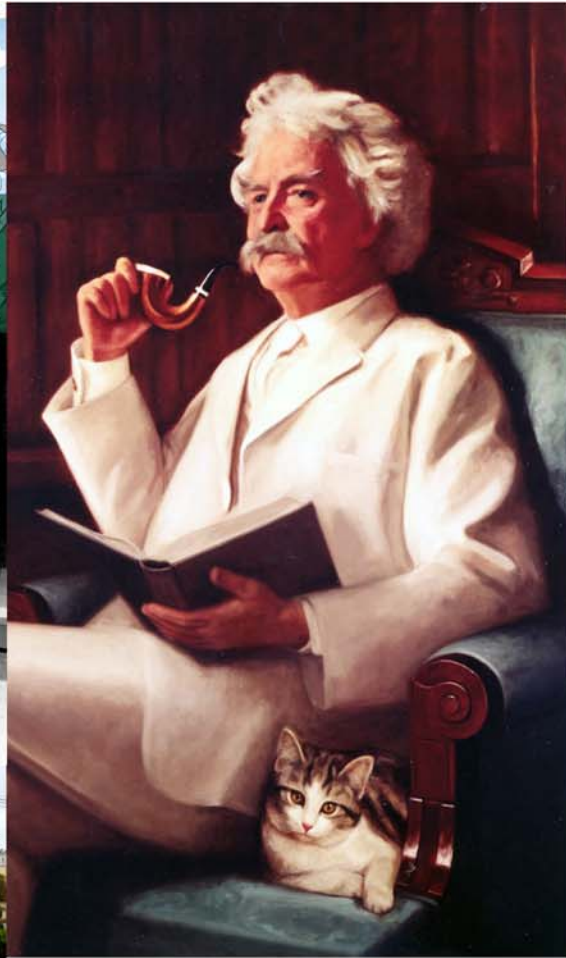




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"Believe it Or Not" by Keisha Bedwell

"Paul Bunyan" by Beth Mader

"The History of Chocolate" by Jennifer King

"The Young Life of Samuel Langhorne Clemens" by Shannon Ament

"Canine Celebrities" by Keisha Bedwell & Jennifer King

"Climbing Everest" by Keisha Bedwell & Jennifer King

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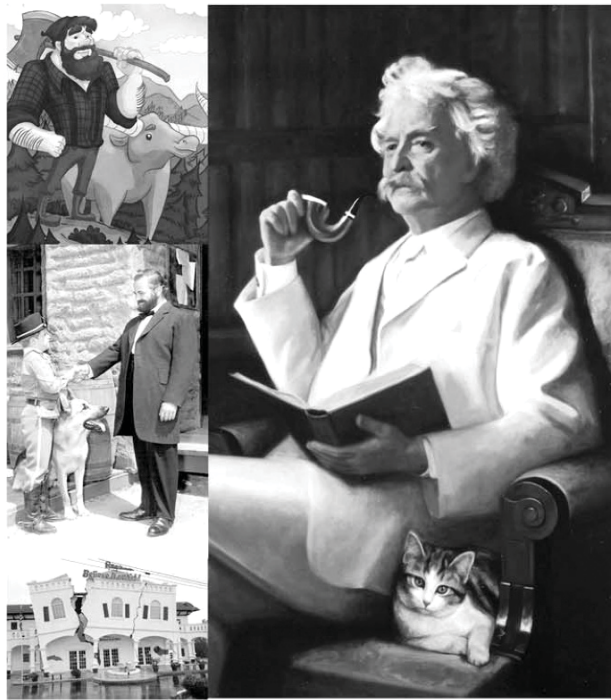
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- **Practice Tests**
- **Answer Keys**
- **Answer Sheets** (Blank)

## UIL LISTENING CONTEST – PRACTICE SCRIPT

### "Believe it or Not!"

Robert Ripley, born LeRoy Robert Ripley, was an endlessly curious man who led an adventurous life. Aptly nicknamed the "Modern Marco Polo," he traversed the globe in search of interesting or unusual stories and artifacts.

Ripley was born during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Santa Rosa, California and was the son of a carpenter. From an early age, he showed an interest and aptitude in art, though he never received formal training. He also served as a member of his high school's newspaper and yearbook organizations as a teenager. His father died in 1905, prompting Ripley to drop out and work to help provide for his family.

**1:00** Ripley played baseball on a semi-pro team, but later broke his arm while trying out for the Major Leagues, ending his baseball career. He turned to art. One of his cartoons, titled "The Village Bell Was Slowly Ringing," was sold to *Life* magazine in 1908 and kickstarted his career in the publishing industry at the tender age of 18. The following year, he relocated south to the "Fog City" and took a position as a sports cartoonist for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and for other newspapers in the area.

**2:00** While working for the *Chronicle*, he met famed American author and adventurer Jack London. London, a fellow journalist and another interesting character of the period, is best known for his novels *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*. Both men were covering the "Battle of the Century," a boxing match between Jack Johnson and James "Jim" Jeffries in Reno. London was one of a group of people who advised Ripley to leave the West Coast behind and head to the East Coast and New York City to build a career.

