

Passage 4

As for the runny nose that accompanies cold, we don't yet know if it benefits us or viruses, but we certainly need to know in order to decide if nose sprays will help or harm us. Much of clinical medicine relieves people's discomfort by blocking defenses like fever, pain, nausea and diarrhea. How can this be safe? Just as smoke detectors are designed to give many annoying but inexpensive false alarms so that they are sure to warn about any actual fire, the mechanisms that regulate the body's defenses have evolved to express defenses whenever they are possibly helpful, thus causing much unnecessary suffering. Infections are neither a divine punishment nor an arbitrary failing, but merely a contest between our bodies and smaller organisms that want to eat us. Because these viruses and bacteria reproduce so rapidly, they evolve faster than we can, so we cannot escape them. We can and do, however, evolve weapons of even more subtle destruction. They, in turn, evolve even more sophisticated ways to escape our defenses. Is evolution moving toward some happy accommodations? Not at all.

151 . The author is the usefulness of nose sprays.

- a. confident about b. indifferent toward c. skeptical about d. conscious of

152 . According to the author, fever, pain, etc. are

- a. some sorts of defense mechanisms
b. caused by body's defense failure
c. warning signs of the malfunction of the defense system
d. diminished when the optimum result is not achieved

153 . Smoke detectors are compared with

- a. false alarms b. bodily discomforts c. body's defenses d. bacterial infections

154 . The warnings by smoke detectors are said to be

- a. exact and valuable
b. bothering and worthless
c. beneficial though sometimes troublesome
d. misleading and ending in annoyance

155 . According to this passage, our body is able to evolve defense mechanisms against bacteria and viruses;

- a. thus, we should not be worried about microorganisms
b. therefore, our body is able to escape diseases
c. thus, the evolution of the microorganisms will be blocked
d. nevertheless, it doesn't mean that we are immune to diseases