**INGLÊS INSTRUMENTAL / CHAPTER 09 / INFERRING**

***Silly Science Prizes*** A drawing of a cartoon character

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Most people have heard of the Nobel Prizes. Some of the most talented people in the world receive these prizes, which honor great achievements in medicine, chemistry, and other fields. But not many people have heard of the Ig Nobel Prizes. The name is a pun on the word “ignoble.” These prizes are given to people who do very strange work and whose studies might even be called a little goofy. The prizes were first given out in 1991, and they get more popular every year.

All the prize winners were serious about their work when they did it. It’s just that the subjects they studied were a little odd. For example, one prize went to two scientists in Norway who discovered that sour cream makes leeches hungry. Another scientist studied toast because he wanted to know if it always lands butter side down when you drop it. Another prize went to the country of Liechtenstein for offering to rent the entire country out for weddings!

The Ig Nobel Prize ceremony is held at Harvard University in Massachusetts every October. Sometimes the people who receive the prizes aren’t too happy about it, but usually they are good sports. Often, they have to travel a very long way to get their prizes. When they receive them, they give a speech, but they can only speak for one minute. If they talk longer than that, they are booed.

The Ig Nobel Prizes are kind of silly, but they have a somewhat serious goal of trying to encourage real science. Above all, they prove that science can be fun. One winner came up with a new way for men to comb their hair. Another one studied how tadpoles taste when you eat them. No matter what the subject, these prizes show the lighter side of science.

**1. You can tell from this passage that the word ignoble probably means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

a. noble

b. ignorant

c. embarrassing

**2. The third paragraph says that the people who receive an Ig Nobel Prize aren’t always too happy about it. What is the most likely reason for that?**

a. They have to travel far to go to Harvard.

b. They have to make a short speech.

c. They are embarrassed because the prizes poke fun at them.

**3. What is one thing that all the work done by these prize winners has in common?**

It is extremely important.

It is all done by foreigners.

It is kind of silly.

**4. The second paragraph mentions leeches. What could a leech be?**