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Getting Back On Is What Counts

Dad would say, "There's nothing to falling off a horse. It's getting back on that counts." What did he mean?

My hopes had been high all week. I wanted the job at the playground. It was very important to me. I needed the money. I felt I had a good chance of getting the job. However, it didn't work out.

Yesterday afternoon, I stopped by the playground. Mr. Way said he would not be needing me. I guess that means someone else got the job.

Not getting the job was bad news. Last night, I felt very low. I felt that maybe I should forget about getting a job.

Then I remembered something I had heard my dad say. He would say, "There's nothing to falling off a horse. Anyone can do it. It's getting back on that counts."

I can't remember the first time I heard Dad say that. Maybe it was the first time I fell off my rocking horse. Yes, I was too young to remember. But if Dad were anywhere around, I'm sure that is what he said.

I don't think I understood what Dad meant the first time I heard him say it. What happened later helped me to really understand what he meant.

I had been riding Boss for a year. I felt safe riding him. He was a very gentle horse. For my age, I was a very good rider.

Then one day I was riding Boss. Suddenly, a dog jumped from a patch of grass. It scared both of us. Boss jumped to her right. That's when I fell off, almost falling on the dog. I was scared, but probably not as badly as the dog. I was hurt, but not badly.

For two days I didn't ride Boss. Yes, I was still scared. When Dad found out I was not riding, he said, "There's nothing to falling off a horse. Anyone can do it. It's getting back on that counts." He insisted I begin riding again. Soon, I was an even better rider.

Then there was the time my brother Jim got a new horse. It was not a gentle horse like Boss. Jim's horse threw him the second time he rode it. Jim was able to get up immediately. He rubbed his left elbow. However, he did not appear to be badly hurt.

Being muddy, he insisted that he go take a bath immediately. Dad did not agree. He said, "Jim, it is important you get back on that horse immediately."

I felt sorry for Jim. I'm sure he was scared.

Later Dad explained. He said, "Jim, I insisted you get back on the horse immediately for the good of your horse as well as for your own good."

Remembering what Dad was known for saying has helped. Today, I'll try for another job. Maybe I'll stop by the market. The owner may need some help. I might like working there even better.

I won't ask about a job at the playground immediately. But, if things don't work out at the market, I'll ask at the playground again later. I think that is what Dad would want me to do.

A. New Words

- 1 **appear**
- 2 **elbow**
- 3 **gentle**
- 4 **however**
- 5 **immediately**
- 6 **insisted**

B. USING THE NEW WORDS.

Write the new word that best completes each sentence.

1. The word that means “quickly, very soon, or now” is _____.
2. Jim was muddy. However, he did not _____ to be hurt.
3. Dad _____ Jim get back on the horse immediately.
4. **Knee** is to **leg** as _____ is to **arm**.
5. **Afraid** is to **brave** as **wild** is to **kind** or _____.

C. THINK ABOUT IT.

Write the letter of the best answer:

6. The writer wanted
 - a. Dad to buy a horse.
 - b. a job.
 - c. to take a bath.
 - d. none of the above.6. _____
7. Which happened *last*? The writer
 - a. remembered what Dad would say.
 - b. asked about a job at the playground.
 - c. decided to ask about a job at the market.
 - d. fell off Boss.7. _____
8. The writer decided he would ask about a job at the market. She did this because
 - a. she thought about the meaning of what Dad was known for saying.
 - b. she was very good at fixing cars.
 - c. she had high hopes all week long.
 - d. of none of the above.8. _____
9. In which list do the words *not* belong together or mean much the same?
 - a. elbow, arm, and hand
 - b. insisted, told, and ordered
 - c. immediately, quickly, and suddenly
 - d. gentle, wild, and scared9. _____
10. Dad would say, “There is nothing to falling off a horse. It’s getting back on that counts.” What he really meant was
 - a. it’s not safe to ride a horse that is likely to throw you.
 - b. you need to be brave enough to try again.
 - c. you shouldn’t ride a horse when there are dogs nearby.
 - d. good riders don’t fall off.10. _____

Date _____ Number correct _____

D. ADDING ENDINGS TO WORDS

As you read each word, think about its meaning. Think about how adding the ending changes the meaning of the word. Practice reading the words.

