

# Lift

**LEVEL 1 Pre-Test**

## READING

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and answer the questions.

### Roadside Rescue

- 1 “Thank you for the ride home, Dr. Perkins,” Amit told Oliver’s mother as he got in and closed the car door. Oliver and Amit had been best friends since they were in primary school, when Amit and his family had moved from India to Australia. “How are the koalas doing today?” Amit asked after fastening his seatbelt.
- 2 “The ones in the hospital are doing well,” Dr. Perkins replied, pulling into traffic. Oliver’s mother was a veterinarian at the local koala hospital. She often shared stories of the injured and orphaned babies that were brought in for care. “Of course,” she continued, “I would be happiest if we had no patients at all.”
- 3 “Mom!” said Oliver suddenly, pointing to something in a ditch. “Is *that* a koala?”
- 4 Dr. Perkins quickly pulled the car over.
- 5 “Go slowly, please,” Dr. Perkins warned the boys as they got out of the car. “Let me take the lead.” She kneeled by the animal. “The poor thing has been hit. Its back leg is badly hurt.”
- 6 Oliver grabbed the rescue equipment his mother kept in the car—a laundry basket and a thick blanket. Dr. Perkins explained to Amit that the koala would feel safe bundled up in the nest-like space of the laundry basket.
- 7 Amit had never been so close to a koala. He felt his stomach doing flips as well as a sudden lump forming in his throat. “Look! The koala’s pouch is moving,” he said, stepping closer.
- 8 “There must be a joey inside. We’ll have to get mother and baby to the hospital quickly,” said Dr. Perkins. She gently wrapped the koala and her joey in the blanket and placed them in the basket. At the hospital, Oliver and Amit carried the laundry basket into the treatment room and then stepped back so Dr. Perkins and the staff could treat the new patients.
- 9 As the boys wandered through the hospital, they noticed injured koalas wearing casts and bandages. Some volunteers fed the baby koalas. Others prepared eucalyptus leaves for the older koalas to eat.
- 10 “Were all of these koalas injured by cars?” Amit asked a volunteer.

- 11 “Not all of them, but many of them,” he replied. “When roads are built through koala habitats, koalas are often forced to cross the roads to find the eucalyptus leaves they eat. Imagine if you had to cross a busy road every time you wanted a snack or a meal. Many koalas are injured or killed by cars as a result.”
- 12 Amit thought back to science class earlier that day. He pictured his teacher, Mr. Coffey, introducing their new science project. “Humans are part of the environment, but we also have a huge impact on it,” Mr. Coffey had explained at the front of the classroom. “For this project, I want you to explore a topic related to human impacts on the environment.”
- 13 Looking at the injured animals around him, Amit knew he’d found the perfect topic for his science project.



- 1** Which sentence describes the story's climax?
- (A) Dr. Perkins tells Amit about the koalas at the local koala hospital.
  - (B) The characters find a hurt koala and discover a joey in her pouch.
  - (C) Oliver and Amit visit the koala hospital and watch the volunteers work.
  - (D) Amit decides that his science project will be about human impacts on koalas.
- 2** How does Amit's experience at the koala hospital help show the story's theme?
- (A) Seeing koalas injured by cars shows how humans affect the environment.
  - (B) Helping koalas shows the importance of volunteering in the community.
  - (C) Talking to the doctor helps Amit get expert information for his science report.
  - (D) Learning how to help koalas shows that veterinarians have important jobs.
- 3** Which **best** describes the reason the author includes the flashback in paragraph 12?
- (A) The flashback prepares readers for the resolution by introducing the science project.
  - (B) The flashback tells readers important information about Amit's school experience.
  - (C) The flashback helps characterize Amit by showing his interest in the environment.
  - (D) The flashback builds on the idea that science is an important subject to study.

- 4** From which point of view is the story told?
- (A) from Amit's first-person point of view
  - (B) from Oliver's first-person point of view
  - (C) from Dr. Perkins's third-person point of view
  - (D) from a narrator's third-person point of view
- 5** In 3–5 sentences, describe Dr. Perkins's character. Cite evidence from the text to support your description.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and answer the questions.

