

## Practice Exercise 8

Horse lovers agree there is no more difficult race to get ready for than the Kentucky Derby. That is certainly true, but the race is also potentially dangerous for the horses that run it. The race comes at a time of year when most of the entries have barely turned three years old. Because the universal thoroughbred birthday is January 1, Riva Ridge, a recent winner, was officially three on January 1, although in truth, the horse was not 36 months old until April 13. That was a scant three weeks before the Derby. At a time when thoroughbreds are still growing fast and their bones are still soft, they are asked for the first time to run a mile and a quarter against the best competition, carrying 126 pounds (57 kilograms) for colts or 121 pounds (54 kilograms) for fillies. The field is invariably big, and a certain number of cheap horses always clutter the race.

1. The main function of the details in this passage is to
  - a. give reasons supporting an opinion.
  - b. set a tone or mood.
  - c. reveal character.
  - d. advance a sequence of events.
2. The author points out that January 1 is the
  - a. deadline for all race entries.
  - b. usual breeding date for fillies.
  - c. universal birthday for thoroughbreds.
  - d. true birthday of Riva Ridge.
3. Riva Ridge is mentioned as an example of a
  - a. million-dollar money winner.
  - b. horse injured in a major race.
  - c. late entry in a crowded field.
  - d. young winner of the Kentucky Derby.
4. Underline the sentence that includes the most significant details that show why the race is potentially dangerous for young horses.