

Tom Brady Reading Comprehension

Name _____

National Football League player Tom Brady was born on August 3, 1977, in San Mateo, California. He played football and baseball at Junipero Serra High School, and committed to college at the University of Michigan. There, he played starting quarterback during this junior year, and threw 350 passes for a total of 2636 yards. During his senior year at Michigan, he led the team to a victory at the Orange Bowl. His college football year was a precursor to his upcoming NFL achievements, including becoming the first player in NFL history to win six Super Bowl Championships.

In 2000, Brady was drafted by the New England Patriots. His notoriety began in 2001, when the Patriots' starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe was injured, forcing Brady to take over. That season, the Patriots had 11 wins and 3 losses for the games that Brady started. The Patriots won the Super Bowl, and Brady received the Most Valuable Player award. Two years later, the Patriots won another Super Bowl. In 2004? Another Super Bowl win. Brady signed a six-year contract to continue playing for the Patriots in 2005.

Wide receiver Randy Moss joined the Patriots in 2007, giving the team an impressive offense. Brady threw 50 touchdown passes that season, which was a record at the time. The team had an undefeated regular season, but ended up losing to the Giants during Super Bowl XLII—Super Bowl 42. In 2011, the Patriots suffered a second Super Bowl loss to the Giants.

In 2014, a scandal known as “Deflategate” created shockwaves through the NFL. The Patriots defeated the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC Championship game, but after the game, it came to light that some of the 12 footballs used by the Patriots were not fully inflated. The team was accused of cheating and underinflating their balls to give themselves an advantage; Brady denied these accusations. The team came back to win Super Bowl XLIX (49), but in 2015, a report revealed that Brady was “generally aware” that someone had tampered with the Patriots' footballs prior to their game. Brady was consequently suspended for the first four games in 2015; after appealing his suspension and having it overturned, then reinstated, he also missed the first four games of the 2016 season. Despite these conflicts of integrity, Brady was named the NFL's top-ranked player heading into 2018.

During Super Bowl LIII – 53 –the Patriots faced off against the Rams and won despite Brady not throwing any touchdowns. This win was Brady's record-breaking sixth Super Bowl win. After a disappointing 2019 season, during which the Patriots lost in the first game of the playoffs, it was unclear whether Brady would retire, sign with the Patriots again, or sign with a new team. In March 2020, Brady signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after playing 20 seasons with the Patriots.

- 1. Which statement is true?**
 - a. Tom Brady attended Junipero Serra High School.
 - b. Brady attended Tampa Bay University.
 - c. Both of the above
 - d. None of the above

- 2. Super Bowl numbers are expressed with Roman numerals. The Roman numeral “X” represents 10, the Roman numeral “V” represents 5, and the Roman numeral “I” represents 1. Super Bowl XII means Super Bowl 12: XII = 10 + 1 + 1. With this in mind, how many Super Bowl Championships has Tom Brady won?**
 - a. V
 - b. VI
 - c. XI
 - d. XII

- 3. During which season did the Patriots not win the Super Bowl?**
 - a. 2004
 - b. Super Bowl 53
 - c. 2011
 - d. Super Bowl 49

- 4. Why was Brady temporarily suspended from the NFL?**
 - a. He tried to sign with a different team.
 - b. He personally tampered with footballs prior to a game.
 - c. He lost to the Colts during the AFC Championships.
 - d. He may have been complicit in a cheating attempt.

- 5. What is the best antonym for “integrity,” used in the fourth paragraph?**
 - a. Dishonesty
 - b. Trust
 - c. Rudeness
 - d. Faithfulness

- 6. Which event happened last?**
 - a. Brady signs with the Patriots.
 - b. Brady signs with the Buccaneers.
 - c. Deflategate
 - d. The Patriots lose to the Giants in the Super Bowl.

- 7. Which inference can be made from the information in the passage?**
 - a. Brady led the Patriots well following Bledsoe’s injury.
 - b. Brady will never win a Super Bowl with the Buccaneers.
 - c. The Patriots cannot win a game without Brady throwing a touchdown.
 - d. The 2019 Season ruined Brady’s career

Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. A

Key

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. D
6. B
7. B