## The Raven Solution

- 1 “There’s no way we can afford all these, Aria,” Mom says, looking up from her phone with wide eyes. Moments earlier, Aria had sent her mother a link to the website for the power tools she wants for her birthday.
- 2 “But I need all those things to do my projects,” Aria argues. She has been building things from wood for years using her grandpa’s old tools in their garage. Almost every room in the house contains one of her projects—mostly bookshelves. Now she’s ready for new challenges. She hopes to build a wooden chest to hold Mom’s blankets and a new dresser for herself to hold her clothes.
- 3 “Do you really need these things, or do you want them because people online use them?” Mom asks.
- 4 “I need the power saws to make perfect cuts,” Aria says. “I need the wood router to make drawers and boxes and to create the decorations. I also need the power sander to make the wood smooth and flat because sanding everything by hand is so much work.”
- 5 “It sounds like you want to do this the easy way, not the challenging way,” Mom says.
- 6 “It sounds like you don’t support what I want to do,” Aria says. Grabbing her coat, she storms outside and sits on the front porch of their house. Her breath forms a cloud in the icy air.
- 7 She sits in angry silence thinking over her mother’s words. She thinks of the sewing machine Mom uses to make quilts. Using power tools for woodworking is the same. It’s not Aria’s fault they cost so much.
- 8 Suddenly, a huge black raven lands on an old tree stump in the front yard. The beautiful bird makes Aria forget her anger for a moment. It holds a stick in its beak. Aria watches the bird pull the bark off the stick before jabbing it into a crack in the tree stump. After the bird moves the stick around in the crack, a nut pops out. Then more and more nuts pop out until the bird has a small pile to eat. Aria had heard that ravens were intelligent, but actually seeing a bird use a tool to solve a problem amazes her.
- 9 Amazement turns to inspiration. Does she really need these tools? There are probably other solutions to her problems. Maybe she can build the tools! She suddenly realizes what her Mom was saying. The challenge excites Aria. She wants a new challenge, after all. This is just a different kind of challenge.
- 10 Aria goes inside, finds Mom, and apologizes. “I’m sorry I was angry. I’m going to figure out how to do what I want with the tools I have.”
- 11 “I forgive you,” Mom says. She hugs Aria. “But was there one tool you wanted more than the others?”
- 12 “I was really looking forward to that power sander,” Aria says with a sigh. “Sanding projects by hand is the worst.”
- 13 Mom smiles. “Even though we can’t get all of the tools, I think a power sander sounds like a great birthday gift.”

**GO ON** 

**6** Which clues from the passage show the third-person point of view of this story?

- (A) the present tense verbs *says*, *is*, and *asks*
- (B) the characters' dialogue
- (C) the pronouns *I*, *we*, and *you*
- (D) the pronouns *she*, *it*, and *her*

**7** Which event is part of the story's rising action?

- (A) Aria sends her mother a link to a website with power tools.
- (B) Aria argues with her mother.
- (C) Aria watches a raven use a stick as a tool.
- (D) Aria apologizes to her mother.

**8** Which key words show how Aria feels about her mom's refusal to buy her tools?

- (A) *projects*, *new challenges* (paragraph 2)
- (B) *need*, *perfect cuts* (paragraph 4)
- (C) *don't support*, *storms outside* (paragraph 6)
- (D) *amazement*, *inspiration* (paragraph 9)

**9** What lesson does Aria learn that is a theme of "The Raven Solution"?

- (A) Always ask for exactly what you want.
- (B) Overcoming challenges is rewarding.
- (C) Part of intelligence is figuring out problems.
- (D) Actions show feelings.

**10** Read paragraph 9 of "The Raven Solution." In 3–5 sentences, explain why the writer stops the action to describe Aria's thoughts in this paragraph.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and answer the questions.

## Cooperation and Conservation

- 1 Why is water such a hot topic these days? Water shortages are a global issue. However, fixing those shortages and conserving water is a complex task. To make an impact, people, industries, and governments must invest in research and planning, efficiency, and conservation.

