

1.

It was a quiet village in which there was a military camp. It was far from the towns and cities and there were some high mountains around. Of course it was a good place for training the new soldiers. But it was difficult for the young men to go outside. Mr. White, an officer of forty, was strict with them and he hardly let them leave the camp.

Once Mr. White was ill in bed. He couldn't work and a young officer, Mr. Hunt, began to train the new soldiers instead of him. He knew the young men well and let nine soldiers go to the nearest town to have a holiday. But night fell and none came back to the camp. He was worried about it and stood at the gate. It was five to twelve when Mr. Hunt decided to go to the town and see what was happening with the young men. He started the car quickly and set off. At that moment the nine soldiers came back. It seemed they were all drunk. Of course they found the officer was angry.

"I'm sorry, sir," said the first soldier. "I left the town on time. But something was wrong with my bus on my way here. I had to buy a horse and made it run fast. Bad luck! It died and I had to run back."

And the other seven soldiers said they were late for the same reasons. It was the last soldier's turn. He said, "I'm sorry, sir. I got on a bus on time, but..."

Having heard this, the officer became even angrier and stopped him at once. He called out, "If you say something was wrong with your bus, I'll punish you at once!"

"No, no, sir," said the young man. "My bus was all right, but the dead horses were in its way!"

21. The military camp was built in the village to _____.

- A. stop the soldiers going to towns
- B. stop the soldiers meeting their friends
- C. train the new soldiers
- D. make the young men live quietly

22. The young officer was worried because _____.

- A. a traffic accident had happened
- B. he was afraid something happened to the nine soldiers
- C. the nine soldiers didn't come back on time
- D. the nine soldiers drank too much in the town

23. Which answer do you think is right?

- A. I'll believe only the last soldier.
- B. The officer believed the nine soldiers.
- C. I'll believe none of the nine soldiers.
- D. The officer won't punish his soldiers.

2.

We were on our way home from Houston one Saturday morning. We decided to stop at a local gas station to get coffee and something to snack on since it was a good hour and a half before we got home.

When we were done, we got back into our car and before I started it, we noticed a man standing outside in front of the building. He was a homeless man with worn clothes and it looked like he had gone in and gotten himself some coffee or something warm to drink since it was cold this time of the year. He must have not had enough money to get something to eat.

Then a dog walked up to the front of the building. I could tell she was a "she", because you could tell that she had baby dogs. She was terribly in need of something to eat and I felt so bad for her. I knew if she didn't eat soon, she and her baby dogs would not make it.

I and my wife sat there and looked at her. We noticed that people walked by and didn't even pet her, like most people do when they walk by an animal in front of a store. We still did not do anything. But the homeless man, who I thought did not buy himself anything to eat, went back into the store. And what he did brought tears to me and my wife. He had gone into the store and with what money he may have had, bought a can of dog food and fed that dog.

This story plays a great part in our lives. You see, that was Mother's Day weekend. And a lot of people forget that some animals are parents too.

It took a homeless man, to show me what I should have done. He made me a better man that day.

24. The homeless man only had something to drink because _____.

- A. he didn't have enough money for food
- B. he was thirsty only
- C. the store only provided drinks
- D. he felt cold that day

25. Seeing what the poor man did for the dog, the author and his wife _____.

- A. were puzzled
- B. were greatly moved
- C. regretted they hadn't done anything
- D. were indifferent

26. If the homeless man hadn't given the dog food to eat, she and her babies would ____.

- A. not survive
- B. have to attack people
- C. not have to die
- D. lose their homes

27. Which of the following is the most suitable title for this passage?