

# BALONEY OR NOT? - FACT FROM FICTION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read the following stories. Help Mr. Baloney decide whether the story is fact (true) or fiction (untrue) and underline the correct answer. Next, explain the reason for your choice. Remember to Answer In Full Sentences whenever possible. (A.I.F.S.)

1. **THE PARROT** (*England*)
- A bankrupt pet shop was holding a going-out-of-business sale and selling all the pets by auction. Among them was a beautifully coloured parrot, which a man wearing a black hat seemed determined to buy. However, every time the man made an offer, someone else would bid a higher price. The bids went higher and higher until at last, the man in the black hat won out. The spectacular parrot was finally his and he walked out of the shop carrying the parrot in its shiny cage. Suddenly, he stopped dead in his tracks and thought with horror. In all the excitement to get the parrot he had forgotten to find out if the parrot was able to talk. Back he ran and holding the cage up to the auctioneer, demanded, "Does this bird talk?"
- "Who do you think was bidding against you all this time?", squawked the parrot.



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

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2. **SPITTING** (*United States*)
- An old timer was telling tall stories. "I remember this young guy from a town called Luling, who could spit a watermelon seed like they was going out of style. Near as I can remember, his best spit was about 65 feet or about 20 meters, if you like to use metric." A little kid who was only nine stood up and said, "That's nothing! I once spit a seed over 30 meters. I just walked onto that tall train bridge over yonder and spit it into the river."



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

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3.

**HOW COLD WAS IT? (Canada)**

Two men sat around a crackling wood stove, boastfully exchanging stories about the cold and cruel Canadian winter. The cozy log cabin in which they sat was being blasted by a fierce mid January-blizzard. The first man spoke. "Do you remember the winter of '88? It was so cold that year, that the flame of a candle would freeze solid and make it impossible to blow it out."

"That's not near as bad as the winter of '92," said his friend. "That winter was so cold, that whenever we talked, the words came out of our mouths in pieces of ice and we had to fry them up over the stove just to hear what we were talking about."



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

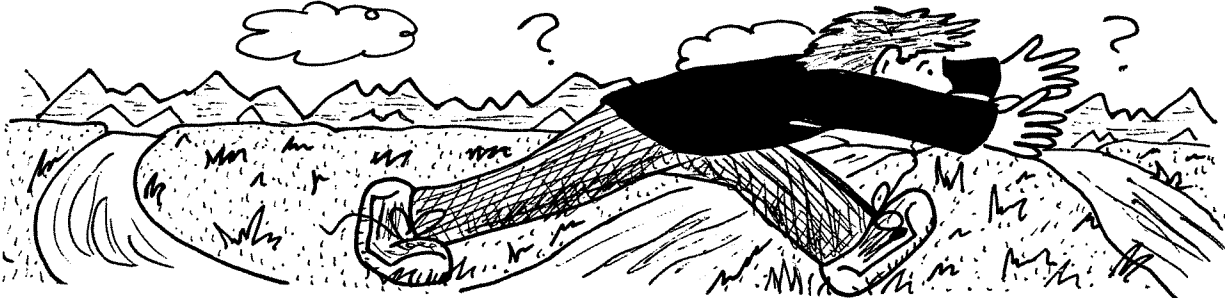
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4.

**THE CROOKED STREAM (Scotland)**

There is a tiny, crooked stream that begins in the highlands and empties into the famous Loch Ness. It is said that the crooked stream twists and turns so often, that when you jump across, you land on the same side as where you started.



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

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5.

**HAIR SPLITTING (France)**

I once heard of a man who had such good eyesight that he was able to split a single hair seventeen times into eighteen parts. He would have made a good barber.

(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

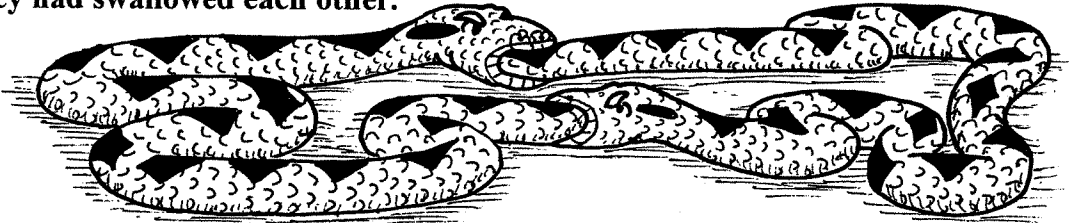
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6.

SNAKES (United States)

Two of the biggest, orneriest rattlesnakes you ever saw were found fighting. After circling for a while, one grabbed the other's tail and started swallowing it. Then, the other grabbed the first snake's tail and started swallowing it. By the time they had finished, they had swallowed each other.



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

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7.

DID YOU SAY "HAGGIS"? (Scotland)

Haggis is not some name for a crusty old witch. It is a tasty treat eaten on special occasions by Scots. You take a bunch of vegetables and oatmeal, place in the stomach of a sheep or cow and boil until ready to serve. By the way, the biggest Haggis was made using eight ox stomachs sewn together and weighed over 600 pounds. I wonder if they will ever have Haggis at Mcdonald's? Maybe so - I know some Mcdonalds and they all claim to be Scots.



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

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8.

HALFWAY (Canada)

Have you heard about the woman who swam halfway across Lake Ontario? The waves were coming up, and she decided it was too far to make it so she turned around and swam back.



(Underline your choice) a) fact b) fiction Explain your answer. (A.I.F.S.)

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