### The Problem

- 2 Water use and droughts are major causes of water shortages. For example, in the United States, 322 billion gallons of water is used every day. In the western states, much of the economy depends on farming. Farming requires water. Additionally, most of those states are experiencing droughts because of very little rainfall. Reservoirs hold water for future use, but many reservoirs have reached thirty-year lows. These water shortages have created a national crisis.

### A Multipart Solution

- 3 **Research and Planning** is the “big picture” in water management. Governments need to understand the causes of shortages and the status of available water. For example, the U.S. government uses information from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS has collected and analyzed data about water use since 1950. By identifying *how* water is used and *who* is using it, the government decides where to focus improvements and support.
- 4 The U.S. government also watches and studies the weather and water tables. Restrictions are placed on water use if water tables are too low. In addition, rules about water usage can be put into place if no rain is expected in the future.
- 5 **Efficiency** means getting the most from water with the least waste. To use water efficiently, consumers can make big and small changes. For example, electricity producers use an enormous amount of water to cool equipment that burns fossil fuels. These producers have begun to use solar and wind technologies, which require much less water to cool. Just a small movement away from fossil fuels has significantly reduced water usage.
- 6 Other major water consumers can make changes, too. Farmers can use better watering systems. They can change to crops that require less water. Local governments can replace old pipes. Individuals can fix the leaky faucets in their kitchens and bathrooms. Those who are able can invest in water-efficient appliances for their homes.
- 7 **Conservation** is where individuals can make a big impact. Simple actions, like taking quick showers, can save water. However, the biggest savings may be surprising. For example, in areas that use water to generate electricity, using less electricity can save water. Buying used clothes can also save water. It usually takes around 3,000 gallons of water to make one pair of jeans. Diet makes a difference, too. Raising animals for meat requires huge amounts of water compared to growing vegetables. For instance, producing one pound of beef requires ten times more water than producing one pound of kidney beans.

GO ON 

## The Good News

- 8 Research and planning, efficiency, and conservation impact water usage. With government, industry, and individuals making targeted changes, water usage can be reduced. If we all do our part, we can ensure that enough water is available for everyone.
- 11** In which section of “Cooperation and Conservation” will you **most likely** find information about ways to save water?
- (A) The Problem  
(B) Research and Planning  
(C) Conservation  
(D) The Good News
- 12** Which information from “Cooperation and Conservation” should be included in a summary of the text?
- (A) People in the United States use 322 billion gallons of water per day.  
(B) People, businesses, and governments must cooperate to address water shortages.  
(C) Farmers should use efficient watering systems, and people should fix leaky faucets.  
(D) Producing beef requires a lot more water than producing kidney beans.
- 13** What is the author’s purpose in “Cooperation and Conservation”?
- (A) to persuade  
(B) to inform  
(C) to entertain  
(D) to inform and entertain
- 14** Which sentence or sentences from “Cooperation and Conservation” make the author’s main claim?
- (A) Water shortages are a global issue. However, fixing those shortages and conserving water is a complex task.  
(B) To make an impact, people, industries, and governments must invest in research and planning, efficiency, and conservation.  
(C) Water use and droughts are major causes of water shortages.  
(D) Governments need to understand the causes of shortages and the status of available water.
- 15** Read the “Efficiency” section from “Cooperation and Conservation.” Evaluate the author’s argument in the section in 3–5 sentences. Are the reasons clear? Is the evidence strong and useful?
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**GO ON**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and answer the questions.

