



Mr. Fix-it's Handyman Quiz

“Workshop Wonderings”

**Take this 10-question test and find out how you score as a do-it-yourselfer.
(If you're a young reader, you might want to ask a grown-up for help.)**

1) One bedroom is not as coolly comfortable as any of your home's other rooms. What is the probable problem?

- a) The thermometer is broken.
- b) The night light is too bright.
- c) The louvers on the air vent need to be adjusted.
- d) The ceiling fan has only three speeds.

2) The computerized irrigation system in the yard is not watering the grass and the plants, and no water is seen on the ground. What is the likely problem?

- a) a short in the solenoid.
- b) an obstruction in the piston cylinder.
- c) a blown gasket
- d) an overheated barometer.

3) A small gold earring has fallen into the bathroom sink and down the drain. The faucet was not turned on. How should you proceed to retrieve it?

- a) Position a large magnet above the drain.
- b) Use a plumber's snake.
- c) Disassemble the drain's trap.
- d) Turn on the faucet.

4) You have your paintbrush ready to apply the finishing coat of Swiss Coffee to the wooden sash in the kitchen. Which of the following should you use?

- a) base
- b) enamel
- c) primer
- d) sealer

5) What is known in the building trades as a “two-by-four stud” is a piece of lumber whose measurements actually are which of the following?

- a) 2 feet by 4 feet
- b) 2 inches by 4 inches
- c) 2 yards by 4 yards
- d) 1½ inches by 3½ inches

6) The ignition key is turned to the start position, but the car won't start. There is no sound from the engine. Which of the following is the probable culprit?

- a) manifold
- b) carburetor
- c) battery
- d) alternator

7) The remote control is not operating the television set. Which of the following could *not* be the problem?

- a) The batteries are dead.
- b) The batteries are OK but not inserted in the correct polarity position.
- c) Something or someone is between the remote control and the remote sensor.
- d) The nearby table lamp with a three-way light bulb is operating on only the lowest wattage.

8) Which grouping of the following items might you need to sew on a button?

- a) thread, needle threader, thimble, button, scissors, seam ripper, tape measure
- b) seam ripper, magnifying glass, needle, thimble, button, scissors, tacky glue
- c) button, scissors, thimble, needle threader, needle, thread
- d) sewing machine, scissors, thimble, needle, tacky glue

9) The lamp light goes out in the room you are in. What could you do to resolve the problem?

- a) Check to see if any other lights in the room are working. Maybe you just need to change the light bulb.
- b) Check to see if any of the lights in the other rooms are working.
- c) Find the circuit-breaker box and see if a circuit breaker has tripped and needs to be reset.
- d) all of the above

10) The four steps of the flagstone stairway leading to the front door are cracking, uneven and falling apart. Which of the following is the probable cause?

- a) No footer was installed.
- b) The stairway thought the homeowner was ugly.
- c) The overweight homeowner stood on the steps too long.
- d) Woodpeckers were looking for bugs.

Answers: 1 (c); 2 (a); 3 (c); 4 (b); 5 (d); 6 (c); 7 (d); 8 (c) 9 (d); 10 (a).

Scoring, by total number of correct answers:

- 8 – 10** Congratulations! You nailed it!
- 5 – 7** You did OK! You didn't exactly drill it, but neither did you allow it to make you come unglued.
- 0 – 4** Oops! You basically screwed up. You'll need to pay more attention to the nuts and bolts of home improvement.