



Have you ever seen a spider wearing a red hourglass? Nope, it's not getting ready for a party, it's a black widow spider! These spiders are easy to spot with their shiny, black bodies and the red markings they wear. They are not very big, about 1.5 inches long, but are known to be quite tough. Their name comes from a slightly scary fact - sometimes, the females eat the males after mating!

Speaking of eating, let's find out what these eight-legged creatures munch on. Black widow spiders are like the mini superheroes of the insect world, they catch and eat other insects that we often find annoying, like flies and mosquitoes. They do this by spinning super strong webs, waiting for their dinner to get trapped. Once the prey is stuck, the spider uses its venom to turn the insides of the insect into a liquid and then slurps it up like a smoothie!



Now you're probably wondering, where do these critters hang out? Well, black widow spiders can be found all over the world, but they especially like warmer climates. They prefer to live in dark, secluded places like woodpiles, boxes, or in the corners of garages. They are not very social, and prefer to live alone except when they are mating.



Okay, so we know they're not party animals, but what about us humans? Well, black widow spiders are not naturally aggressive to humans and will only bite if they feel threatened. Their venom can be harmful, but it's very rare for it to cause serious problems. So, remember, if you ever come across a black widow spider, admire its red hourglass from a distance and let it continue its superhero insect hunting!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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

11) "I don't eat insects."
12) "I love bright and open spaces."



Black Widow Spider

Name: _____

- 13) "Sometimes I eat my mate after we're done mating. Sounds scary, right?"
- 14) "I'm a really big spider, about the size of your hand."
- 15) "My bite is usually fatal to humans."
- 16) "I can't spin webs."
- 17) "I trap my dinner by spinning super strong webs."
- 18) "I'm not really a fan of being out in the open. Give me a dark and secluded place any day of the week."
- 19) "I'm not very big compared to many other spiders. I'm only about an inch and a half long."
- 20) "Webs and venom? I prefer to catch my prey with my bare hands."
- 21) "I enjoy the cold climates."
- 22) "My venom crystallizes the insides of the insects."
- 23) "I like catching and eating insects which people often find annoying like flies and mosquitoes."
- 24) "I prefer living with other spiders."
- 25) "Although my bites have venom, it's not common for it to cause serious harm to humans."
- 26) "I live pretty much all over the world, but especially in warmer areas."
- 27) "Once an unsuspecting critter wanders into my web, I use venom to turn its insides into a tasty bug smoothie!"
- 28) "We males never have to worry about females after mating. We live happily."
- 29) "I'm easy to spot in a crowd. I have a shiny black body with a prominent red marking shaped like an hourglass."
- 30) "Be careful around me. I'm typically not the aggressive type, but if you mess with me, I'll bite you."

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

- 31) Black widow spiders usually live in warm places.
- 32) Black widows slurping their prey like smoothies is gruesome and cool at the same time.
- 33) Black widow spiders catch their food by trapping them in their strong webs.
- 34) Finding black widow spiders hiding in dark corners sends shivers down my spine.
- 35) Black widow spiders aren't very large, they are less than 2 inches long.
- 36) The abdomen of black widow spiders is the most interesting part of their body.
- 37) Black widow spiders will generally only bite humans if they feel threatened.
- 38) Black widow spiders eat other insects such as flies and mosquitoes.
- 39) Black widow spiders, with their shiny bodies and red markings, look cooler than any other spider.
- 40) The fact that black widow females sometimes eat the males is very mean.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 41) Black widow spiders use their venom to turn the insides of the insect into a liquid.
- 42) Black widow spider bites are always deadly.
- 43) Black widow spiders prefer to live in dark, secluded places.
- 44) Black widow spiders are 6 inches long.
- 45) Black widow spiders eat insects like flies and mosquitoes.
- 46) Black widow spiders are found mostly in cold climates.
- 47) Black widow spiders are aggressive to humans.
- 48) Black widow spiders live in large groups.



Black Widow Spider

Name: _____

49) Black widow spiders have shiny black bodies and red markings.
50) The female black widow spiders sometimes eat the males.

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

51) Their venom is strong, but they don't always bite humans.

- A. does not
- B. do not
- C. did not
- D. will not

52) Black widow spiders can't be found in every country.

- A. cannot
- B. will not
- C. can not
- D. cannot be

54) It's important to be cautious around them.

- A. it is
- B. it has
- C. it will
- D. it was

55) You'll find these spiders in warm regions around the world.

- A. you have
- B. you are
- C. you will
- D. you were

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

- 56) The bite of a black widow can cause symptoms such as muscle pain, nausea, and difficulty breathing.
- 57) The strength of a black widow's web is comparable to the strength of steel, isn't that mind-blowing!
- 58) Black widow spiders are venomous.
- 59) Where do black widow spiders live?
- 60) Are black widow spiders dangerous to humans?
- 61) The venom of a black widow spider is 15 times more toxic than a rattlesnake's venom, how scary!
- 62) Black widows have a shiny black body with a red hourglass-shaped marking on their abdomen.
- 63) How do black widow spiders catch their prey?
- 64) It's astounding how black widow spiders can eat insects up to twice their size!



Black Widow Spider

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____

2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____

3. _____ 28. _____ 53. _____

4. _____ 29. _____ 54. _____

5. _____ 30. _____ 55. _____

6. _____ 31. _____ 56. _____

7. _____ 32. _____ 57. _____

8. _____ 33. _____ 58. _____

9. _____ 34. _____ 59. _____

10. _____ 35. _____ 60. _____

11. _____ 36. _____ 61. _____

12. _____ 37. _____ 62. _____

13. _____ 38. _____ 63. _____

14. _____ 39. _____ 64. _____

15. _____ 40. _____

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20. _____ 45. _____

21. _____ 46. _____

22. _____ 47. _____

23. _____ 48. _____

24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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1. B	26. Would	51. B
2. C	27. Would	52. A
3. A	28. Not	53. D
4. A	29. Would	54. A
5. C	30. Would	55. C
6. D	31. fact	56. declarative
7. D	32. opinion	57. exclamatory
8. C	33. fact	58. declarative
9. C	34. opinion	59. interrogative
10. B	35. fact	60. interrogative
11. Not	36. opinion	61. exclamatory
12. Not	37. fact	62. declarative
13. Would	38. fact	63. interrogative
14. Not	39. opinion	64. exclamatory
15. Not	40. opinion	
16. Not	41. true	
17. Would	42. false	
18. Would	43. true	
19. Would	44. false	
20. Not	45. true	
21. Not	46. false	
22. Not	47. false	
23. Would	48. false	
24. Not	49. true	
25. Would	50. true	



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11) "I don't eat insects." (paragraph 2)



Black Widow Spider

Name: _____

12) "I love bright and open spaces." (paragraph 3)