

Due Monday,  
September 25, 2017

## ◀ INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Previewing Vocabulary

The words in the Word Bank are from the passage you are about to read. Study the definitions. Complete the activity that follows to get familiar with the words before you begin reading. Write the correct word to complete each sentence.

### Word Bank

**organization** — a group formally created for a specific purpose

**therapist** — someone who uses treatments other than drugs or surgery to help people with medical problems to get better

**companion** — someone who keeps company with another

**donations** — gifts of money, goods, or services

**laser** — a device that gives off a special kind of light

**complex** — difficult to solve or perform; complicated

1. Last year the Spanish Club received over two hundred dollars in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ showed the patient a new exercise to do that would help her be able to walk better.
3. Jane's grandmother has a \_\_\_\_\_ who stays with her Monday through Friday.
4. The instructions for how to use the camera are \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ printer in the office needs to be repaired.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ was founded in 1980 to help children with vision problems.

## ◀ INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Reading the Passage

Read the passage. As you read, answer the guided reading questions on your own paper.

### Handy Monkeys

What if you couldn't use your hands—or for that matter your arms or legs? The simple task of picking up something after it dropped onto the floor would be impossible. This is a problem experienced daily by people who are unable to use their arms and legs. A special **organization** called Helping Hands trains capuchin monkeys to assist people with disabilities. The monkeys use their hands to help their human friends.

#### Helping Hands

More than 25 years ago, Dr. M. J. Willard came up with the idea of using trained monkeys to help disabled humans. With the assistance of Judi Zazula, a **therapist** who works with people who have disabilities, Dr. Willard began training capuchin monkeys. They started the Helping Hands organization and placed their first monkey helper with its human companion in 1979.

It costs Helping Hands about \$25,000 to raise and train each monkey for its job. The **organization** does not charge the disabled person for the monkey. Helping Hands receives private **donations** to fund its work.

#### What Are Capuchin Monkeys?

Capuchin monkeys are small and weigh only about 5 pounds. They measure about 17 inches long. This does not include the tail, which can add as much as 18 inches! Their faces are white or brown.

Capuchin monkeys are believed to be one of the most intelligent of the New World monkeys. (New World monkeys come from the tropical forests of southern Mexico, Central America, and South America.) Wild capuchin monkeys come from the tropical rain forests of Central and South America. However, the monkeys in the Helping Hands project are born in a special zoo near Boston, Massachusetts.

#### Raising Helper Monkeys

Young capuchin monkeys begin their journey to becoming helper monkeys by living with a human family. The person who

#### Guided Reading:

1. *In the first paragraph, underline the sentence that will probably express the main idea of the passage. How does the author engage readers about the topic before expressing this main idea?*

2. *Headings often identify the main idea covered in a section of a passage. What do you think this section will be about?*



mainly cares for a young capuchin monkey must be an adult. Human families raise capuchin monkeys for about five years. Raising a young capuchin monkey is a great responsibility. Young capuchin monkeys are active and curious. They are more likely to be “mischievous mitts” than “helping hands.” When a monkey is old enough to begin its training, a foster family must return the monkey to the Helping Hands organization.

### Training Helper Monkeys

From these foster homes, the monkeys attend a special school called the Helping Hands Monkey College in Massachusetts. There they spend between one and two years learning how to help disabled humans. Training begins with simple skills, such as following a **laser** pointer and putting objects in a cup. Then the monkeys learn tasks that are more **complex**. The program focuses on positive training methods. The monkeys receive a reward for successfully completing a task.

When the monkeys finish their training, they are carefully matched with a human companion. Capuchin monkeys have different kinds of personalities, just as humans do. Helping Hands tries to make sure each monkey and human will work well together.

### How Monkeys Help Humans

How does a five-pound monkey help a disabled human? One service a capuchin monkey provides is to pick up dropped items that are out of its human companion’s reach. If its human wants to hear music, the monkey can insert a compact disc into a stereo. But these monkeys can do much more! They can brush their human’s hair, feed him or her, turn the pages of a book, turn lights on and off, and open doors.

These small monkeys also provide loyal and loving company for their humans. After a disabled person is given morning care by a caregiver, he or she is often alone for up to 8 hours. A helper monkey brings its human companion joyful and playful company. Capuchin monkeys live for more than 30 years. Although a monkey performs many chores for its companion, the helper also becomes a member of the family.

Over the years, capuchin monkey helpers have changed the lives of many people with disabilities.

### Guided Reading:

3. *How do the details in this section support or develop the main idea of the passage?*

4. *Name three details that support the main idea of this section of the passage.*

◀ **INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Checking Comprehension**

Circle the best answer for items 1–4. For item 5, write your answer in complete sentences on the lines provided.

1. Why is the group that helps train the monkeys called “Helping Hands”?
  - A. The monkeys have hands just as humans do.
  - B. The monkeys help the disabled, who cannot use their hands.
  - C. The monkeys teach the disabled how to use their hands.
  - D. The monkeys are raised by hand in foster homes.
  
2. What is the main idea of the section of the passage titled “Helping Hands”?
  - A. How Helping Hands got started and now operates
  - B. Why Dr. M. J. Willard and Judi Zazula started Helping Hands
  - C. How long Helping Hands has been in operation
  - D. How much it costs Helping Hands to raise and train monkeys
  
3. Which detail from the passage best supports the idea that trained monkeys have improved the lives of disabled people?
  - A. The monkeys are highly intelligent.
  - B. The monkeys are raised with a human family.
  - C. The monkeys perform tasks and act as companions.
  - D. The monkeys are placed in homes for free.
  
4. Which section of the passage includes details that *least* support and develop the main idea?
  - A. What Are Capuchin Monkeys?
  - B. Raising Helper Monkeys
  - C. Training Helper Monkeys
  - D. How Monkeys Help Humans
  
5. Name the details that describe a capuchin monkey’s journey to becoming a helper monkey.

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