



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. eight
 - B. six
 - C. four
 - D. two
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 - A. High up in trees
 - B. Under the sand at the beach
 - C. In fur or hair
 - D. In rivers
- 3) What is the size of a lice?
 - A. the size of a pack of gum
 - B. the size of a watermelon
 - C. the size of a sesame seed
 - D. about 8 inches
- 4) Can human lice live on pets?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Only on cats
 - D. Only on dogs
- 5) Lice in large numbers can cause _____ in their hosts.
 - A. hearing loss
 - B. gingivitis
 - C. blindness
 - D. anemia
- 6) What part do lice use to cling to hair or fur?
 - A. their sharp teeth
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 - A. Tree bark
 - B. Blood
 - C. Hair debris
 - D. Skin
- 10) What are lice mostly known for?
 - A. being pests
 - B. being helpful
 - C. being cute
 - D. 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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- 14) I use my eight long legs to crawl around.
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- 18) "We have a quick life cycle. We go from egg to adult in only two weeks."
- 19) "I use my six legs, each with a claw, to strongly hold onto hair and fur."
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- 26) "My life began as an egg, then I transform into a nymph, and finally into an adult louse."
- 27) "I started my life as a nit (which is a little egg), glued to a hair strand."
- 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.
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- 48) All lice feed on blood.
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- 50) Lice are insects that live in the fur or hair of various animals, including humans.

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
C. you will D. you could
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A. will not B. are not
C. should not D. cannot
- 54) Lice aren't the same as fleas or ticks.
A. are not B. will not
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- 55) Human lice don't live on pets.
A. did not B. does not
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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!
- 57) Please don't scratch your head if you have lice!
- 58) How are lice different from other insects?
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- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
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| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> A </u> |
| 3. <u> C </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> D </u> |
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| 6. <u> D </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> | 56. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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| 10. <u> A </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
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