

Browns Steal Back the Finish in Tennessee

NFL WEEK 7 · 2026

GRADES 5-6

CLE @ TEN · CLE 27 – TEN 24

NAME _____

DATE _____

SCORE _____ / 11

STORY

Read the story, then answer the questions.

Three Seconds to Decide

With three seconds left, Cleveland had one last chance at Nissan Stadium. The score was tied, and kicker Szmyt lined up for a 32-yard field goal. His kick would finish a game that had swung from a fast Tennessee lead to a tense final drive.

Tennessee had seized control early. Tony Pollard ran 36 yards for a touchdown on the opening drive. Soon after, Flott intercepted Cleveland quarterback Watson, and Pollard scored again from 10 yards out. Tennessee led 14-0 just over six minutes into the game, creating a steep deficit for the Browns.

Cleveland Finds Its Rhythm

Cleveland kept its composure and answered on the ground. Quinshon Judkins broke free for a 30-yard run, then finished the drive with a 5-yard touchdown. Tennessee later reached the goal line, but Pollard was stopped short on fourth down. That stop gave Cleveland the ball and changed the flow of the game.

Receiver Concepcion helped the Browns move downfield again and again. He helped set up Judkins' 6-yard touchdown, which tied the score at 14-14. Before halftime, Watson made sharp throws to Concepcion and tight end Harold Fannin Jr. Szmyt then made a 28-yard field goal as time ran out, sending Cleveland into the break ahead 17-14.

The Final March

The second half brought more chances for both teams. Tennessee forced Fannin to lose the ball, but Cleveland's defense answered when cornerback Ward intercepted a deep pass from Cam Ward.

Later, Tate caught a 13-yard pass but lost the ball. Cleveland did not score after those extra chances, yet its defense kept the game close.

Early in the fourth quarter, Szmyt missed from 43 yards, and Tennessee tied the score at 17-17. Cleveland answered with its best drive: Fannin made two key catches, Concepcion ran 18 yards, and Watson scored on a 9-yard run. Pollard, showing strong determination, scored his third touchdown with 58 seconds left to make it 24-24.

Watson and Fannin had one more answer. Fannin's 36-yard catch moved Cleveland to the Tennessee 19-yard line. Szmyt then made the winning kick, lifting the Browns to a 27-24 win. Cleveland improved to 5-2, while Tennessee fell to 1-6.

WORDS TO KNOW

From the story.

deficit (n.): A deficit is an amount by which a score or total is behind another one.

determination (n.): Determination is the strong decision to keep trying to reach a goal.

composure (n.): Composure is calm control of your feelings or actions in a difficult moment.

READING

Fill in the bubble for the best answer. Write full sentences.

1 How does the opening sequence show the challenge Cleveland faced early in the game?

- (A) Cleveland made a field goal after Tennessee's first touchdown.
- (B) Tennessee tied the score after Cleveland took the first lead.
- (C) Cleveland stopped Tennessee at the goal line before halftime.
- (D) Tennessee scored twice after an interception to build a 14-0 lead.

2 What does the phrase “kept its composure” mean as it is used to describe Cleveland?

- (A) The team avoided passing to its receivers.
- (B) The team changed its defensive formation.
- (C) The team stayed calm and continued to respond.
- (D) The team waited for halftime to score.

3 Why was Tennessee's fourth-down stop at the goal line important to the game?

- (A) It gave Cleveland the ball and shifted the game's flow.
- (B) It gave Tennessee a larger lead before halftime.
- (C) It allowed Cleveland to tie the score with a field goal.
- (D) It forced Watson to leave the game.

4 Which statement best expresses a central idea of the article?

- (A) Tennessee controlled every quarter because Pollard scored three touchdowns.
- (B) Field goals were the only reason Cleveland stayed ahead of Tennessee.
- (C) Cleveland recovered from an early deficit and used key plays to earn a close victory.
- (D) Both teams focused mainly on preventing passes throughout the game.