Ripley took this advice and a position at the *New York Globe and Commercial Advertiser*, dropping his first name "LeRoy" for "Robert." His position at the *Globe* was not a glamorous post by any means, but the paper was a new member of a

## UIL LISTENING CONTEST – TEST

### "Believe it or Not!"

- Where was Robert Ripley born?
  - Los Angeles, California
  - San Francisco, California
  - Santa Barbara, California
  - Santa Rosa, California
- What was Robert Ripley's nickname?
  - Gertie
  - LeRoy
  - Modern Marco Polo
  - Rip Roar
- How did Ripley perform in high school?
  - He showed aptitude in art.
  - He was a member of the newspaper and yearbook clubs.
  - He dropped out when his father died to work and provide for his family.
  - All of the above
- Ripley broke his \_\_\_\_\_ while playing \_\_\_\_\_ which ended his sports career.
  - arm, baseball
  - nose, football
  - toe, soccer
  - neighbor's window, baseball
- In what famous magazine was Ripley first published?
- What was the "Battle of the Century?"
  - The Alamo
  - Battle of Gettysburg
  - A boxing match between Mike Tyson and Mohammed Ali
  - A boxing match between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries
- Who did Ripley meet at the "Battle of the Century"?
  - William Randolph Hearst
  - Jack London
  - Jack Johnson
  - Mark Twain
- Ripley's first cartoon in the series that made him famous was originally called "\_\_\_\_\_." It was actually his editor who renamed it, "Believe It or Not!"
  - Weird Wonders
  - Strange Soup
  - Champs and Chumps
  - Peanut Butter and Jelly
- What was happening in history when "Ripley's Believe It or Not" first became popular?
  - the Great Depression
  - the landing of the first man on the moon
  - the Vietnam War
  - the Salem witch trials
- How many countries did Ripley visit in his lifetime?
  - 99
  - 1,567
  - 201
  - 10
- Ripley had an odd collection of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - stamps
  - pets
  - cockroaches
  - Pez dispensers

## UIL LISTENING CONTEST – PRACTICE SCRIPT

### "Canine Celebrities"

Ancestors of today's dogs were domesticated, or trained to be dependent on humans, thousands of years ago. Scientists are still working to pinpoint where canines were first domesticated through the study of archaeological specimens and genetic sampling, and some now speculate that they were domesticated in two unique regions — one time in Asia and another in Europe or perhaps the Near East. Historical evidence also shows that in ancient Egypt, those who could afford it would have their dog mummified. Ancient dog collars with words such as "Brave One" or "the king's dog" proves that the kinship between dog and man is not a new one. Regardless of the origin of domestication, one fact remains indisputable; over time, dogs have gained a reputation as mankind's loyal companion.

1:00

Snoopy from *Peanuts*, Toto from *The Wizard of Oz*, Lassie, and Scooby Doo are some of the most iconic fictional canine companions from American pop culture. In 1969, a Snoopy Astronaut 'Pocket Doll' was sent into space with astronauts, and NASA even named a lunar module "Snoopy."

Scooby Doo, an awkwardly drawn brown Great Dane, quickly became a beloved hero as a cowardly crime solver with an affinity for snacks. Interestingly, his name was inspired by a line in a song by Frank Sinatra, "Strangers in the Night." When television visionary Fred Silverman was sitting on a plane contemplating what to name his new mystery-solving cartoon dog, he heard Sinatra sing the words, "scooby-doo-be-doo." Although the words actually said were, "doobie-doo-be-do," a star was born and *Scooby Doo — Where Are You?* launched its first episode in in 1969.

2:00

Other iconic American dogs, like Balto, are fascinating and very real pieces of American history. Featured in a movie and later a Disney cartoon, the real Balto helped save many lives. In 1925, several children in Nome, Alaska were diagnosed with a contagious disease called *diphtheria*. The disease, which is caused by bacteria, can not only cause a person to suffocate from swelling in the throat, it can eventually can lead

11. Everest has been called \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. "The Goddess of the Valley"  
 B. "The Goddess of the Sky"  
 C. "God Holding the Sun"  
 D. Both A & B
12. Some superstar climbers attempt to climb not only Everest, but other mountains. This group of mountains is called the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Odyssey  
 B. Dizzying Blizzards  
 C. Seven Summits  
 D. Treacherous Trek
13. The youngest record holder ever to climb Mount Everest was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Jordan Romero  
 B. Ciaran Tucker  
 C. Criss Angel  
 D. Justin Bieber
14. How old was the youngest Everest climber?
15. Who did the youngest climber call on the phone when he reached the top of the summit?
16. What feature(s) make(s) the Yeti's described appearance unique?  
 A. Red, beady eyes  
 B. The ability to scale mountains with six-inch claws  
 C. Dark gray hair and a shorter stature  
 D. Blonde hair and sharp pointed teeth
17. What is another name for the Yeti?  
 A. Abominable Snowman  
 B. Bigfoot  
 C. Mogollon Monster  
 D. Wolfman
18. Why was a supposed Yeti finger and skull kept at a Nepal monastery?  
 A. For good luck, and they made money charging visitors to take photos of the relics  
 B. The relics were cursed, and the monks feared the Yeti would return if they were not preserved in a holy place  
 C. To perform sacred ceremonies  
 D. To ward off evil
- TRUE or FALSE**
19. Most birds fly as high as Mount Everest.
20. The dormant volcano of Mauna Kea found on Hawaii's Big Island is the tallest if you take into account what is below sea level.
21. Once you get to the top of Everest, a helicopter taxi will automatically pick you up.
22. It costs around \$11,000 for a mountaineering permit to climb Everest.
23. Tyler Armstrong was not allowed to climb Everest because he was not tall enough.
24. The supposed finger of a Yeti was found in the 1800s.
25. The Yeti bones on display were found to be human.