

# Just the Right Notes

## The Color of Money

1 The currency (paper money) of the United States is always changing. At one time, all of the country’s paper money (also called “notes”) was the same color—green. That is no longer true. In 2003, \$20 notes changed to include the colors peach and blue. In 2006, \$10 notes began “wearing” orange, red, and yellow. Beginning in 2008, \$5 notes included the color purple. Why does our paper money now have all these different colors? Was it just for appearances? Actually, there is a much better reason for the changing colors on U.S. paper money.

2 The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) makes all the paper money in the United States. In fact, the BEP prints billions of notes every year. The people who work at the BEP don’t care how pretty our money looks. They *do* care about something called counterfeiting.



## That’s Fake!

3 Counterfeiting is printing fake money and spending it as if it is real. Of course, doing this is unlawful. Unfortunately, counterfeiting has been a problem since before the United States was even a country!

4 In the 1700s, Mary Butterworth used a hot iron and a damp cloth to copy real notes onto paper. Then, she painted on the details. More recently, Art Williams printed \$10 million worth of fake notes. He used special car paint to make his “funny money.” But the government caught Mr. Williams and sent him to prison in 2003.

## Change Is the Answer

5 Stopping counterfeiters is one of the BEP’s top jobs. For this reason, the BEP changes U.S. notes every seven to ten years. Between 2003 and 2008, the BEP made new \$5, \$10, \$20, and \$50 notes. These changes make it more difficult to copy the notes. The changes also help people who own stores. They use the new features to check the money that people spend in their stores.

- 6 New colors are only one change to our paper money. The BEP also added watermarks to the bills. What is a watermark? It is a printed picture that is hard to see. Our notes have pictures of important people on them. For example, the picture of Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. President, is on the \$20 bill. If you hold the bill up to the light, you can see another picture of Jackson on the right. The second picture is very hard to see. That second picture is an example of a watermark.
- 7 Did you know that U.S. notes also contain thread? A flat thread runs to the left or right of the main picture. Hold a bill up to the light. The thread looks like a dark stripe.

- 8 The BEP also uses ink that changes color. Look at the bottom right corner of a \$20 bill. The number 20 is printed in thin stripes. Tilt the bill back and forth, and the color changes from copper to green, then back to copper.



- 9 Finally, the BEP uses very tiny print to stop counterfeiting. Tiny print is hard to read. It is also very hard to copy. Look beside Andrew Jackson's picture on a newer \$20 bill. Do you see the words "TWENTY USA"? The "TWE" and the "USA" have tiny words printed around them. The words are very hard to see. You might not see them, even with a magnifying glass.

### One Step Ahead

- 10 All of these changes make it hard to counterfeit U.S. notes. No one can simply copy money and fool people. With the right machines, someone may find a way to make copies of U.S. currency, but these fakes are never perfect. So, don't try to get a career in counterfeiting. You won't make any *real* money. Besides, the BEP is staying one step ahead of counterfeiters by changing our paper money over and over again.



5.3C (Vocabulary—Affixes/Roots) L

1. Based on the information in paragraph 3, circle the best option for each blank that completes the sentence below.

The letters      **(a)**      in the word unlawful make the word unlawful mean      **(b)**      following the law.

- (a)** *un*    **or**    **(a)** *ful*  
**(b)** not    **or**    **(b)** always

5.6G (Comprehension—Key Ideas) L

2. How does the Bureau of Engraving and Printing make sure U.S. notes are hard to counterfeit?
- A** The text on the notes appears in very small print.
  - B** The details on the notes are created with car paint.
  - C** The notes' features change often and in creative ways.
  - D** The notes are flattened and made crisp with a hot iron.

5.9D.i (Informational—Central Idea and Evidence) M

3. Which sentence best tells the central idea of this passage?
- A** Notes look different today than they did in the past.
  - B** Counterfeiters are constantly improving their methods.
  - C** U.S. currency uses watermarks, color-changing ink, and thread.
  - D** The BEP changes the appearance of money to stop counterfeiting.