1. **-ing**

- a.
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| a. practice | b. exercise | c. believe |
| <u>practicing</u> | <u>exercising</u> | <u>believing</u> |

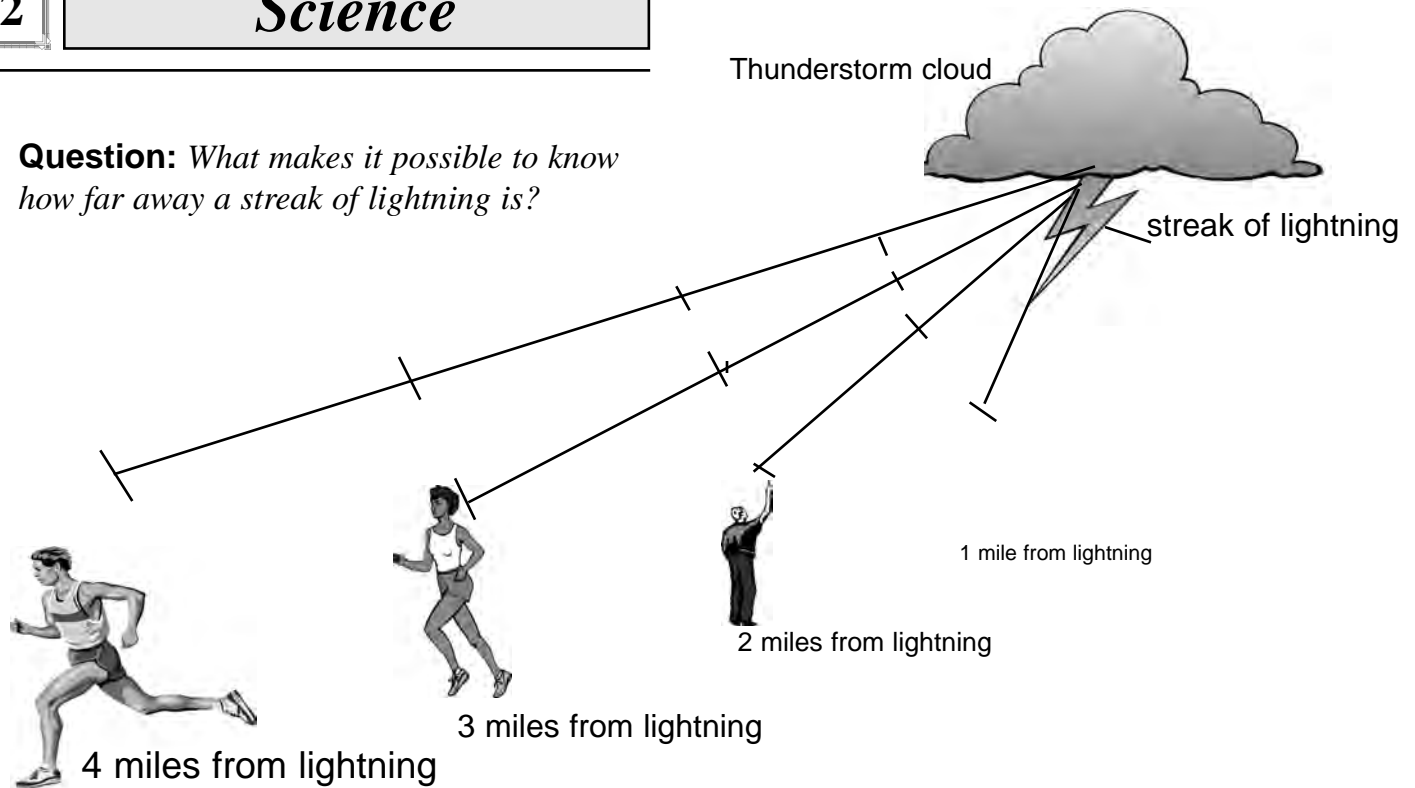
2. **-ly**

- a.
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| a. quiet | b. light | c. exact |
| <u>quietly</u> | <u>lightly</u> | <u>exactly</u> |

3. **-er**

- a.
- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| a. loud | b. light | c. own |
| <u>louder</u> | <u>lighter</u> | <u>owner</u> |

Question: *What makes it possible to know how far away a streak of lightning is?*



Nature's Concert

You hear a loud, rumbling sound. It sounds like a drummer letting the band know it is time to march. Is that what it is? No, it is probably not.

