
   B. His music teacher is rude to him.
   C. He can’t understand what his music teacher says.
   D. He doesn’t want to be in a band.
What have you learned to do well? Did it take a lot of practice? Write about what you have learned to do well and how you learned it.

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Reread “Playing in the Band.” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.