Imagine a creature so small, you can barely see it with your naked eye. This is the world of lice, tiny insects that make their home in the fur or hair of various animals, including humans. They have six legs, each tipped with a claw, which they use to cling to hair or fur. Most lice are about the size of a sesame seed, so you can imagine how tiny they are!



Now, you might be wondering where these super small critters live and what they eat. Lice are found all over the world, living on the bodies of their hosts. What they eat depends on their species - some feed on blood, while others prefer skin and hair debris. They can't fly or jump, so they move around by crawling.

Speaking of crawling, let's talk about the life cycle of these little crawlers. A louse begins life as a nit (egg) that's glued to a hair or fur. In about a week, the nit hatches into a nymph (a young louse), which grows into an adult louse in another week. Adult lice can live for about a month, laying several eggs a day during their lifetime.



So, we know lice are tiny, crawl around, and have a pretty quick life cycle, but what's their relationship with us humans and other animals? Well, lice are mostly known for being pests. They can cause itchiness and discomfort, and in large numbers, they can even cause anemia in their host. But here's a fun fact: Lice are specific to their hosts, which means human lice won't live on pets, and vice versa!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) How many legs does a louse have?

A. four B. six C. eight D. two

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A. Only on dogs B. Only on cats

C. No D. Yes

5) Lice in large numbers can cause _____ in their hosts.

A. gingivitisB. anemiaC. blindnessD. hearing loss

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C. about a week

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9) What do lice not feed on?

A. BloodB. Hair debrisC. SkinD. Tree bark

10) What are lice mostly known for?

A. being cuteB. being helpfulC. being pestsD. being friendly

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

11) "We lice are huge, almost the size of an apple!"

- 12) "I just love to fly around and soar in the sky!"
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Reading	ww



- **14)** I use my eight long legs to crawl around.
- 15) "I enjoy hopping from one place to another!"
- **16)** "I can eat anything, from fruits to meat."
- 17) "I can't fly or jump, so I have to crawl to get around."
- 18) "We have a quick life cycle. We go from egg to adult in only two weeks."
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- 26) "My life began as an egg, then I transform into a nymph, and finally into an adult louse."
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- 28) "We don't lay eggs, we give birth to live young ones."
- 29) "You might find it hard to see me, I'm so tiny, about as small as a sesame seed."
- 30) "Did you know, if there's too many of us, we can cause anemia in our host."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 31) Lice cannot fly or jump, but they can crawl to get around.
- 32) It's pretty neat how lice have claws to cling on to hair.
- 33) Lice are found globally, making their homes on the bodies of various animals and humans.
- **34)** Lice and fleas are the two most disgusting bugs.
- 35) Lice possess six legs, equipped with claws that help them cling onto hair or fur.
- **36)** The fact that lice are specific to their hosts is an interesting adaptation.
- 37) Human lice won't survive on pets, and vice versa.
- 38) The diet of lice may consist of blood, or skin and hair debris, depending on the species.
- **39**) Lice are gross and creepy.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 41) Lice are tiny insects that are so small you can barely see them with your naked eye.
- **42**) Baby lice take several years to grow into adults.
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- **48)** All lice feed on blood.
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Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

51) There's a special comb to remove lice and nits.

A. there are B. there is

C. there has D. there was

52) If you've got lice, it's important to treat them.

A. you have B. you had D. you could

C. you will

53) Lice <u>can't</u> fly or jump like other insects.

A. will not B. are not C. should not D. cannot

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A. are not B. will not C. do not D. is not

55) Human lice <u>don't</u> live on pets.

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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 56) Lice infestations can happen to anyone, regardless of how clean your hair is!
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Lice

Name:

1.	 26.	 51.		
2.	 27.	 52.		
3.	 28.	 53.		
4.	29.	54.		
5.	 30.	55.		
6.	 31.	 56.		
7.	 32.	 57.		
8.	33.	 58.		
9.	 34.	59.		
10.	 35.	60.		
11.	 36.	 61.		
12.	 37.	 62.		
13.	 38.	 63.		
14.	 39.	 64.		
15.	 40.	 65.		
16.	 41.	 66.		
17.	 42.	 67.		
18.	 43.			
19.	 44.			
20.	 45.			
21.	 46.			
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23.	 48.			
24.	 49.			
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1-10										
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0

Lice

Name: Answer Key

1.	В	26.	true	51.	В
2.	B	27.	true	52.	A
3.	A	28.	false	53	D
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5.	B	30.	true	55.	C
6.	A	31.	fact	56	exclamatory
7.	D	32.	opinion	57	imperative
8.	A	33.	fact	58.	interrogative
9.	D	34.	opinion	59.	exclamatory
10.	<u> </u>	35.	fact	60.	declarative
11.	false	36.	opinion	61.	interrogative
12.	false	37.	fact	62.	declarative
13.	true	38.	fact	63.	interrogative
14.	false	39.	opinion	64.	declarative
15.	false	40.	opinion	65.	imperative
16.	false	41.	true	66. __	exclamatory
17.	true	42.	false	67. ₋	imperative
18.	true	43.	true		
19.	true	44.	false		
20.	false	45.	true		
21.	false	46.	false		
22.	false	47.	false		
23.	true	48.	false		
24.	false	49.	true		
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A. four B. six C. D.

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C. D.

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4) Can human lice live on pets? (paragraph 4)

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