A. Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

erode	oriented	undergo	volume	initiate
reject	theoretically	justify	vehicle	vision

1. The _____ can reach top speeds of over 150 mph.

2. Jared was unable to _____ why he was late to work this morning.

3. This car will have to _____ inspection within the next three months.

4. This restaurant is _____ towards families with small children.

5. While it is _____ possible to win, it is nearly impossible due to the circumstances.

6. The _____ of the container was enough to hold the entire birthday cake.

7. Mark has a _____ for his company, but not everyone shares it.

8. Before we _____ any discussions, we should decide what our demands are.

9. Even water can _____ stone, so keep trying until you succeed!

10. Everyone wondered why the contestant would _____ the prize money of $1 million.

B. Match each word with its definition.

1. assign_____	a. unknown; not recorded or plotted on a map, chart, or plan
2. technique_____	b. the act of getting or gaining something
3. infinite_____	c. to bring something into existence
4. relevant_____	d. without limits; extremely large or great
5. uncharted_____	e. relating to something in an appropriate way
6. found_____	f. to give (someone) a particular job or piece of work
7. highlight_____	g. to initiate or set something off
8. bulk_____	h. to throw a strong light on
9. acquisition_____	i. large size or mass
10. trigger_____	j. a way of performing an activity

C. Read the excerpt from a reading below and answer the questions.

Normally, I'm 100 percent supportive of the acclaimed columnist Donald Blaise's innovative and sometimes unusual ideas. But reading his recent article "Just Say 'No' to Self-driving Cars," I was surprised by his argument against this exciting new technology. How could a champion of new ideas be against self-driving cars? Though he acknowledges that their use in the future is very likely, he goes on to write: "Self-driving cars are a terrible idea because a human being has no control over the vehicle!"

Well, Donald, that's kind of the point, don't you think? Self-driving cars are actually a fantastic idea because they will do exactly what the name implies—they'll handle the driving for you! When the car takes control, the driver will be safer, freer, and happier. Blaise's explanation for why self-driving cars are terrible is exactly why they're so amazing.

Mr. Blaise, as it turns out, does most of his work from home. He doesn't have to sit in his car every morning and afternoon, moving slowly along a busy highway bumper-to-bumper with his fellow commuters. He would never understand the dread most drivers have for their drive to and from work each day, nor would he truly understand the amount of time lost that could have been spent doing something else. With autonomous-driving cars, commuters would suddenly be free to get something else done while on their commute.

One of Blaise's complaints about self-driving cars was that the technology would be too expensive. He claimed that only a small percentage of the general population would be able to afford it, making any positive impacts too small to be worth the expense. But preliminary estimates by the non-profit group Eno Center for Transportation predict that if only ten percent of the vehicles on the road were self-driving, 1,100 lives could be saved a year in the US alone. Forget about cutting my morning commute to the office down by a few minutes—this technology could actually save lives.

Like most technologies, self-driving cars will, of course, be expensive. The cost of the software, sensors, and power alone for one of these cars could well exceed $100,000 per vehicle. But Blaise's weak argument against the cost will soon become irrelevant. As with any technology, the cost will eventually go down. In the early 1970s, a personal home computer could cost tens of thousands of dollars, but today you can buy a slim, stylish laptop for only a few hundred dollars. There's no reason to assume that the cost of self-driving cars wouldn't go the same way. As the cost of self-driving cars goes down, the benefits will only continue to increase. Once ninety percent of the cars on the road are self-driving, 4.2 billion accidents could be avoided, and 21,700 lives saved. And lives won't be the only thing being saved—when cars can anticipate braking and accelerating, they will use less gas, costing their owners less money and helping our ailing environment.

