



READING COMPREHENSION

Choose the best response, based on your reading of the Essay.

- ① Skyscrapers were invented in the _____.
(a) 1880s (c) 1920s
(b) 1890s (d) 1930s
- ② The architect secretly built a _____ to make the Chrysler Building the tallest.
(a) codex (c) telex
(b) matrix (d) vertex
- ③ The Chrysler Building was eventually about _____ feet high.
(a) 500 (c) 1,500
(b) 1,000 (d) 2,000
- ④ One of the decorations on the exterior is _____.
(a) a frieze of actual car hubcaps, covered with gold
(b) a mercury thermometer, like a Chrysler car instrument
(c) a Mercury-wing gargoyle, like a Chrysler car ornament
(d) a stainless steel reproduction of the Statue of Liberty
- ⑤ Choose "T" for True or "F" for False.
Abstract automobile images decorate the exterior of the Chrysler Building.
(T) (F)



Complete the Summary by filling in the blanks.

Skyscrapers were invented in Chicago in the 1880s. But by 1928, Art Deco skyscrapers were also going up (1) New York City.

Architect William Van Alen undertook a skyscraper project (2) automobile magnate Walter P. Chrysler. Van Alen declared the building would (3) 925 ft. high. But his competitors were planning (4) buildings. To (5) them, he secretly constructed a 185-ft. vertex (spire) inside his own nearly completed tower. Suddenly, he erected the vertex in 90 minutes.

At 1,046 ft., the Chrysler Building was briefly the world's (6) building. Soon, however, it was eclipsed by the Empire State Building, another famous Art Deco skyscraper.

"Art Deco" means (7) than one thing. Some of the Chrysler Building's exterior and (8) design is richly decorative, some is abstract. The most spectacular element is the crown. Its overlapping discs suggest the spokes and rim of the automobile wheel. Ultimately they disappear into a gleaming steel spire that pierces the sky.

a. higher b. tallest c. stand d. for e. all over f. more g. interior h. sit i. fool