## One Picky Plant

- 1 Have you ever met a picky eater who only likes specific foods? What about a picky plant? A special meat-eating plant known as *Nepenthes albomarginata* is one example of a picky plant.
- 2 Meat-eating, or carnivorous, plants grow all around the world. Carnivorous plants get most of their nutrients from eating things like insects. Most carnivorous plants live in soil that is poor in minerals and nutrients. So, carnivorous plants rely on insects and other food to survive.
- 3 *N. albomarginata* is a type of carnivorous plant called a pitcher plant. It is found in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. Like all pitcher plants, *N. albomarginata* has special leaves that end in rounded pitchers filled with fluid. These pitchers attract and trap prey. Most pitcher plants eat whatever insects pass their way. Some of the biggest pitcher plants even eat small animals! However, *N. albomarginata* is unique among pitcher plants for being a picky eater. It wants only one food: termites.
- 4 You might know termites as the insects that like to eat the wood in homes and buildings. But how does *N. albomarginata* get its favorite food? A ring of living, tiny white hairs around the rim of its pitchers attracts termites. Termites crawl onto a pitcher to eat the hairs, then slip and fall inside. Once they are inside, they are unable to climb the pitcher's slippery walls, so they drown. Then the digestive juices inside the pitcher slowly digest the termites. A single pitcher can catch and digest hundreds, or even thousands, of termites!
- 5 Carnivorous plants play an important role in their ecosystems. *N. albomarginata* helps protect other life in its ecosystem, such as nearby trees, from harmful termites. If you're fortunate enough to see this plant, don't think of it as strange or disgusting. Instead, think of how its picky habits keep the tropical forests of Southeast Asia safe.





16 Which **best** identifies the author’s main purpose in “One Picky Plant”?

- (A) to entertain
- (B) to inform and persuade
- (C) to inform
- (D) to persuade and entertain

17 What is the central idea of “One Picky Plant”?

- (A) Carnivorous plants attract insects to a trap with tiny white hairs around the pitchers.
- (B) The tropical forests of Southeast Asia have many strange and wonderful creatures.
- (C) Carnivorous plants, such as *N. albomarginata*, rely on insects for nutrients.
- (D) *N. albomarginata*’s diet of termites is unique and helps keep the forest around it healthy.

18 Which idea does paragraph 3 **best** support?

- (A) Pitcher plants have special leaves that have rounded pitchers at the end.
- (B) All pitcher plants eat insects and other animals.
- (C) *N. albomarginata* is different than other pitcher plants.
- (D) *N. albomarginata* and other pitcher plants are found in Southeast Asia.

19 What is the central idea of paragraph 5?

- (A) *N. albomarginata*, like other carnivorous plants, plays an important role in the ecosystem.
- (B) Southeast Asia is home to many tropical forests that feature carnivorous plants.
- (C) A variety of animals live in the ecosystem with *N. albomarginata*.
- (D) Other plants in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia cannot live without carnivorous plants.

20 Write a 3–5 sentence summary of “One Picky Plant.”

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## FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

**DIRECTIONS:** A student is writing a story. This story includes several errors. Read the story and think about possible revisions. Then answer the questions that follow.

### Another Street Cart Fan

- 1 When my friend Tanawat, who I knew from boarding school, invited me to his home country of Thailand and my parents said I could go, I could hardly contain my excitement. After counting down the weeks and months, I finally arrived in Bangkok.
- 2 I stepped out from the air-conditioned airport, and Tanawat was suddenly in front of me. He pulled me in for a big hug.
- 3 “I can’t wait to hear about your travels, Arif” Tanawat said with a huge smile “but you must be hungry after your long trip.
- 4 Yeah, I could eat, I replied. However, I honestly felt a little dizzy from all the new sights, sounds, and smells surrounding me.
- 5 Tanawat led me toward a line of small carts, all sitting right alongside the busy road circling the airport.
- 6 “Wait, we’re getting food from a cart?” I asked.
- 7 “Of course! Let’s try this one,” he suggested.
- 8 I looked into a giant, steaming pot. “It does smell interesting,” I admitted, “but is this food actually good?”
- 9 “Street carts offer some of the best food in Thailand. *Guay tiew*, which is a noodle soup, is one of the most popular street food dishes in the country.”
- 10 Tanawat said something quickly to the vendor. The next thing I knew, he handed me a steaming bowl of soup. And just as suddenly, the vendor was sprinkling a liquid and some spices into my soup. It had a strong, pungent odor.
- 11 “Wait, what’s he doing now?” I protested.
- 12 “He’s adding classic Thai soup condiments. That’s fish sauce, along with lime juice, vinegar, sugar, and dried chilies. Trust me, they only improve the soup.” Tanawat paused to noisily slurp theirs. “Just try it.”
- 13 I was hesitant, but I followed Tanawat’s lead. I dipped mine spoon in and stirred the ingredients around. When I took a small sip, an explosion of flavors washed across my tongue. It was like nothing I had ever tasted before. It was warm and tasty and incredibly satisfying.

