

Electricity & Energy

Electrical Safety

Electricity can be dangerous. Here is a list of some safety **precautions**¹ you may have heard or read about.

- 1) Don't blow-dry your hair in the bathtub.
- 2) Don't stick your finger in a socket.
- 3) Don't stand under a tree during a lightning storm.
- 4) Don't put too many plugs into one socket.
- 5) Keep your wires separate and neat. Don't let them get tangled up.
- 6) If you see an **exposed**² wire, don't touch it.
- 7) If a power line has fallen on the ground, call the police and stay clear of it.
- 8) Never touch the third rail in the subway.
- 9) If a **fuse**³ blows in your house, have an adult go to the fuse box. Do not touch it.
- 10) Never use metal utensils around the toaster.

These are just a few of the safety rules you need to keep in mind. Make sure you always follow them. If you are ever unsure about whether something is safe, ask a responsible adult before putting yourself at risk.

¹ **precautions** – things done in order to prevent something dangerous or unpleasant from happening

² **exposed** – not concealed, unprotected

³ **fuse** – a safety device in electrical equipment that cuts off the power if something goes wrong

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. If you see a fallen power line, the passage recommends that you
 - a. call the police
 - b. try to pick it up carefully
 - c. tell an older sibling
 - d. use a metal utensil to move it

2. A problem described in the passage is being unsure if something is safe or not. What solution to this problem does the passage provide?
 - a. to search for information online
 - b. to be very careful when you try it
 - c. to ask a responsible adult
 - d. to re-read the list for clues

3. What might happen if someone didn't follow these rules?
 - a. They could fall and break an ankle.
 - b. The police would arrest them.
 - c. Their lights would be turned off.
 - d. They could get very hurt by electricity.

4. Read the following sentence: "If you are ever unsure about whether something is safe, ask a responsible adult before putting yourself at risk."

The word **risk** most nearly means

- a. outside
 - b. fun
 - c. danger
 - d. in charge

5. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - a. Never use metal utensils in a toaster.
 - b. Electricity can be dangerous if you are not careful.
 - c. If you see an exposed wire, don't touch it.
 - d. Only professional electricians should touch power lines.

6. What does the passage say you should do in a lightning storm?

7. Why is it important to take precautions when something is dangerous?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Asking a responsible adult for help with electrical problems is often a good idea,
_____ when a fuse blows in your house.

- a. before
- b. such as
- c. at last
- d. in summary

9. Read the following sentence.

The girl followed electrical safety precautions by calling the police when she saw a power line fall on her street.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. Who? the girl
2. What did the girl do? _____
3. When? _____
4. How? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** exposed: not concealed, unprotected.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 620

Featured Text Structure: Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something. This text structure is often combined with cause/effect or problem/solution

Passage Summary: The passage gives a list of safety rules for electricity and encourages young people to find a responsible adult if they are unsure about whether or not something is safe.

1. If you see a fallen power line, the passage recommends that you
 - a. **call the police**
 - b. try to pick it up carefully
 - c. tell an older sibling
 - d. use a metal utensil to move it
2. A problem described in the passage is being unsure if something is safe or not. What solution to this problem does the passage provide?
 - a. to search for information online
 - b. to be very careful when you try it
 - c. **to ask a responsible adult**
 - d. to re-read the list for clues
3. What might happen if someone didn't follow these rules?
 - a. They could fall and break an ankle.
 - b. The police would arrest them.
 - c. Their lights would be turned off.
 - d. **They could get very hurt by electricity.**
4. Read the following sentence: "If you are ever unsure about whether something is safe, ask a responsible adult before putting yourself at risk."

The word **risk** most nearly means

- a. outside
- b. fun
- c. **danger**
- d. in charge

5. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Never use metal utensils in a toaster.
- b. Electricity can be dangerous if you are not careful.**
- c. If you see an exposed wire, don't touch it.
- d. Only professional electricians should touch power lines.

6. What does the passage say you should do in a lightning storm?

Suggested answer: The passage states that you should avoid standing under a tree during a lightning storm.

7. Why is it important to take precautions when something is dangerous?

Suggested answer: Electricity can be very dangerous, so it is best to be prepared. There might be a danger that you do not know about so you could get hurt if you do not act carefully.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Asking a responsible adult for help with electrical problems is often a good idea, _____ when a fuse blows in your house.

- a. before
- b. such as**
- c. at last
- d. in summary

9. Read the following sentence.

The girl followed electrical safety precautions by calling the police when she saw a power line fall on her street.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

- 1. Who? the girl
- 2. What did the girl do? **followed electrical safety precautions**
- 3. When? **when she saw a power line fall on her street**
- 4. How? **by calling the police**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** exposed: not hidden, unprotected.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.