Readability and How to Achieve It Lesson Quiz

1. Which feature(s) below should you focus on improving to increase readability scores?
a. Shorter sentence length
b. A lower percentage of words that have more than 2 syllables
c. Longer sentence length
d. Shorter paragraph length
e. both a and b
f. both b and d

2. Which of these is NOT a readability formula?
a. Holt Jibberish Index
b. Simple Measure of Gobbledygook
c. Flesch Reading Ease
d. Gunning Fog Index

3. What has been the trend for readability scores of scientific publications over the past 130 years?
a. Scores have been improving
b. Scores have been holding steady
c. Scores have been getting worse
d. There is no way to objectively know what the scores have been doing

4. How many adults can understand writing that has a Flesh Reading Ease score of 25?
a. More than 50%
b. About 30%
c. About 10%
d. Less than 5%

5. Having too many _____ greatly decreases readability.
a. Concrete verbs
b. Abstract verbs
c. Concrete nouns
d. Abstract nouns

6. Which of the following is an abstract noun?
a. Oxygen
b. Soil
c. E. coli
d. Adaptation

7. Which of the following is a passive verb?
a. was conducted

b. measure
c. stir
d. titrate

8. What is a good way to make scientific writing more relatable to the reader?
a. Use author names as the subjects of sentences
b. Add "We found that" in front of your results sentences
c. Change third person unidentified agents to first person
d. Tell a funny story or anecdote

9. How can you improve visual readability?
a. Careful use of italics, bolding, and colors to highlight key points
b. Use narrow margins and exclude white space
c. Place all graphics at the end of the document
d. Visual readability doesn't matter, only the words matter

10. During your editing process, you should do the following to improve readability:
a. Break up compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences
b. Replace simple words with complex words
c. Replace concrete nouns with abstract nouns
d. Replace active verbs with passive verbs

Answer key:

1. E
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. D
6. D
7. A
8. C
9. A
10. A