

# Inference Exercises

## Time (*when*) Questions

The following exercises are an introduction to inference and time.

**Age Range:** 8 – 10

**Hint:** To understand how inference works, pay attention to **key words** or **phrases** in the text. Particular words will give clues that point the way to a passage's implied meaning.

**Example:** Greg turned on the car's headlights because it was starting to get dark.

**Question:** When did Greg turn the headlights on?

**Answer:** In the early evening. Dusk.

**Key Words:** *starting to get dark...*

- 1) The sun's light began to filter into the kitchen just as Peter began to sip his first coffee of the day.

**Question:** What part of the day is it?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Dad positioned the tree in the corner of the lounge room. We then draped tinsel and decorations on the tree.

**Question:** What part of the year is it?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Kathy scraped ice off her windshield. She blew on her mittened fingers to help warm them.

**Question:** What season is it likely to be?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Sam stripped to his board shorts, ran down to the beach and joyfully threw himself into the surf.

**Question:** What season is it likely to be?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Ben stayed in the bath till his fingertips began to go all wrinkly.

**Question:** How long was Ben in the bath?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 6) I got to the post office just in time. It was about to close for the day.

**Question:** What time is it likely to be?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

7) I forgot to check on the roast potatoes. By the time I remembered, it was too late. They were burnt. They were only meant to be in the oven for 20 minutes.

**Question:** How long were the potatoes in the oven?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

8) The alarm clock went off. I reached over and turned it off. It was still a little dark but would soon become lighter.

**Question:** What part of the day is it?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

9) I needed to go to the bank, but it was still early. When I arrived the bank manager opened the doors and indicated that the bank was now open.

**Question:** What time of the day is it likely to be?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_

10) I put on my school uniform, brushed my teeth and ran down to catch the school bus. I made it just in time.

**Question:** What time of the day is it likely to be?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key words:** \_\_\_\_\_