5.10A (Author's Purpose—Message) H

4. Read the question carefully. Then, enter your answer in the box provided.

Read paragraphs 6 and 7. Why does the author say to hold the \$20 bill up to the light? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

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5.9D.iii (Informational—Patterns) M

5. How is this passage organized?
- A In order of importance
  - B As steps in a specific process
  - C By comparing and contrasting two topics
  - D As a problem and the actions taken to solve it

5.10A (Author's Purpose—Message) M

6. The author most likely wrote this passage to—
- A inform readers of why and how currency changes
  - B entertain readers with stories about counterfeiters
  - C teach readers about a certain branch of government
  - D persuade readers to double-check paper money they receive

5.3D (Vocabulary—Adages/Puns) H

7. Read these sentences from paragraph 10.

*So, don't try to get a career in counterfeiting. You won't make any real money.*

The author included this pun to—

- A explain that it is easy to tell when money is counterfeit
- B convince the reader to try and make counterfeit money
- C emphasize that there is nothing to gain from making counterfeit money
- D show how easily the Bureau of Printing and Engraving can spot counterfeit money

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*Darren is a fifth grader. His teacher asked each student to write a report about someone who invented something. Darren wrote about Bill Bowerman. This is a draft of his report. Read his report, and think about corrections and improvements he should make. Then, answer the questions that follow.*

## Bill Bowerman's New Shoes

(1) Bill Bowerman was born on February 19, 1911, in Portland Oregon. (2) As a boy, he loved sports. (3) He also loved winning. (4) When he grew up, he became a track-and-field coach at the University of Oregon.

(5) Bill tried all kinds of new ways to help his runners win more races. (6) He designed a special running shoe to help them race on a wet track. (7) One of his runners was Phil Knight. (8) Phil tried out Bill's new shoes. (9) He said they were so light that he felt like he had "swooshed" through the air while wearing them.

(10) Bill and Phil became partners. (11) They started their own shoe business. (12) In time, they decided to call the business "Nike." (13) The partners puts a fancy checkmark on all of their shoes. (14) Phil said the check reminded him of the "swoosh" he felt while using them.

(15) In 1972, Bill was named the coach of the United States Olympic track team. (16) The Olympics were held in Munich, Germany, that year. (17) Champion runners from all over the country came to Portland to train. (18) That helped Bill sell even more shoes.

(19) Bill kept improving his design. (20) He wanted to find a way for the shoes to grip the track better. (21) He thought it might work if the bottom of the shoe was made like a waffle. (22) So he poured rubber into a waffle iron and tried the rubber waffle on a shoe. (23) Bill's waffle shoe became a hit for the company.

(24) Bill Bowerman died in 1999. (25) By that time, his company was a huge success. (26) His shoes were on foots all over the world.

5.11C (Coherence and Clarity—Word Choice) H

1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

**Part A**

The meaning of sentence 6 can be improved by changing *them* to—

- A coaches
- B races
- C runners
- D shoes

**Part B**

Which of the following **BEST** supports the response from Part A?

- A The word *them* is referring to the track competitions.
- B The word *them* is referring to the shoes that he invented.
- C The word *them* is referring to the runners that Bowerman trained.
- D The word *them* is referring to the other coaches that he worked

5.11C (Coherence and Clarity—Sentence Structure) H

2. What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 10 and 11?

- A Bill and Phil became partners, they started their own shoe business.
- B Bill and Phil became partners when they started their own shoe business.
- C Bill and Phil became partners, so they started their own shoe business.
- D Bill and Phil became partners and then started their own shoe business.

5.11B.ii (Ideas / Details) H

3. Darren has included a sentence that does not belong in the fourth paragraph (sentences 15–18). Which sentence should he remove?

Fill in the check box with your selection.

- (15) In 1972, Bill was named the coach of the United States Olympic track team.
- (16) The Olympics were held in Munich, Germany, that year.
- (17) Champion runners from all over the country came to Portland to train.
- (18) That helped Bill sell even more shoes.

## 5.11D.x (Conventions) M

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?
- A Change *was* to **is**
  - B Insert a comma after *Portland*
  - C Change *Oregon* to **oregon**
  - D Make no change

## 5.11D.i (Sentence Conventions) M

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
- A Change *partners* to **partner**
  - B Change *puts* to **put**
  - C Change *their* to **they're**
  - D Make no change

## 5.11D.iii (Conventions) L

6. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 26?
- A Change *were* to **was**
  - B Change *foots* to **feet**
  - C Change *world* to **World**
  - D Make no change

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