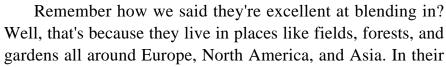


Just like magic, the pygmy shrew zips through the underbrush, barely visible to the naked eye. These tiny creatures are the smallest mammals known to us, weighing less than a dime and being only about the size of your thumb. Their fur is a soft, velvety brown color, which helps them blend in with their surroundings. They have a pointy snout, tiny eyes, and ears that are almost hidden by their fur.





little homes, they feast on a buffet of insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates. In fact, they eat so much that they need to consume 2 to 3 times their body weight in food each day!

Now, imagine eating that much, you'd probably be very sleepy, right? Well, pygmy shrews don't have much time for sleep, they're too busy living their life cycle. They're born in the spring, grow quickly, and by summer, they're ready to have little shrews of their own. Despite their small size, they're fearless, using their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats.



Speaking of threats, did you know that pygmy shrews have a special trick? Their saliva is venomous, which helps them to paralyze their prey and defend against predators. This makes them different from other shrew species, which can't do this. So, next time you're exploring the great outdoors, remember to respect these small but mighty creatures.

Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What do pygmy shrews eat?

A. Seeds and nuts B. Leaves and berries

C. Fish and birds D. Insects, spiders, and small

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2) Which is a place pygmy shrews might live?

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A. It's venomous B. It's sweet

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A. As soon as they're born B. After just a year

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A. In the fall B. In the winter C. In the spring D. In the summer

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A. They go weeks without eating. B. They eat their body weight in food a

C. They eat half their body weight per D. They eat up to three times their body weight each day.

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7) What sets pygmy shrews apart from other shrew species?

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A. As big as a mouse B. The size of a cat C. The size of your thumb D. The size of a hand

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

"My fur changes color based on the seasons, just like a chameleon."



- 12) "I survive on an all-insect diet, including spiders and other tiny creepy crawlies."
- 13) "Now, let me tell you, we pygmy shrews eat 2 to 3 times our body weight in food every day, that's a lot!"
- 14) "My saliva can paralyze my prey and protect me from predators."
- 15) "We prefer to hang out in the desert, it's nice and warm."
- **16)** "We love long sleeps, especially after a big meal."
- 17) "I don't really like to eat much, just a little bite now and then."
- 18) "We barely eat, don't need much food to survive."
- **19**) "We're born in winter and enjoy the cold."
- 20) "I live in places like fields, forests, and even gardens in Europe, North America, and Asia."
- 21) "I'm pretty big for a mammal, almost the size of a cat."
- 22) "Guess what? I'm one of the smallest animals on the planet, tinier than a dime!"

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 23) Pygmy shrews eat about 2 to 3 times their own body weight in food every day.
- 24) Pygmy shrews are more interesting than other shrew species because they have venomous saliva.
- **25**) Pygmy shrews eat insects, spiders, and small invertebrates.
- **26)** Pygmy shrews, with their pointy snout and tiny eyes, are the more adorable than any other mammals.
- **27**) Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to humans.
- **28)** The sharp teeth of the pygmy shrew make it look a bit scary despite its tiny size.
- **29**) Pygmy shrews usually give birth during the spring season.
- **30)** Pygmy shrews can be found in places like fields, gardens, forests.
- 31) It's amazing that the pygmy shrew, being so tiny, is able to eat 2 to 3 times its body weight in food each day!
- **32)** The way pygmy shrews use their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats is very cool.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 33) Pygmy shrews are usually born in the spring.
- **34)** Pygmy shrews only eat plants.
- **35)** Pygmy shrews live in forests, fields, and gardens.
- **36)** Pygmy shrews are the largest mammals known to humans.
- **37**) Pygmy shrews eat insects and spiders.
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- **42)** Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to us.



C. They had

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

43) Pygmy shrews <u>can't</u> fly, but they can climb trees!

A. can able

B. cannot

C. will not D. are not

44) They've got a special bite that helps them catch their food.

A. They have

B. They areD. They were

45) Pygmy shrews aren't very big, but they're super fast!

A. are able B. will not

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46) Because they're so small, they've got to be careful of predators.

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47) They're so tiny that it's hard to see them in the grass.

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C. They are D. They do

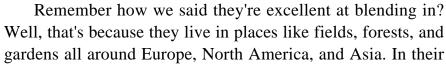
Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

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- **49**) Can pygmy shrews swim?
- **50**) Pygmy shrews are active hunters, constantly searching for insects and small invertebrates to eat.
- **51)** Pygmy shrews have a short lifespan of only about 1 to 2 years.
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	Pygmy Shrew	Name:
1.	26.	51.
2.	27.	52.
3.	28.	53.
4.	29.	<u></u>
5.	30.	
6.		
7.		
8.	33.	
9.	34.	
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17.	42.	
18.	43.	
19.	44.	
20.	45.	
21.	46.	
22.	47.	
23.	48.	
24.	49.	
25.	50.	
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Pygmy Shrew

Answer Key

Name:

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Pygmy Shrew

Name:

declarative

interrogative

interrogative

51.

52.

53.

Answer Key

1.	D	26.	opinion
2.	D	27.	fact
3.	A	28.	opinion
4.	D	29.	fact
5.	C	30.	fact
6.	D	31.	opinion
7.	D	32.	opinion
8.	D	33.	true
9.	C	34.	false
10.	C	35.	true
11.	false	36.	false
12.	true	37.	true
13.	true	38.	false
14.	true	39.	false
15.	false	40.	false
16.	false	41.	true
17.	false	42.	true
18.	false	43.	В
19.	false	44.	A
20.	true	45.	D
21.	false	46.	A
22.	true	47.	C
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24.	opinion	49.	interrogative
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Name:

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C.

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В.

C.

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В.

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C.

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A.

B. Their color

C.

D. Their saliva

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B.

C.

D. Brown

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Α.

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C. Using their sharp teeth

D.

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В.

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D.

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Pygmy Shrew

Name:

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