Name: _____ Date: _____

Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

Circle group

On a rainy Friday, two men named Dennis ordered a pizza from Luigi's Pizzeria within five minutes. Dennis Park was a quiet bus driver. He asked for a large pizza with mushrooms and extra cheese. Dennis Parks lived three streets away and wrote songs for a living. He asked for a medium pizza with pineapple, olives and anchovies. The cashier wrote it down twice, because she could not believe it. The two names looked almost the same on the slips. The ink also smudged.

Dennis Park opened his door and found a pineapple pizza with fish on it. He stared for a long time. Then he thought that a man who had driven a bus for twenty years could survive one odd supper. Three streets away, Dennis Parks opened his box and saw plain mushrooms and cheese. "Finally," he sighed, "a pizza that does not argue with me."

The delivery boy felt terrible. He went back to Luigi's and told what had happened. Luigi liked to solve problems almost as much as he liked to bake. He called both men. He asked them to meet halfway, at the corner of Elm Street, and swap pizzas. They came under the same umbrella. They laughed about the names. Each man secretly liked the other's order better. They traded boxes and ate on a bench in the rain. They agreed to order again next Friday, and this time to say their last names loudly.

Questions

1. What did Dennis Park order?

_____

_____

2. What did Dennis Parks do for work?

_____

_____

3. Why did the order slips cause trouble?

_____

_____

4. Where did the two men meet to swap?

_____

_____

5. Why did the cashier write the second order down twice?

_____

_____

6. Why was the swap good for both men?

_____

_____

Words to know

pizzeria: a restaurant that makes and sells pizza
smudged: blurred or smeared so it is hard to read
anchovies: small, salty fish that some people put on pizza

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

Triangle group

On a rainy Friday, two people named Dennis ordered a pizza from Luigi's Pizzeria within the same five minutes. Dennis Park, a quiet bus driver, asked for a large pizza with mushrooms and extra cheese. Dennis Parks, who lived three streets away and wrote songs for a living, requested a medium pizza with pineapple, olives and anchovies, a combination that the cashier wrote down twice because she could not quite believe it. The two names looked nearly the same on the order slips, and by the time the delivery boy picked up the boxes, the ink had smudged.

Dennis Park opened his door and found a pineapple pizza dotted with fish. He stared at it for a long moment, and then he decided that a person who had driven a bus for twenty years could survive one strange supper. Three streets over, Dennis Parks lifted his lid and found plain mushrooms and cheese. "Finally," he sighed, "a pizza that does not argue with me."

The delivery boy, who felt terrible, returned to Luigi's and explained the mix-up. Luigi, who liked solving problems almost as much as baking, offered a plan. He called both customers and asked whether they might meet halfway, at the corner of Elm Street, and swap pizzas. The two Dennises arrived under the same umbrella, laughed about the names, and discovered that each of them secretly preferred the other's order. They traded boxes, ate on a bench in the rain, and agreed to order from Luigi's again next Friday, this time using their last names loudly and clearly.

Questions

1. What did Dennis Park order?

_____

_____

2. What did Dennis Parks do for a living?

_____

_____

3. Why did the order slips cause trouble?

_____

_____

4. Where did the two Dennises meet to swap pizzas?

_____

_____

5. Why did the cashier write down the second order twice?

_____

_____

6. Why did the swap work out well for both men?

_____

_____

Words to know

pizzeria: a restaurant that makes and sells pizza
combination: a mix of different things put together
smudged: blurred or smeared so it is hard to read
preferred: liked better than something else
anchovies: small, salty fish that some people put on pizza

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

Square group

On a rainy Friday, two different men named Dennis ordered a pizza from Luigi's Pizzeria within the very same five minutes. Dennis Park, a soft-spoken bus driver, asked for a large pizza with mushrooms and extra cheese. Dennis Parks, who lived three streets away and composed songs for a living, requested a medium pizza topped with pineapple, olives and anchovies, a combination that the cashier recorded twice because she could scarcely believe what she was hearing. The two names looked nearly identical on the order slips, and by the time the delivery boy collected the boxes, the ink had smudged beyond easy reading.

Dennis Park opened his door and discovered a pineapple pizza dotted with fish. He stared at it for a long moment, and then he decided that a man who had driven a bus for twenty years could survive one peculiar supper. Three streets over, Dennis Parks lifted his lid and found plain mushrooms and cheese. "Finally," he sighed, "a pizza that does not argue with me."

The delivery boy, who felt dreadful, returned to Luigi's and explained the mix-up. Luigi, who enjoyed solving problems almost as much as baking, proposed a plan. He telephoned both customers and invited them to meet halfway, at the corner of Elm Street, and exchange their pizzas. The two Dennises arrived beneath the same umbrella, laughed about the confusing names, and discovered that each of them secretly preferred the other's order. They traded boxes, ate on a bench in the rain, and agreed to order from Luigi's again the following Friday, this time announcing their last names loudly and clearly.

Questions

1. What did Dennis Park order from the pizzeria?

_____

_____

2. How did Dennis Parks earn a living?

_____

_____

3. Why did the order slips cause trouble?

_____

_____

4. Where did the two Dennises meet to exchange pizzas?

_____

_____

5. Why did the cashier record the second order twice?

_____

_____

6. Why did the exchange turn out well for both men?

_____

_____

Words to know

pizzeria: a restaurant that makes and sells pizza
combination: a mix of different things put together
smudged: blurred or smeared so it is hard to read
preferred: liked better than something else
anchovies: small, salty fish that some people put on pizza

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

Easier · 241 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. A large pizza with mushrooms and extra cheese.
2. He wrote songs.
3. The names looked almost the same and the ink smudged.
4. At the corner of Elm Street.
5. She could not believe the odd mix of toppings.
6. Each man secretly liked the other's order better.

Triangle: Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

This passage · 262 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9

1. A large pizza with mushrooms and extra cheese.
2. He wrote songs.
3. The names looked nearly the same and the ink had smudged.
4. At the corner of Elm Street.
5. She could not quite believe such an unusual combination of toppings.
6. Each of them secretly preferred the other man's order.

Square: Two Dennises, One Pizza Order

Harder · 270 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.3

1. A large pizza with mushrooms and extra cheese.
2. He composed songs.
3. The names looked nearly identical and the ink had smudged.
4. At the corner of Elm Street.
5. She could scarcely believe such an unusual combination of toppings.
6. Each of them secretly preferred the other's order.