

Exercise 1 Answer Key

We identified 129 facts in the passage. The exact number may vary depending on how you break up certain phrases. See footnotes for details.

The smell¹ feels illicit² even though it's not³: a pleasant blend of pine, cedar, and skunk.⁴ It hangs in the air⁵ of a refurbished brick warehouse⁶ in downtown Spokane⁷, permeating each⁸ drafty room.⁹ One of the only residents¹⁰ on this early January evening¹¹ is ODO Oil,¹² a company that processes cannabis oil,¹³ but there are big dreams of a sprawling cannabis business district¹⁴ with recreational shops¹⁵ and kitchens baking pot-infused treats.¹⁶ Upstairs,¹⁷ 60¹⁸ rundown¹⁹ hotel rooms²⁰ may eventually be converted to pot-friendly condos.²¹ For now, the main floor²² is

¹ "Smell": Confirm with sources present that there was a smell.

² "feels illicit": Confirm that cannabis, and by extension the smell that indicates its presence, is illegal in most cases in the U.S., where this story takes place.

³ "even though it's not": Confirm cannabis is legal in Washington State.

⁴ "a pleasant blend of pine, cedar, and skunk": While this is subjective, a fact-checker could still ask sources present whether the description is apt.

⁵ "It hangs in the air": Confirm with sources present that the building smelled consistently like cannabis.

⁶ "refurbished brick warehouse": Confirm description of building.

⁷ "in downtown Spokane": Confirm the building's location.

⁸ "permeating each": Confirm with sources present that the smell occurred throughout the building.

⁹ "drafty room": Confirm with sources present that the rooms felt drafty.

¹⁰ "One of the only residents": Confirm the number of business residents in the building, and that ODO Oil is one of them.

¹¹ "on this early January evening": Confirm date and time with sources present.

¹² "ODO Oil": Confirm name and spelling.

¹³ "a company that processes cannabis oil": Confirm company's products.

¹⁴ "but there are big dreams of a sprawling cannabis business district": Confirm plans of business district with developers/owners.

¹⁵ "recreational shops": Confirm as part of proposed business district.

¹⁶ "kitchens baking pot-infused treats": Confirm as part of the proposed business district.

¹⁷ "Upstairs": Confirm the hotel rooms are located upstairs.

¹⁸ "60": Confirm number of hotel rooms.

¹⁹ "rundown": While this is subjective, confirm that it is fair to describe the rooms' appearance this way.

²⁰ "hotel rooms": Confirm the rooms are, indeed, hotel rooms.

²¹ "may eventually be converted to pot-friendly condos": Confirm as part of the business district plan.

²² "main floor": Confirm sources were on the building's main floor in the described scene.

mostly empty,²³ save for a few²⁴ televisions²⁵ in the storefront windows²⁶ broadcasting a CNN rerun about cannabis²⁷ onto the snowy,²⁸ empty streets²⁹ outside.³⁰

I'm visiting ODO³¹ with Alan Schreiber,³² a scientist³³ who plans to do business here.³⁴ The company's lab director,³⁵ Steve Lee,³⁶ is telling us³⁷ about the history of the building,³⁸ but Schreiber promptly interrupts.³⁹ "I want to see my product. I just want to talk about what's going on," he says.⁴⁰

"Absolutely," Lee says.⁴¹ He guides us⁴² downstairs⁴³ to the main processing room.⁴⁴ It's loud⁴⁵ and hot⁴⁶ and filled⁴⁷ with \$1-million-worth⁴⁸ of extraction machines,⁴⁹ which wrest⁵⁰ the oil⁵¹ from⁵² dried,⁵³ ground⁵⁴ cannabis plants.⁵⁵ The extraction⁵⁶

²³ "mostly empty": Confirm with sources present that this is an apt description.

²⁴ "few": Confirm the number of televisions.

²⁵ "televisions": Confirm the presence of televisions.

²⁶ "in the storefront windows": Confirm the location of televisions.

²⁷ "broadcasting a CNN rerun about cannabis": Confirm the topic and date of the programming aired during the tour.

²⁸ "snowy": Confirm there was snow on the ground.

²⁹ "empty streets": Confirm no one was visible on the streets from inside.

³⁰ "broadcasting ... outside": Confirm television screens were visible from the street.

³¹ "I'm visiting ODO with Alan Schreiber": Confirm Schreiber's presence at the Spokane cannabis center and that the author accompanied him.

³² "Alan Schreiber": Confirm name and spelling.

³³ "a scientist": Confirm job description.

³⁴ "who plans to do business here": Confirm that Schreiber is planning to do business at the Spokane cannabis center.

³⁵ "The company's lab director": Confirm title.

³⁶ "Steve Lee": Confirm name and spelling.

