



Buzzing around your picnic, meet our tiny friend, the house fly! These little creatures are small, about 1/4 inch long, with a dark gray body and two transparent wings. You can spot them by their large red eyes which take up most of their head. And if you look really closely, you'll notice tiny hairs all over their bodies, which help them sense their surroundings.

From those big red eyes, let's fly over to where these fascinating creatures spend their time. House flies can be found all over the world, and as their name suggests, they often live in human homes. They like to hang out in trash cans, animal waste, and anywhere else they can find food. And speaking of food, did you know they eat by spitting on their food to dissolve it before sucking it back up?

After that spit-tacular meal, let's delve into the life cycle of a house fly. They start as tiny eggs, then hatch into larvae, also known as maggots. After a few days, these maggots turn into a pupa, and then finally, they emerge as adult flies. This whole process only takes about a week, so a fly's life is pretty fast-paced!

With such a speedy life cycle, you might wonder how house flies interact with the world around them. Well, they're not the best roommates for humans, as they can carry diseases. But for other animals, like frogs, spiders, and birds, house flies make a tasty snack. So, even though they can be a bit pesky, house flies are an important part of our ecosystem, providing food for many creatures and helping to break down waste.





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) About how large is a house fly?
A. 1/4 inch long
B. 2 inches long
C. 1/4 of a foot
D. 1 inch long
- 2) How do house flies eat?
A. House flies don't eat, only the larvae do
B. By chewing their food
C. By spitting on their food to dissolve it
D. By swallowing their food whole
- 3) What do flies have covering their body?
A. scales
B. stripes
C. hairs
D. spots
- 4) What color is the body of a house fly?
A. Black
B. White
C. Brown
D. Grey
- 5) What kind of animals feed on house flies?
A. elephants and lions
B. dogs and cats
C. frogs, spiders, and birds
D. turtles and rabbits
- 6) What color are a house flies eyes?
A. red
B. blue
C. green
D. black
- 7) Where do house flies often live?
A. human homes
B. forests
C. oceans
D. mountains
- 8) How long does it take for a house fly to go through its life cycle?
A. a week
B. a day
C. a year
D. a month
- 9) What is the first stage in a house flies life?
A. Pupae
B. Larvae
C. Egg
D. Adult house fly
- 10) What is another name for house fly larvae?
A. pupae
B. flylings
C. crawls
D. maggots

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

- 11) "My body is covered in large scales."
- 12) "I swallow my food."



- 13) "My body is covered by tiny hairs which help me to feel."
- 14) "I have blue eyes."
- 15) "I skip the maggot stage in my life cycle."
- 16) "I avoid trash cans and other dirty places."
- 17) "My way of eating? I spit on my food first, which dissolves it, then I slurp it up like a smoothie!"
- 18) "I make my homes near humans, often inside their houses."
- 19) "Have you seen my big red eyes? They help me observe everything."
- 20) "I'm usually found in forests far from human homes."
- 21) "I chew my food using my teeth."
- 22) "Other animals don't eat me."
- 23) "I can be found almost anywhere in the world."
- 24) "I do not start my life as an egg."
- 25) "Despite being a nuisance to humans, I am an important part of the ecosystem, providing food for many creatures."
- 26) "My life goes by in the blink of an eye. From an egg to an adult in about a week!"
- 27) "I would be a terrible pet since I can carry diseases."
- 28) "I don't carry any diseases."
- 29) "I'm really small, approximately 1/4 inch long."
- 30) "My journey starts as a tiny egg."

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

- 31) House flies have large red eyes that cover most of their head.
- 32) House flies can carry diseases which makes them dangerous for humans.
- 33) House flies are creepy because they have hairs all over their bodies.
- 34) House flies have dark grey bodies and two transparent wings.
- 35) House flies are annoying because they buzz around your food.
- 36) House flies buzzing around are annoying.
- 37) House flies look cool because they have large red eyes.
- 38) House flies are tiny creatures less than half an inch long.
- 39) House flies can go from eggs to adults in about a week.
- 40) House flies are disgusting because they start their life as maggots.
- 41) House flies are totally gross because they hang out in trash cans.
- 42) It's incredible that something as small as a house fly can carry so many diseases.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 43) House flies can usually be found near clean places.
- 44) House flies kept in captivity can grow up to 1 foot long.
- 45) House flies start as tiny eggs, then turn into larvae.



- 46) House flies have large red eyes.
- 47) Some house flies can live up to a year.
- 48) House flies spit on their food to dissolve it.
- 49) House flies have tiny hairs all over their bodies.
- 50) Frogs, spiders, and birds use house flies as a food source.
- 51) House flies have 4 sets of transparent wings.
- 52) House flies can carry diseases.
- 53) A fly's life cycle lasts 6 months.

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

- 54) Flies don't have teeth, so they can't chew their food.
 - A. can not
 - B. do not
 - C. will not
 - D. are not
- 55) There's over 100,000 species of flies around the world.
 - A. There is
 - B. There were
 - C. There are
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- 56) House flies can't fly very far at a time.
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- 57) It's important to wash our hands after touching a house fly.
 - A. It is
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- 58) They're considered one of the fastest flying insects.
 - A. They will
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 59) Look at how fast house flies can move!
- 60) Explain why it's important to keep houseflies away from our food.
- 61) What do house flies do when they find food?
- 62) Wow, house flies can walk on walls and ceilings!
- 63) It is important to keep our homes clean to avoid attracting house flies.
- 64) How long does it take for a house fly to grow from an egg to an adult?
- 65) The life cycle of a house fly only takes about two weeks.
- 66) Can house flies carry diseases?
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- 68) Be careful not to leave any uncovered food to avoid attracting house flies.
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70) Please close the windows to keep the house flies outside.



- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ | 56. _____ |
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1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



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|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>A</u> | 26. <u>true</u> | 51. <u>false</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>true</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>false</u> | 53. <u>false</u> |
| 4. <u>D</u> | 29. <u>true</u> | 54. <u>B</u> |
| 5. <u>C</u> | 30. <u>true</u> | 55. <u>A</u> |
| 6. <u>A</u> | 31. <u>fact</u> | 56. <u>D</u> |
| 7. <u>A</u> | 32. <u>fact</u> | 57. <u>A</u> |
| 8. <u>A</u> | 33. <u>opinion</u> | 58. <u>C</u> |
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| 13. <u>true</u> | 38. <u>fact</u> | 63. <u>declarative</u> |
| 14. <u>false</u> | 39. <u>fact</u> | 64. <u>interrogative</u> |
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12) "I swallow my food." (paragraph 2)