GO ON 

- 14 “So, what do you think of guay tiew?” Tanawat asked.
- 15 I was so busy gulping down the delicious soup that I could only grin in response.
- 16 Tanawat beamed. “I knew you’d be another street cart fan.”

- 21** Read this sentence from “Another Street Cart Fan.” Identify the pronoun in the sentence and decide if it is a subject pronoun or an object pronoun.

After counting down the weeks and months, I finally arrived in Bangkok.

Complete the sentences.

The pronoun in the sentence is \_\_\_\_\_.

It is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ pronoun.

- 22** Read this sentence from “Another Street Cart Fan.” Identify the pronoun in the sentence and decide if it is a subject pronoun or an object pronoun.

Tanawat led me toward a line of small carts, all sitting right alongside the busy road circling the airport.

Complete the sentences.

The pronoun in the sentence is \_\_\_\_\_.

It is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ pronoun.

- 23** Read the sentences with an incorrect possessive from “Another Street Cart Fan.”

“Trust me, they only improve the soup.”  
Tanawat paused to noisily slurp theirs.

Which possessive correctly replaces *theirs*?

- (A) its
- (B) his
- (C) hers
- (D) ours

- 24** Read the sentences with an incorrect possessive from “Another Street Cart Fan.”

I was hesitant, but I followed Tanawat’s lead. I dipped mine spoon in and stirred the ingredients around.

Which possessive correctly replaces *mine*?

- (A) my
- (B) his
- (C) our
- (D) your

- 25** Read these sentences with an unclear pronoun from “Another Street Cart Fan.”

Tanawat said something quickly to the vendor. The next thing I knew, he handed me a steaming bowl of soup.

In which option is the unclear pronoun corrected?

- (A) Tanawat said something quickly to the vendor, and he handed me a steaming bowl of soup.
- (B) Tanawat said something quickly to him. The next thing I knew, he handed me a steaming bowl of soup.
- (C) Tanawat said something quickly to the vendor. The next thing I knew, the vendor handed me a steaming bowl of soup.
- (D) He said something quickly to the vendor. The next thing I knew, he handed me a steaming bowl of soup.



- 26** Read these sentences with an unclear pronoun from "Another Street Cart Fan."

And just as suddenly, the vendor was sprinkling a liquid and some spices into my soup. It had a strong, pungent odor.

In which option is the unclear pronoun corrected?

- (A) And just as suddenly, he was sprinkling a liquid and some spices into my soup. It had a strong, pungent odor.
- (B) And just as suddenly, Tanawat was sprinkling a liquid and some spices into my soup. It had a strong, pungent odor.
- (C) And just as suddenly, the vendor was sprinkling a liquid and some spices into my soup, and it had a strong, pungent odor.
- (D) And just as suddenly, the vendor was sprinkling a liquid and some spices into my soup. The liquid had a strong, pungent odor.

- 27** Read the dialogue with incorrect punctuation from "Another Street Cart Fan."

"I can't wait to hear about your travels, Arif" Tanawat said with a huge smile "but you must be hungry after your long trip.

In which sentence is the dialogue punctuated correctly?

- (A) "I can't wait to hear about your travels, Arif," Tanawat said with a huge smile, "but you must be hungry after your long trip."
- (B) "I can't wait to hear about your travels, Arif," Tanawat said with a huge smile, but you must be hungry after your long trip.
- (C) "I can't wait to hear about your travels, Arif, Tanawat said with a huge smile, but you must be hungry after your long trip."
- (D) I can't wait to hear about your travels, Arif, "Tanawat said with a huge smile," but you must be hungry after your long trip.

- 28** Read the dialogue with incorrect punctuation from "Another Street Cart Fan."

Yeah, I could eat, I replied.

In which sentence is the dialogue punctuated correctly?

- (A) "Yeah, I could eat, I replied."
- (B) "Yeah, I could eat" I replied.
- (C) "Yeah, I could eat," I replied.
- (D) Yeah, "I could eat," I replied.

- 29** Read the sentence from "Another Street Cart Fan."