Do you know what else the self-driving car will save? Sanity. How many poor drivers have ever cried out in frustration after their third attempt at trying to parallel park their car? The technology for a self-parking car is already out there. At the 2013 International Consumer Electronics Show, the Audi RS7 Sportback SUV demonstrated that it can park all on its own without needing a driver in the driver season. But surprisingly, Audi isn't even the leader in this technology. With over 800,000 driverless miles logged (and counting), Google is presently number one. That's 800,000 miles without a single crash. And Google isn't holding back on where their success comes from, either. Their so-called "Chauffeur system" uses lidar—basically radar and sonar combined—which can take a million measurements per second to make a 3D model of the area you're driving in. It already knows where the stationary things are—crosswalks, telephone poles, and traffic lights—and then uses lidar to fill in the gaps with moving objects. It will see the neighbor's cat dashing out into the road before you do. It will know that there's a bicyclist coming up behind you. It will sense all of the things that a distracted driver might overlook, and take the actions needed to prevent any accidents. At the moment, the Chauffeur costs around $75,000, but the geniuses at Google are already working to lower the price, hopefully moving into a more affordable range by 2018.

Donald doesn't have to drive to work. Maybe he can't imagine the bliss that would come from climbing into his car with the morning paper, a hot mug of coffee, and a warm croissant. He doesn't know the joy that would come from sitting back and having a relaxing, easy, accident-free commute, arriving at work feeling relaxed and without any stress or anxiety. Maybe Donald is simply uncomfortable with this new automotive paradigm, but I'm not—I want it!

a. Answer the following questions.

1. Besides statistics, what does the author use to support his opinion about self-driving cars?
 a. Personal experience
 b. Research findings
 c. Expert opinion

2. What might happen if one out of ten cars on the road were self-driving? Underline the information.

3. What sensing technologies does Google's driverless car use?

b. Choose the best answer.

1. What can be inferred about author Donald Blaise?
 a. He thinks that human drivers make too many errors.
 b. He knows the author of this article personally.
 c. He prefers to remain in control of his own car.
 d. He does not typically write about new technology.

2. Which of the following is NOT true according to the article?
 a. Self-driving cars would result in seventy-five percent fewer traffic fatalities each year.
 b. Self-driving cars could reduce traffic congestion by over half of its current level.
 c. The computers in self-driving cars will actually communicate with those of other cars.
 d. The operating systems in self-driving vehicles can do several things at once.

3. Which of the following does the author mention as being advantages of self-driving cars? (More than one answer is possible.)
 a. Increased safety
 b. Low starting costs
 c. Higher economic output
 d. Improved the mental health of drivers
 e. Greater energy efficiency

4. Which of the following is true of lidar, according to paragraph 9?
 a. It uses cameras to locate objects near the car.
 b. Its first version will be developed by 2018.
 c. Its price has already dropped significantly.
 d. It can sense moving objects in all directions.

c. Read the excerpts. Answer the questions.

1.

Like most technologies, self-driving cars will, of course, be expensive. The cost of the software, sensors, and power alone for one of these cars could well exceed $100,000 per vehicle. But Blaise's weak argument against the cost will soon become irrelevant. As with any technology, the cost will eventually go down.

a. Underline any words or phrases that appeal to the reader's emotions.

b. Why does the author use this kind of language?

2.

Maybe he can't imagine the bliss that would come from climbing into his car with the morning paper, a hot mug of coffee, and a warm croissant. He doesn't know the joy that would come from sitting back and having a relaxing, easy, accident-free commute, arriving at work feeling relaxed and without any stress or anxiety.

a. Underline any words or phrases that appeal to the reader's emotions.

b. Why does the author use this kind of language?

Answer Key

Part A
1. vehicle
2. justify
3. undergo
4. oriented
5. theoretically
6. volume
7. vision
8. initiate
9. erode
10. reject

Part B
1. f
2. j
3. d
4. e
5. a
6. c
7. h
8. i
9. b
10. g

Part C
a.
1. a
2. ...if only ten percent of the vehicles on the road were self-driving, 1,100 lives could be saved a year in the US alone.
3. lidar

b.
1. a
2. b
3. a, d, e
4. a

c.
1. Answers may vary.
a. of course, well exceed, weak, eventually
b. to stress the known pitfalls but point out how things will change

2. Answers may vary.
a. maybe, warm, hot, joy, relaxing, easy
b. To emphasize the hypothetical positives of a commute with a self-driving cars