5 How did Cleveland create the chance for Szmyt's winning kick?

- (A) Ward intercepted a deep pass near Cleveland's goal line.
- (B) Concepcion ran 18 yards after a short pass.
- (C) Fannin caught a 36-yard pass to the Tennessee 19-yard line.
- (D) Watson scored on a 9-yard run in the fourth quarter.

6 Explain how Cleveland changed the direction of the game from its early 14-0 deficit to its 27-24 win. Use details from across the article to describe important plays and how they connected.

MATH

Math practice. Show your work.

1 PRACTICE

In the 2024 and 2025 seasons, Ja'Marr Chase's averages for receiving touchdowns per reception were 0.1339 and 0.0640, respectively. What is the difference between the values? Round to the nearest thousandth.

- (A) 0.198 (B) 2.092
(C) 0.070 (D) 0.134

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 PRACTICE

In a week 9 game, Cardinals quarterback Jacoby Brissett had 261 passing yards. If he had 129 yards in the first half of the game, what percentage of his total yards came in the first half?

- (A) 33.1% (B) 49.4%
(C) 66.9% (D) 0.5%

SHOW YOUR WORK

In 2025, Derrick Henry averaged 5.20 yards per rush and 18.06 rushes per game. Find his rushing yards per game. Round to the nearest hundredths place.

- ### SHOW YOUR WORK

In the 2025 season, Ja'Marr Chase scored 8 receiving touchdowns. Suppose he played 7 games. How many receiving touchdowns did he score per game? Round to the nearest hundredth.

- ## SHOW YOUR WORK

In a week 4 game, Steelers running back Kenneth Gainwell had 99 rushing yards. If he had 67 yards in the first half of the game, what percentage of his total yards came in the first half?

- SHOW YOUR WORK

6 PRACTICE

In the 2025 season, Josh Jacobs scored 13 rushing touchdowns. Suppose he played 5 games. How many rushing touchdowns did he score per game? Round to the nearest hundredth.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| (A) 2.60 | (B) 0.38 |
| (C) 8.00 | (D) 26.00 |

SHOW YOUR WORK

ANSWER KEY

Browns Steal Back the Finish in Tennessee • Grades 5–6 • NFL Week 7 • 2026

About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.6.1 • RI.6.2 • RI.6.4 • 6.NS.B.2 • 6.NS.B.3 • 6.RP.A.3.C

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

- 1 **D** Tennessee scored twice after an interception to build a 14–0 lead.

Pollard scored on Tennessee's opening drive, and then Tennessee scored again after Flott intercepted Watson. These events gave Tennessee a 14–0 lead early in the game.

- 2 **C** The team stayed calm and continued to respond.

After falling behind, Cleveland answered with a long run and a touchdown. The phrase means the team remained calm and focused instead of falling apart.

- 3 **A** It gave Cleveland the ball and shifted the game's flow.

The article explains that stopping Pollard short on fourth down gave Cleveland possession and changed the flow of the game. Cleveland then used its opportunities to come back.

- 4 **C** Cleveland recovered from an early deficit and used key plays to earn a close victory.

Cleveland trailed 14–0, tied the game, took the lead, and answered Tennessee's late score with a final drive and winning kick. These details develop the idea of a hard-fought comeback victory.

- 5 **C** Fannin caught a 36-yard pass to the Tennessee 19-yard line.

With the score tied late, Fannin's 36-yard catch moved Cleveland to Tennessee's 19-yard line. That field position set up Szmyt's winning kick.

- 6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response should explain that Tennessee built an early 14–0 lead, then Cleveland responded with Judkins' scoring plays and the goal-line defensive stop. It should also describe later key moments, such as the tied score, Watson's rushing touchdown, Pollard's late tying touchdown, Fannin's final long catch, and Szmyt's winning kick. The response should clearly connect the events in sequence and support ideas with details from the article.

MATHCorrect answers are filled in.

1	C	0.070
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2	B	49.4%
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3	B	93.91
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4	B	1.14
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5	D	67.7%
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6	A	2.60
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