Cooperation is the common endeavor of two or more people to perform a task or reach a jointly cherished goal. Like competition and conflict, there are different forms of cooperation, based on group organization and attitudes.

In the first form, known as primary cooperation, group and individual fuse. The group contains nearly all of each individual's life. The rewards of the group's work are shared with each member. There is an interlocking identity of individual, group, and task performed. Means and goals become one, for cooperation itself is valued.

While primary cooperation is most often characteristic of preliterate societies, secondary cooperation is characteristic of many modern societies. In secondary cooperation, individuals devote only part of their lives to the group. Cooperation itself is not a value. Most members of the group feel loyalty, but the welfare of the group is not the first consideration. Members perform tasks so that they can separately enjoy the fruits of their cooperation in the form of salary, prestige, or power. Business offices and professional athletic teams are examples of secondary cooperation.

In the third type, called tertiary cooperation or accommodation, latent conflict underlies the shared work. The attitudes of the cooperating parties are purely opportunistic; the organization is loose and fragile. Accommodation involves common means to achieve antagonistic goals; it breaks down when the common means cease to aid each party in reaching its goals. This is not, strictly speaking, cooperation at all, and hence the somewhat contradictory term antagonistic cooperation is sometimes used for this relationship.

16. What is the author's main purpose in the first paragraph of the passage?
   (A) To explain how cooperation differs from competition and conflict
   (B) To show the importance of group organization and attitudes
   (C) To offer a brief definition of cooperation
   (D) To urge readers to cooperate more often

17. Which of the following statements about primary cooperation is supported by information in the passage?
   (A) It was confined to prehistoric times.
   (B) It is usually the first stage of cooperation achieved by a group of individuals attempting to cooperate.
   (C) It is an ideal that can never be achieved.
   (D) It is most commonly seen among people who have not yet developed reading and writing skills.

18. According to the passage, why do people join groups that practice secondary cooperation?