³⁷ "is telling us": Confirm that Lee told the group this story.

³⁸ "about the history of the building": Confirm content of Lee's story.

³⁹ "but Schreiber promptly interrupts": Confirm Schreiber interrupted.

⁴⁰ "'I want to see my product. I just want to talk about what's going on,' he says": Confirm quote and attribution.

⁴¹ "'Absolutely,' Lee says": Confirm quote and attribution.

⁴² "He guides us": Confirm Lee led the group to a new spot in the building.

⁴³ "downstairs": Confirm ODO's processing room is downstairs in the building.

⁴⁴ "to the main processing room": Confirm the room description.

⁴⁵ "It's loud": Confirm noise level.

⁴⁶ "hot": Confirm temperature.

⁴⁷ "filled": Confirm the equipment indeed fills the room.

⁴⁸ "\$1-million-worth": Confirm cost of equipment.

⁴⁹ "extraction machines": Confirm machine type and function.

⁵⁰ "wrest": Confirm description of what machine does.

⁵¹ "the oil": Confirm material that the machine extracts.

⁵² "from": Confirm direction of extraction.

concentrates⁵⁷ the compounds⁵⁸ that give pot its oomph⁵⁹ — dozens⁶⁰ of chemicals⁶¹ called cannabinoids,⁶² which include⁶³ tetrahydrocannabinol,⁶⁴ or THC,⁶⁵ the main⁶⁶ psychoactive⁶⁷ ingredient.⁶⁸ A guy⁶⁹ in Tyvek⁷⁰ coveralls⁷¹ and protective⁷² gloves⁷³ pulls⁷⁴ a lever⁷⁵ to spritz⁷⁶ a first-run⁷⁷ of raw oil⁷⁸ into a clear⁷⁹ plastic⁸⁰ cup.⁸¹ If we're being charitable, the oil looks like melting caramel gelato;⁸² if not, it'd easily be mistaken for the contents of a baby's diaper.⁸³

We make our way⁸⁴ to a secondary processing room,⁸⁵ quieter⁸⁶ and cooler,⁸⁷ where the oil⁸⁸ is filtered⁸⁹ and spun⁹⁰ until⁹¹ it has the deep⁹² viscous⁹³ clarity⁹⁴ of

53 “dried”: Confirm description of material.

54 “ground”: Confirm description of material.

55 “cannabis plants”: Confirm the material the machines are extracting from.

56 “extraction”: Confirm action.

57 “concentrates”: Confirm action.

58 “compounds”: Confirm the extracted materials can be called “compounds.”

59 “give pot its oomph”: Confirm these particular compounds are the active ingredients in cannabis and that “oomph” is an appropriate way to describe them.

60 “dozens”: Confirm number of compounds.

61 “chemicals”: Confirm synonym for “compounds” in this context.

62 “called cannabinoids”: Confirm name and spelling.

63 “include”: Confirm the following specific compounds/chemicals are examples of the previously-stated “dozens.”

64 “tetrahydrocannabinol”: Confirm name and spelling.

65 “THC”: Confirm nickname and spelling.

66 “main”: Confirm there are no other psychoactive compounds that could be considered more prominent.

67 “psychoactive”: Confirm THC is psychoactive.

68 “ingredient”: Confirm as synonym for compound/chemical.

69 “guy”: Confirm gender.

70 “Tyvek”: Confirm attire material.

71 “coveralls”: Confirm attire style.

72 “protective”: Confirm gloves were indeed intended for protection.

73 “gloves”: Confirm the person wore gloves.

74 “pulls”: Confirm direction of action.

75 “lever”: Confirm description of item the person pulled.

76 “spritz”: Confirm that the material came out in a spritz/spray and not in some other fashion (for example, a trickle or gush).

77 “first-run”: Confirm this was the first processing stage.

78 “raw oil”: Confirm the oil should be called “raw” at this processing stage.

79 “clear”: Confirm color.

80 “plastic”: Confirm material.

81 “cup”: Confirm container type.

82 “the oil looks like melting caramel gelato”: Confirm description of raw oil.

83 “easily be mistaken for the contents of a baby's diaper”: Confirm description.

84 “We make our way”: Confirm the same group moved through the building.

85 “to a secondary processing room”: Confirm this was the next stop on the tour.

buckwheat honey.⁹⁵ Lee holds⁹⁶ up⁹⁷ a Mason jar⁹⁸ of the stuff,⁹⁹ estimated at \$18,000 wholesale.¹⁰⁰ He explains¹⁰¹ that in order to land on store shelves¹⁰² as inhalable cartridges,¹⁰³ or as an ingredient in cookies,¹⁰⁴ candy¹⁰⁵ or other edible goods,¹⁰⁶ the oil must go through¹⁰⁷ state-mandated¹⁰⁸ safety¹⁰⁹ and quality tests¹¹⁰ from a third-party lab¹¹¹ to assure that it's free of contaminants¹¹² such as

⁸⁶ “quieter”: Confirm noise level in relation to previous room.

