

Practice Exercise **20**

Some 500,000 people in the United States depend for their lives on pacemakers, tiny electrically powered devices implanted in the chest to correct a slow or irregular heartbeat. But from the first, the chief drawback of the conventional pacemaker has been that the chemical batteries that supply its energy must be changed at frequent intervals, sometimes requiring the patient to undergo the inconvenience and risk of an operation every year or two. Now this problem seems to have been eliminated. Heart patients are receiving a new type of pacemaker powered by nuclear energy and designed to last ten years or longer.

1. Which phrase best summarizes the topic?
 - a. a significant improvement in pacemakers
 - b. the danger of frequent operations
 - c. reducing the cost of pacemakers
 - d. keeping your heart healthy
2. The paragraph suggests that
 - a. pacemakers must be replaced frequently.
 - b. pacemakers have many drawbacks.
 - c. the pacemaker's dangers outweigh its advantages.
 - d. pacemakers can accelerate and regulate heartbeats.
3. The best descriptive title for the paragraph is
 - a. New Developments in Heart Surgery.
 - b. The Ten-Year Pacemaker.
 - c. Chemistry and the Pacemaker.
 - d. The History of the Pacemaker.
4. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. New surgical techniques offer hope for heart patients.
 - b. Frequent operations reduce a patient's chances of survival.
 - c. New pacemakers are replacing old ones rapidly.
 - d. A new power source has made the pacemaker safer and more convenient.