



Imagine you're a tiny creature with a big, scary name like 'earwig'! These little fellows, often no more than an inch long, have a dark brown or black body that is long and slender. They have six legs and a pair of forceps-like pincers on their abdomen, which they use for defense and hunting. Despite their scary name, earwigs are quite harmless and their pincers aren't strong enough to harm a human.



Keeping their pincers busy, earwigs have a varied diet. They munch on a wide range of stuff, from plant debris and ripe fruits to other insects and their eggs. Because of their eating habits, they can be both helpful and harmful to gardeners. They aid in breaking down organic matter, but can also damage crops and ornamental plants.

From munching on plants and insects, let's jump to where these creatures call home. Earwigs are found almost everywhere around the world, but they prefer damp, cool places. They often hide in small, tight crevices during the day and come out at night to feed. You might find them under pots, in mulch, or amidst leaf piles in your garden.



insect world!

Now that we've visited their home, let's take a peek into their life cycle. Earwigs undergo incomplete metamorphosis, which means they pass through three stages: egg, nymph, and adult. Interestingly, they are one of the few non-social insect species that show maternal care. Mama earwigs guard their eggs and young until they are ready to fend for themselves, which is quite unique in the



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

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A. red                      B. green                      C. yellow                      D. black
- 2) How big are earwigs?  
A. several feet long                      B. tiny, like a grain of sand  
C. half a foot in size                      D. no more than an inch long
- 3) Are earwigs deadly to humans?  
A. Sometimes                      B. Yes                      C. No                      D. Only male earwigs
- 4) What is part of the diet of an earwig?  
A. walnuts                      B. lumber wood                      C. small rodents                      D. plant debris
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A. Mama earwigs eat their young  
B. Mama earwigs build nests out of twigs for their young  
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A. In the morning                      B. All the time                      C. At night                      D. In the afternoon
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A. Mama earwigs guard their eggs and young.  
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A. Adaptable metamorphosis                      B. Incomplete metamorphosis  
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**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).**

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- 29) "I am most active at night-time, crawling out of my hiding place to look for food."
- 30) "The interesting fact is, we earwigs are found almost everywhere on the planet."
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**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 32) Earwigs can be found mostly in damp and cool places.
- 33) Earwigs are extremely scary because of their pincers.
- 34) Earwigs eat different things including plant debris, ripe fruits and other insects.
- 35) The long, slender bodies of earwigs are cool because they set them apart from other insects.
- 36) Earwigs are small, usually not more than an inch long.
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- 39) Earwigs have a pair of pincers on their abdomen that they use for defense and hunting.
- 40) It's impressive to see such small creatures like earwigs showing maternal care.
- 41) The variety of food that earwigs eat is something really interesting.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 42) Earwigs care for their young until they can fend for themselves.
- 43) Earwigs are usually found in dry places, like deserts.
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- 47) Earwigs can harm humans with their pincers.
- 48) Earwigs go through five stages in their life cycle: egg, nymph, cocoon, adult, and old age.
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- 70) Earwigs have pincers on their backs which they use to protect themselves from predators. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs?
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- 71) Earwigs can be found all over the world except in the polar regions. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs' habitat?
- A. Earwigs inhabit only the polar regions.
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# Earwigs

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \_\_\_\_\_ 53. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_ 54. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \_\_\_\_\_ 55. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ 31. \_\_\_\_\_ 56. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 32. \_\_\_\_\_ 57. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 33. \_\_\_\_\_ 58. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ 34. \_\_\_\_\_ 59. \_\_\_\_\_
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51) Earwigs can be helpful to gardeners.

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

52) Earwigs won't hurt your garden.

- A. will  
B. will not  
C. would not  
D. do not

53) Earwigs don't bite humans.

- A. do not  
B. won't  
C. can't  
D. aren't

54) They're called earwigs, but they won't crawl into your ears.

- A. were not  
B. do not  
C. cannot  
D. will not

55) Some earwigs have wings, but they usually don't use them.

- A. do not  
B. cannot  
C. are not  
D. will not

56) Earwigs can't hurt humans, so there's no need to be afraid of them.

- A. do not  
B. are not  
C. cannot  
D. will not

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

57) Earwigs don't actually crawl into people's ears, it's a common misconception!

58) Carefully observe the earwig's pincers when you see one.

59) Why are they called earwigs?

60) How incredible it is that earwigs can produce a foul-smelling liquid for defense!

61) Earwigs can be found in damp, dark places like under rocks, logs, or leaf piles.

62) Do earwigs like to live in moist and warm environments?

63) Earwigs are harmless to humans and can help keep pests away from our plants.

64) Are earwigs insects that have wings?

65) The name earwig comes from a myth that they crawl into people's ears while they sleep.

66) If you find an earwig in your garden, gently place it back in its natural habitat.

67) It's amazing how earwigs help to keep our gardens healthy by eating other insects and plants!

68) Share some fun facts about earwigs with your friends.

**Determine which choice is the conclusion that can be drawn from the statement.**

69) Despite their name, earwigs do not crawl into people's ears. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs?

- A. All earwigs live in human ears.  
B. The name 'earwig' is misleading.  
C. Earwigs are named because of their ear-like pincers.  
D. Earwigs are afraid of humans.



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- |     |              |     |                |     |                      |
|-----|--------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>D</b>     | 26. | <b>Not</b>     | 51. | <b>true</b>          |
| 2.  | <b>D</b>     | 27. | <b>Not</b>     | 52. | <b>B</b>             |
| 3.  | <b>C</b>     | 28. | <b>Would</b>   | 53. | <b>A</b>             |
| 4.  | <b>D</b>     | 29. | <b>Would</b>   | 54. | <b>D</b>             |
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| 7.  | <b>D</b>     | 32. | <b>fact</b>    | 57. | <b>exclamatory</b>   |
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