

# Scientific Names Test

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*Shared by*



In each of the following situations, you are expected to know the scientific names for the object described. If you do, you will live a normal, happy life. If you get a little confused, you may be in for some trouble. Mark your choices, then check the answers to see how well you did.

1. You are lost in the desert, miles from nowhere. By chance you come upon some nomadic traders. You give them the last of your money for some transportation out of the desert. They inform you that you have three choices. Which will you take?

- A) *Equus caballus*.
- B) *Struthio camelus*.
- C) *Cucumis sativus*.

2. Your pet canary seems so lonely these days. You go to the pet shop to pick up a companion to share its cage. The pet shop owner offers you three possibilities. Which will your little yellow friend prefer?

- A) *Raphus cucullatus*.
- B) *Obodenus divergens*.
- C) *Melopsittacus undulatus*.

3. You are trying to impress your date at a fine restaurant. The waiter offers you a choice of three dishes with which you may or may not be familiar. What do you order for your date?

- A) *Scomber scomber*.
- B) *Hirudo medicinalis*.
- C) *Mucaca mulatta*.

4. You finally got that new aquarium. Now you need something to stock it with. That same pet shop owner offers you some new items. What do you think will go best as a part of your new hobby?

- A) *Agkistrodon piscivorus*.
- B) *Sibbaldus musculus*.
- C) *Lebistes reticulatus*.

5. You have important guests coming to dinner. It would be nice to serve something tasty, but a bit out of the ordinary. Which of the following do you think will be most appetizing?

- A) *Phascolarctos cinereus*.
- B) *Perdix perdix*.
- C) *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*.

6. Everyone in the neighborhood is entering a pet in the annual race. You try to think which of your pets would have the best chance of winning. Finally you narrow it down to three. Which will be your final choice?

- A) *Latrodectus mactans*.
- B) *Solanum tuberosum*.
- C) *Acinonyx jubatus*.

7. You want to squeeze something to make a little cold juice to sip while you sit on the patio in the warm summer sun. You go to the store and find three things on sale (you never could resist a sale) Which do you want to use to make your delicious juice?

- A) *Arachis hypogaea*.
- B) *Ananas Comosus*.
- C) *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*.

8. On the way home from work you stop to pick up a snack for the party tonight. Nothing too fancy. When you get to the supermarket, you find that they have only three things left. Which do you think your guests will most enjoy?

- A) *Pediculus humanus capitis*.
- B) *Mesocricetus auratus*.
- C) *Cynara scolymus*.

9. You go out on a field trip to catch a few specimens for your zoology class. You are only allowed a pair of tweezers and a small glass jar. During the trip, you spy three likely specimens. Which will you try for with the tweezers?

- A) *Syncerus caffer*.
- B) *Didelphis virginiana*.
- C) *Lycosa narbonensis*.

10. While sitting on the river bank, you suddenly discover that you are about to be bitten. You don't like it, but it appears unavoidable. Three different creatures are coming at you from three sides. If you hurry, only one of them will get a nibble. Which do you prefer to taste you?

- A) *Heloderma suspectum*.
- B) *Eunectes murinus*.
- C) *Carassius auratus*.

**END OF TEST**

*(Answers on Next Page)*

## SCIENTIFIC NAMES ANSWERS

*Give yourself one point for each correct answer*

1. (A) Correct. A horse may not be the best desert animal, but it sure beats walking.  
(B) An ostrich may be swift, but you may have a hard time riding it very far.  
(C) A cucumber tastes good, but fails as a mode of transport.
2. (A) A dodo bird is a nice choice, but I would be a bit suspicious of the pet shop owner since they are totally extinct.  
(B) Sorry, but a twelve-foot walrus will definitely not fit in Tweety's cage.  
(C) Yes, a little Australian parakeet is probably your best bet at this point.
3. (A) Good choice; mackerel is a fine tasting, edible fish from the North Atlantic.  
(B) Blood-sucking leeches really are not the choice of most choosy eaters.  
(C) I think your date will be uneasy to find you've ordered rhesus monkey for the main course.
4. (A) A water moccasin snake may fit in your aquarium, but this large, poisonous pit viper from the swamps of the southeastern U.S. would not be a good choice.  
(B) Come now. I don't think a hundred-foot blue whale will work at all.  
(C) Yes. Guppies are tiny, freshwater fish, whose bright colors will add just the right touch to your new aquarium.
5. (A) What a pity--and koala bears are so cute, too.  
(B) Excellent choice; partridge is a quail-like game bird which grows to fourteen inches.  
(C) I doubt they will be impressed with a wild African wart hog--even if you put an apple in its mouth.
6. (A) The only way your black widow spider will win is by poisoning the other contestants.  
(B) I fear that your favorite potato will not enjoy a victory.  
(C) Good. Your pet cheetah--a leopard-like animal from Africa and South Asia--is one of the fastest creatures on earth.
7. (A) If you use these peanuts, you will probably end up with peanut butter, not juice.  
(B) That's better; pineapple juice is tasty and refreshing.  
(C) I would hate to think what kind of juice you will get from squeezing a giant panda.
8. (A) Head lice is definitely not the in thing this social season.  
(B) A dead hamster might go well on a vegetable plate, but I doubt it.  
(C) Yes, I think most of the guests would prefer artichokes over the other two choices.

9. (A) The large, fierce cape buffalo from South Africa may give you a bit of a problem when you pinch it.  
(B) A 20-inch opossum surely will not fit in the jar.  
(C) Good choice; you will probably be able to capture the wolf spider if the jar is large enough.
10. (A) The Gila Monster is a poor choice; this 24-inch, poisonous lizard will not make your day.  
(B) The anaconda snake is a member of the boa family and sometimes grows to thirty feet.  
(C) Best choice. A goldfish usually doesn't inflict much pain.

**YOUR RATING:**

- 8-10 Correct: Excellent. You're too smart for your own good.  
6-7 Correct: Very good. You either know a lot or are very lucky.  
4-5 Correct: Good. You must own an uptown pet shop.  
2-3 Correct: Fair. The law of averages was on your side.  
0-1 Correct: Need help. Stay away from all plants and animals.

