

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Reading, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words & Phrasal Verbs

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
unbearable	too difficult or unpleasant to accept or deal with
science-guided	based on or directed by scientific research and evidence
wildlife	animals and plants living in their natural environment
boost	to increase or improve something
proven	shown to be true or effective through evidence
region	a specific area of a country or the world
head outside	to go outside, especially to start an activity
carry out	to do or complete a task, especially a plan or experiment
take on	to accept responsibility for a task or challenge
follow their lead	to do what someone else has done, using them as an example

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Worksheet

Part 2: Reading

This text uses the Present Perfect and modal verbs (can, must, might). Read the text.

John Rice has started his mornings early for years, swapping his coffee for a water bottle instead. In rural Virginia, summer days can reach 95 degrees Fahrenheit, and it's often the humidity that makes it feel unbearable.

Just up the road, John and Debbie Sessler have lived on their farm for decades. Before heading outside, John Sessler always puts on his leather gloves and applies insect repellent — a routine he has carried out for years.

Both men have retired from other careers, but that hasn't slowed them down. In fact, they've taken on a new challenge together: increasing biodiversity across their land. They must think carefully about how their choices affect the wildlife nearby.

Scientists from the Smithsonian have worked with farmers throughout the Shenandoah Valley, helping them set up science-guided practices that create and connect natural habitats. These methods can boost biodiversity without reducing how productive a farm is.

Rice and Sessler have proven that neighbors can work together across fence lines to protect the land they share. Other farmers in the region might follow their lead, helping keep the valley home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Worksheet

Part 3: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. unbearable	___	A. to go outside, especially to start an activity
2. science-guided	___	B. shown to be true or effective through evidence
3. wildlife	___	C. too difficult or unpleasant to accept or deal with
4. boost	___	D. a specific area of a country or the world
5. proven	___	E. based on or directed by scientific research and evidence
6. region	___	F. to do what someone else has done, using them as an example
7. head outside	___	G. to increase or improve something
8. carry out	___	H. animals and plants living in their natural environment
9. take on	___	I. to do or complete a task, especially a plan or experiment
10. follow their lead	___	J. to accept responsibility for a task or challenge

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Worksheet

Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the option with the same meaning.

1. Which option means the same as "unbearable"?

- ☐ A) tolerable
- ☐ B) intolerable
- ☐ C) easy

2. Which option means the same as "boost"?

- ☐ A) reduce
- ☐ B) ignore
- ☐ C) increase

3. Which option means the same as "proven"?

- ☐ A) confirmed
- ☐ B) doubted
- ☐ C) forgotten

4. Which option means the same as "region"?

- ☐ A) building
- ☐ B) area
- ☐ C) person

5. Which option means the same as "carry out"?

- ☐ A) avoid
- ☐ B) forget
- ☐ C) perform

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "unbearable"?

☐ A) intolerable

☐ B) tolerable

☐ C) difficult

2. Which word means the opposite of "boost"?

☐ A) increase

☐ B) improve

☐ C) reduce

3. Which word means the opposite of "proven"?

☐ A) disproved

☐ B) confirmed

☐ C) shown

4. Which word means the opposite of "take on"?

☐ A) accept

☐ B) avoid

☐ C) start

5. Which word means the opposite of "science-guided"?

☐ A) random

☐ B) evidence-based

☐ C) planned

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Worksheet

Part 6: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. John Rice ____ his mornings early for years.

☐ A) start

☐ B) starts

☐ C) has started

2. John and Debbie Sessler ____ on their farm for decades.

☐ A) have lived

☐ B) live

☐ C) lived

3. Farmers ____ think carefully about how their choices affect wildlife.

☐ A) can

☐ B) must

☐ C) might

4. He ____ this routine for years.

☐ A) carries out

☐ B) carried out

☐ C) has carried out

5. They ____ on a new challenge together.

☐ A) have taken

☐ B) take

☐ C) took

6. These methods ____ boost biodiversity.

☐ A) must

☐ B) can

☐ C) might

7. Rice and Sessler ____ that neighbors can work together.

☐ A) prove

☐ B) proved

☐ C) have proven

8. Other farmers ____ follow their lead.

☐ A) might

☐ B) can

☐ C) must

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Worksheet

Part 7: Grammar — What does the modal verb express?

Read the sentence. Circle what the modal verb means here.

1. "Summer days can reach 95 degrees."

- ☐ A) Ability
- ☐ B) Possibility
- ☐ C) Obligation

2. "Farmers must think carefully about their choices."

- ☐ A) Obligation
- ☐ B) Possibility
- ☐ C) Ability

3. "These methods can boost biodiversity."

- ☐ A) Obligation
- ☐ B) Ability
- ☐ C) Possibility

4. "Neighbors can work together across fence lines."

- ☐ A) Possibility
- ☐ B) Ability
- ☐ C) Obligation

5. "Other farmers might follow their lead."

- ☐ A) Ability
- ☐ B) Obligation
- ☐ C) Possibility

Part 8: Word Scramble

Put the words in the correct order. Write the full sentence.

1. has / John / Rice / started / his / mornings / early / for / years.

Your sentence: _____

2. have / John / and / Debbie / Sessler / lived / on / their / farm / for / decades.

Your sentence: _____

3. must / Farmers / think / carefully / about / how / their / choices / affect / wildlife.

Your sentence: _____

4. have / Scientists / from / the / Smithsonian / worked / with / farmers / throughout / the / valley.

Your sentence: _____

5. have / Rice / and / Sessler / proven / that / neighbors / can / work / together / across / fence / lines.

Your sentence: _____

Farmers and Biodiversity

B1 Worksheet

Part 9: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Nora and Sam talk about the farmers. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Nora: Have you heard about the farmers in Shenandoah Valley?

