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1. Which word comes next? Said, led, read (past tense), \_\_\_\_\_. (Tip: Try saying them out loud to hear the sound.)

- a) breed
- b) bread
- c) Brad
- d) braid

2. Which word comes next? Me, three, ski, \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) plea
- b) play
- c) ploy
- d) ply

3. Which word comes next? Toad, sewed, mowed \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) mod
- b) mood
- c) mode
- d) moored

4. Which word comes next? Year, here, beer \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) dare
- b) wear
- c) we're
- d) were

5. Which word comes next? Fruit, suit \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) quite
- b) biscuit
- c) suite
- d) boot

6. Which word comes next? Square, care, fair \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) are
- b) wear
- c) near
- d) liar

## ANSWERS:

1. Which word comes next? Said, led, read (past tense), \_\_\_\_\_.

a) breed – Double 'e' makes a long sound e.g. 'need', 'feed'.

b) **bread** – **This is the correct answer because 'ea' can sometimes be pronounced as a short sound e.g. 'breakfast', 'dead'. A less common spelling of this sound is 'ai' e.g. 'said'.**

c) Brad – This is a short 'a' sound e.g. 'cat', 'man', 'can'.

d) braid – This is a long 'a' sound e.g. 'play', 'May'.

2. Which word comes next? Me, three, ski, \_\_\_\_\_.

a) **plea** – **This is the correct answer. Well done! The letters 'ea' can sometimes be pronounced as a long 'e' sound e.g. 'please', 'speak'. A less common spelling of this sound is seen in 'ski'.**

b) play – This is a long 'a' sound e.g. 'May', 'day'.

c) ploy – This is a different sound e.g. 'boy', 'toy'.

d) ply – 'ly' makes a long 'e' sound when it is at the end of words of more than one syllable e.g. 'happily', 'friendly'. Here, in a one syllable word, it makes a sound like 'eye', 'I', 'why'.

3. Which word comes next? Toad, sewed, mowed \_\_\_\_\_.

a) mod – This is a different sound. It makes a short sound e.g. 'rod', 'god'.

b) mood – This is a longer sound like the sound in 'food' and 'do'.

c) **mode** – **This is the correct answer because 'o + consonant + e' usually makes a long 'oh' sound e.g. 'phone'. There are also a small number of past tense verbs ending in 'ow' or 'ew' e.g. 'sowed', 'sewed', 'towed'. Other spellings of this sound are 'oa' e.g. 'boat', 'moan'.**

d) moored – This is a different sound. It has an 'r' sound in it which can be like 'or' or a longer 'oor' sound depending on the type of accent a person learns e.g. Scottish English.

4. Which word comes next? Year, here, beer \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) dare – This is the wrong sound because 'a + consonant + e' often makes a sound like 'care', 'where' 'there'.
- b) wear – This is the wrong sound. Sometimes 'ea' makes a sound like 'where' but the two letters 'ea' make a lot of different sounds in English and you have to learn the words individually.
- c) **We're – This is the correct answer. The short form of 'we are' is pronounced to sound like 'here'.**
- d) were – This is the wrong sound because 'er' usually makes a sound like 'her', 'verb'.

5. Which word comes next? Fruit, suit \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) quite – Here the 'u' is only there because 'q' is always followed by 'u' in English spelling making a /kw/ sound. So it does not affect the 'i' which follows the common rule of 'i + consonant + e' = a sound like 'I' and 'eye' e.g. 'like', 'white'.
- b) biscuit – This is the wrong sound and is a word often pronounced wrongly by non-native speakers. It should be pronounced /biskit/ with two short vowel sounds without a /kw/ sound.
- c) suite – This is the wrong sound. As this word comes to us from French its pronunciation is the same as for 'sweet'.
- d) **boot – This is the correct answer. 'Fruit', 'suit' and 'juice' are commonly pronounced wrongly but should all have the same sound as 'boot' which has a long 'oo' sound like in 'do'.**

6. Which word comes next? Square, care, fair \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) are – Words with the letters 'are' in them e.g. 'care', 'dare' usually fit this pattern but the word 'are' doesn't. Here it is like 'car', 'far'.
- b) **wear – This is correct. Well done! Remember 'ea' has a lot of possible sounds so be careful!**
- c) near – This is the wrong sound. It sounds like 'year' and 'here'.
- d) liar – This is the wrong sound and is a combination of two short vowel sounds 'i + a' e.g. 'diary', 'friar'. But 'a + i' is one long vowel sound e.g. 'fair', 'air'

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