It's probably nature getting ready to play a little concert in the sky. It's thunder, the beginning of a thunderstorm.

When nature plays a concert, there is light as well as sound. Light waves travel from the lightning. You see the light as the waves reach you. Sound waves also travel out from the lightning. When you hear the thunder, it means the sound waves have reached you.

The light waves from a streak of lightning travel very fast. They travel so fast that you see the lightning almost as soon as it flashes.

Sound waves do not travel as fast as light. The sound of thunder travels about a mile (1.67 kilometers) each five seconds. This makes it possible for you to tell how far away the lightning is.

You do this by counting the number of seconds between the time you see the lightning and the

time you hear the thunder. If the lightning is one mile (1.67 kilometers) away, you will hear the thunder about five seconds after you see the lightning.

There may be ten seconds between the time you see the lightning and the time you hear the rumble of thunder. This means the lightning is two miles (3.34 kilometers) away.

There may have been times at night when you saw a streak of lightning. But, you never heard thunder. That was because the lightning was far away.

The light from the lightning reached you. The rumble of the thunder didn't reach you. That means you were so far away the sound waves did not reach you.

Most of the time nature does its work very quietly. The growing of plants does not make a sound. You don't hear the sun coming up or going down. You can't hear the falling snow.

That's not true with a thunderstorm. When nature sends out a streak of lightning, you see it. If you are near it, you hear a loud clap of thunder. If you are farther away, you may hear a rumble. It may rumble like a band getting ready to play a concert.

A. New Words

- 1 **concert**
- 2 **lightning**
- 3 **nature**
- 4 **possible**
- 5 **rumble**
- 6 **streak**

B. USING THE NEW WORDS.

Write the new word that best completes each sentence.

1. The word that means “a deep, long, rolling sound” is _____.
2. We saw a _____ of lightning go across the sky.
3. I saw a streak of lightning. I counted the number of seconds until I heard thunder. That made it _____ for me to know how far away the lightning was.
4. **Hear** is to **thunder** as **see** is to _____.
5. **Baseball team** is to **game** as **band** is to _____.

C. THINK ABOUT IT.

Write the letter of the best answer:

6. Sometimes you see a streak of lightning. You never hear the rumble of thunder. It is because
- a. it is too dark.
 - b. the lightning is so far away the sound waves never reach you.
 - c. nature is not playing a concert.
 - d. the lightning is two miles (3.34 kilometers) away.

7 Which happens *last*?

- a. The sound waves from the streak of lightning begin traveling toward you.
- b. The sound waves travel one second.
- c. You hear the rumble of thunder.
- d. You see a streak of lightning two miles (3.34 kilometers) away.

8. You see a streak of lightning that is about one mile (1.67 kilometers) away. You can expect to hear the rumble of thunder in

- a. about one minute.
- b. about ten seconds.
- c. about one second.
- d. none of the above times.

9. In which list do the words *not* belong together or mean much the same?

- a. rumble, bang, and roar
- b. thunder, lightning, and rain
- c. concert, elbow, and cloud
- d. streak, race, and flash

10. You see a streak of lightning. You don't hear the rumble of thunder until several seconds later. This is because
- a. the streak of lightning is so far away.
 - b. you are one mile (1.67 kilometers) away.
 - c. the rumble is so loud.
 - d. light travels faster than sound.

Date _____ Number correct _____

D. ADDING ENDINGS TO WORDS

As you read each word, think about its meaning. Think about how adding the ending changes the meaning of the word. Practice reading the words.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. adds -est | 2. adds -ies | 3. adds -ily |
| a. clear | a. body | a. busy |
| clearest | bodies | busily |
| b. dear | b. bunny | b. easy |
| dearest | bunnies | easily |
| c. short | c. lady | c. happy |
| shortest | ladies | happily |
| d. warm | d. cherry | d. lucky |
| warmest | cherries | luckily |

4. adds **-iest**

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. early | c. busy | e. sunny |
| earliest | busiest | sunniest |
| b. happy | d. heavy | f. shiny |
| happiest | heaviest | shiniest |