When my friend Tanawat, who I knew from boarding school, invited me to his home country of Thailand and my parents said I could go, I could hardly contain my excitement.

Which phrase from the sentence is a nonrestrictive clause?

- (A) When my friend Tanawat
- (B) who I knew from boarding school
- (C) invited me to his home country of Thailand and my parents said I could go
- (D) I could hardly contain my excitement

- 30** Read the sentences from "Another Street Cart Fan."

"Street carts offer some of the best food in Thailand. *Guay tiew*, which is a noodle soup, is one of the most popular street food dishes in the country."

Which phrase from the sentences is a nonrestrictive clause?

- (A) some of the best food
- (B) *Guay tiew*
- (C) which is a noodle soup
- (D) is one of the most popular street food dishes in the country

GO ON 

**31** Read the sentence.

Use an adhesive to stick the tiles to the wall and keep them there.

Based on the context clues, what is another word for *adhesive*?

- (A) stick
- (B) glue
- (C) paint
- (D) rubber

**32** Read the sentence.

High up in the tree, an agile squirrel effortlessly jumped from branch to branch.

Based on the context clues, what does the word *agile* mean?

- (A) marked by old age
- (B) entertaining or amusing
- (C) able to move quickly and easily
- (D) weighing very little

**33** *Omni* means “all.” Based on your knowledge of the root *sci*, what does the word *omniscient* mean?

- (A) knowing everything
- (B) wanting to learn more
- (C) lacking logic or reason
- (D) having little or limited knowledge

**34** *Cohere* means “to stick or hold together.” Based on your knowledge of the suffix *-ence/-ent*, what does the word *coherence* mean?

- (A) the ability to stick or hold together
- (B) to understand how to stick or hold together
- (C) a person who sticks or holds things together
- (D) the condition of sticking or holding together

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the dictionary entry. Use it to answer questions 35 and 36.

**count** *n.* plural **counts**

1. the act of finding out how many: *The vote count was underway.*
2. the total number or amount in a sample: *The pollen count is high today.*

**count** *v.* **counted, counting, counts**

1. to name numbers in order: *I can count from one to ten.*
2. to be taken into account: *Your first try doesn't count.*

**35** Read the sentence.

The preschooler was proud when he counted to 20 by himself.

Which definition fits the word *count* as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) noun, definition 1
- (B) noun, definition 2
- (C) verb, definition 1
- (D) verb, definition 2

**36** Read the sentence.

A count showed that the bakery had sold nearly 200 muffins on Friday.

Which definition fits the word *count* as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) noun, definition 1
- (B) noun, definition 2
- (C) verb, definition 1
- (D) verb, definition 2



**37** Read the sentence.

The dentist used an anesthetic, so the patient did not feel pain.

Based on the cause-and-effect signal word *so*, what does the word *anesthetic* mean?

- (A) medicine that causes a loss of feeling
- (B) a device that blocks noise
- (C) a substance used to fight cavities
- (D) something suitable for eating

**38** Read the sentence.

The crab was vulnerable because it no longer had its hard, protective shell.

Based on the cause-and-effect signal word *because*, what does the word *vulnerable* mean?

- (A) protected from danger
- (B) increasing in size
- (C) under sand
- (D) easily hurt

**39** Read the sentence.

When Mr. Kapoor handed out the assignment, Komal said, "This is going to be \_\_\_\_."

Which word has a connotation that shows that Komal has a bad attitude about the assignment?

- (A) challenging
- (B) impossible
- (C) difficult
- (D) simple

**40** Read the sentence.

Kim was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ neighbor who liked to monitor the neighborhood.

Which word has a connotation that shows that Kim is a positive person?

- (A) nosy
- (B) bossy
- (C) curious
- (D) elderly



## WRITING

- 41** Write an argumentative essay for or against attending school far away from one's family. Consider the benefits and the drawbacks a student would experience living in a place without other family members.

Your argumentative essay should include:

- an introduction with a thesis statement that states that attending school far away from one's family is, or is not, good for a student
- three body paragraphs that give reasons and evidence for your position (including facts and examples)
- a strong concluding paragraph that restates the thesis and supporting reasons.

Write your essay in the space below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.