

Radiation: What You Need to Know

Comprehension Questions

1. What is one way radiation is used that is beneficial for our health?
 - A. to kill bacteria in foods that could make us sick
 - B. to disinfect surfaces like tables and door handles where bacteria often live
 - C. to zap our bodies with extra energy for sports and activities
 - D. to damage cells and eventually cause things like thyroid cancer
2. In the article, how does the author describe radiation?
 - A. as something to avoid at all costs
 - B. as something that's less harmful than its reputation suggests
 - C. as something that can be both good and bad
 - D. as something that is helpful for human health and food safety
3. Which of the following conclusions about radiation is supported by the passage?
 - A. Radiation is more harmful than helpful.
 - B. Radiation is neither harmful nor helpful.
 - C. Radiation is more helpful than harmful.
 - D. Radiation is both helpful and harmful.

4. Read the following sentence:

“You might not know exactly how to describe it, but chances are good that you know the word radiation can have two very different connotations.”

In this sentence the word **connotations** means

- A. denotations
- B. meanings
- C. connections
- D. implications

5. This passage deals primarily with

- A. the ways that radiation can kill bacteria that may be present in foods
- B. the effects, both positive and negative, that radiation can have
- C. the fact that too much radiation can be harmful for our health, even causing cancer or death
- D. why we should be careful about and try to minimize our exposure to radiation

6. How does radiation help doctors identify health problems in patients?

(written answer)

7. Why do you think the accident at Fukushima has “heightened fears about radiation”?

(written answer)

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

The author describes both the negative and positive sides of radiation _____ people understand all sides of the issue.

- A. so
- B. but
- C. before
- D. because

9. Which picture most likely represents contaminated air?

A



B



10. Would you drink a liquid if someone told you it had been contaminated?

(written answer)