Sam: Yes, John Rice ____ (1) ____ his mornings early for years.

Nora: I read John Sessler ____ (2) ____ outside every day to work on the land.

Sam: Right. He ____ (3) ____ this same routine for years.

Nora: Farmers ____ (4) ____ think carefully about how their choices affect wildlife.

Sam: True. Scientists ____ (5) ____ new methods that boost biodiversity.

Nora: These methods ____ (6) ____ really help farms stay productive.

Sam: I heard other farmers in the region ____ (7) ____ follow their lead soon.

Nora: It's great that Rice and Sessler ____ (8) ____ this challenge together.

1. Blank 1

- ☐ A) start
- ☐ B) starts
- ☐ C) has started

2. Blank 2

- ☐ A) heads
- ☐ B) head
- ☐ C) is heading

3. Blank 3

- ☐ A) carries out
- ☐ B) has carried out
- ☐ C) carried out

4. Blank 4

☐ A) can

☐ B) might

☐ C) must

5. Blank 5

☐ A) have set up

☐ B) set up

☐ C) are setting up

6. Blank 6

☐ A) must

☐ B) can

☐ C) might

7. Blank 7

☐ A) can

☐ B) must

☐ C) might

8. Blank 8

☐ A) have taken on

☐ B) take on

☐ C) took on

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

1. unbearable → C
2. science-guided → E
3. wildlife → H
4. boost → G
5. proven → B
6. region → D
7. head outside → A
8. carry out → I
9. take on → J
10. follow their lead → F

Part 4: Synonyms

1. Which option means the same as "unbearable"?

☐ A) tolerable

☒ B) intolerable ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) easy

2. Which option means the same as "boost"?

☐ A) reduce

☐ B) ignore

☒ C) increase ✓ CORRECT

3. Which option means the same as "proven"?

☒ A) confirmed ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) doubted

☐ C) forgotten

4. Which option means the same as "region"?

☐ A) building

☒ B) area ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) person

5. Which option means the same as "carry out"?

☐ A) avoid

☐ B) forget

☒ C) perform ✓ CORRECT

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "unbearable"?

☐ A) intolerable

☒ B) tolerable ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) difficult

2. Which word means the opposite of "boost"?

☐ A) increase

☐ B) improve

☒ C) reduce ✓ CORRECT

3. Which word means the opposite of "proven"?

☒ A) disproved ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) confirmed

☐ C) shown

4. Which word means the opposite of "take on"?

☐ A) accept

☒ B) avoid ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) start

5. Which word means the opposite of "science-guided"?

☒ A) random ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) evidence-based

☐ C) planned

Part 6: Correct Verb Form

1. John Rice ____ his mornings early for years.

☐ A) start

☐ B) starts

☒ C) has started ✓ CORRECT

2. John and Debbie Sessler ____ on their farm for decades.

☒ A) have lived ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) live

☐ C) lived

3. Farmers ____ think carefully about how their choices affect wildlife.

☐ A) can

☒ B) must ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) might

4. He ____ this routine for years.

☐ A) carries out

☐ B) carried out

☒ C) has carried out ✓ CORRECT

5. They ____ on a new challenge together.

☒ A) have taken ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) take

☐ C) took

6. These methods ____ boost biodiversity.

☐ A) must

☒ B) can ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) might

7. Rice and Sessler ____ that neighbors can work together.

☐ A) prove

☐ B) proved

☒ C) have proven ✓ CORRECT

8. Other farmers ____ follow their lead.

☒ A) might ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) can

☐ C) must

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 7: What Does the Modal Verb Express?

1. "Summer days can reach 95 degrees."

☐ A) Ability

☒ B) Possibility ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Obligation

2. "Farmers must think carefully about their choices."

☒ A) Obligation ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Possibility

☐ C) Ability

3. "These methods can boost biodiversity."

☐ A) Obligation

☐ B) Ability

☒ C) Possibility ✓ CORRECT

4. "Neighbors can work together across fence lines."

☐ A) Possibility

☒ B) Ability ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Obligation

5. "Other farmers might follow their lead."

☐ A) Ability

☐ B) Obligation

☒ C) Possibility ✓ CORRECT

Part 8: Word Scramble

1. has / John / Rice / started / his / mornings / early / for / years.

✓ John Rice has started his mornings early for years.

2. have / John / and / Debbie / Sessler / lived / on / their / farm / for / decades.

✓ John and Debbie Sessler have lived on their farm for decades.

3. must / Farmers / think / carefully / about / how / their / choices / affect / wildlife.

✓ Farmers must think carefully about how their choices affect wildlife.

4. have / Scientists / from / the / Smithsonian / worked / with / farmers / throughout / the / valley.

✓ Scientists from the Smithsonian have worked with farmers throughout the valley.

5. have / Rice / and / Sessler / proven / that / neighbors / can / work / together / across / fence / lines.

✓ Rice and Sessler have proven that neighbors can work together across fence lines.

Farmers and Biodiversity

Answer Key

Part 9: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☐ A) start

☐ B) starts

☒ C) has started ✓ CORRECT

2. Blank 2

☒ A) heads ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) head

☐ C) is heading

3. Blank 3

☐ A) carries out

☒ B) has carried out ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) carried out

4. Blank 4

☐ A) can

☐ B) might

☒ C) must ✓ CORRECT

5. Blank 5

☒ A) have set up ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) set up

☐ C) are setting up

6. Blank 6

☐ A) must

☒ B) can ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) might

7. Blank 7

☐ A) can

☐ B) must

☒ C) might ✓ CORRECT

8. Blank 8

☒ A) have taken on ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) take on

☐ C) took on