⁸⁷ “cooler”: Confirm temperature in relation to previous room.

⁸⁸ “oil”: Confirm material processed in second room.

⁸⁹ “filtered”: Confirm this action takes place in the secondary processing room.

⁹⁰ “spun”: Confirm this action takes place in the room, after the filtration.

⁹¹ “until”: Confirm the duration of the filtering and spinning.

⁹² “deep”: Confirm the depth/darkness of the oil's color.

⁹³ “viscous”: Confirm the oil's consistency.

⁹⁴ “clarity”: Confirm how transparent/opaque the oil appears.

⁹⁵ “buckwheat honey”: Confirm the filtered/spun oil resembles buckwheat honey in color, consistency and clarity.

⁹⁶ “Lee holds”: Confirm Lee was the one who held the oil.

⁹⁷ “up”: Confirm the direction/placement at which he held the oil.

⁹⁸ “Mason jar”: Confirm the container type.

⁹⁹ “the stuff”: Confirm the Mason jar indeed contained the filtered/spun oil.

¹⁰⁰ “estimated at \$18,000 wholesale”: Confirm value of oil in Mason jar.

¹⁰¹ “He explains”: Confirm it was Lee who gave the following context.

¹⁰² “in order to land on store shelves”: Confirm Lee was talking about the oil as a commercial product.

¹⁰³ “inhalable cartridges”: Confirm example of a commercial product that could include the cannabis oil from ODO.

¹⁰⁴ “ingredient in cookies”: Confirm example of a commercial product that could include the cannabis oil from ODO.

¹⁰⁵ “candy”: Confirm example of a commercial product that could include the cannabis oil from ODO.

¹⁰⁶ “or other edible goods”: Confirm example of a commercial product that could include the cannabis oil from ODO.

¹⁰⁷ “the oil must go through”: Confirm it is the oil, and not the whole product, that must go through the testing.

¹⁰⁸ “state-mandated”: Confirm the testing is required by state law specifically.

¹⁰⁹ “safety”: Confirm the category of state-mandated testing.

¹¹⁰ “quality tests”: Confirm the category of state-mandated testing.

¹¹¹ “from a third-party lab”: Confirm who/what does the state-mandated testing.

¹¹² “assure that it's free of contaminants”: Confirm the purpose of the testing.

bacteria,¹¹³ mold¹¹⁴ and remaining solvents.¹¹⁵ The labs¹¹⁶ also determine the potency.¹¹⁷

Schreiber,¹¹⁸ a former¹¹⁹ academic¹²⁰ entomologist¹²¹ and pesticide toxicologist¹²² who is now essentially a hired gun in agricultural pest control,¹²³ then turns to me.¹²⁴ “I’m going to make a statement, and he’s going to agree with it or not agree with it, or maybe counter it,” he says, nodding¹²⁵ at Lee.¹²⁶ “He doesn’t have to test that for pesticide residues.”¹²⁷

Lee agrees.¹²⁸ “Currently in Washington State there is no mandate that we have to test for pesticides,” he says.¹²⁹

¹¹³ “bacteria”: Confirm example of targeted contaminant in the testing.

¹¹⁴ “mold”: Confirm example of targeted contaminant in the testing.

¹¹⁵ “remaining solvents”: Confirm example of targeted contaminant in the testing.

¹¹⁶ “The labs”: Confirm the same third-party labs do the additional testing.

¹¹⁷ “also determine the potency”: Confirm description of additional testing.

¹¹⁸ “Schreiber”: Confirm Schreiber is the person speaking.

¹¹⁹ “former”: Confirm Schreiber’s academic appointment status.

¹²⁰ “academic”: Confirm Schreiber was indeed ever an academic .

¹²¹ “entomologist”: Confirm job description.

¹²² “pesticide toxicologist”: Confirm job description.

¹²³ “now essentially a hired gun in agricultural pest control”: Confirm job description.

¹²⁴ “then turns to me”: Confirm who Schreiber was speaking to.

¹²⁵ “nodding””: Confirm gesture Schreiber made.

¹²⁶ “at Lee”: Confirm who Schreiber was indicating.

¹²⁷ “I’m going to make a statement, and he’s going to agree with it or not agree with it, or maybe counter it...He doesn’t have to test that for pesticide residues”: Confirm quotes and attribution.

¹²⁸ “Lee agrees”: Confirm that Lee agreed with Schreiber’s statement.

¹²⁹ “Currently in Washington State there is no mandate that we have to test for pesticides,” he says”: Confirm quote and attribution.