Browns Steal Back the Finish in Tennessee

NFL WEEK 7 · 2026 | GRADES 7–8 | CLE @ TEN · CLE 27 – TEN 24

NAME _____	DATE _____	SCORE _____ / 11

STORY Read the story, then answer the questions.

A Sudden Tennessee Lead

With three seconds left at Nissan Stadium, the Browns had one final opening to break a 24–24 tie. Kicker Szmyt sent a 32-yard field goal through the posts, giving Cleveland a 27–24 road win. The kick ended a game in which the Browns had first needed to climb out of a sharp early hole.

Tennessee's Tony Pollard created that hole quickly. He burst through Cleveland's defense for a 36-yard touchdown on the opening drive, then scored again from 10 yards out after cornerback Flott intercepted Browns quarterback Watson. Just over six minutes had passed, and the Titans led 14–0. Pollard's fast start showed that Tennessee could control the game with powerful runs.

Cleveland Finds Its Rhythm

Cleveland answered without rushing its plan. Quinshon Judkins broke free for a 30-yard run, then finished the drive with a 5-yard touchdown. The Browns next turned toward receiver Concepcion, who kept finding open space and helped create Judkins' 6-yard score. That touchdown tied the game at 14–14 after Pollard was stopped short on fourth down near the goal line.

That stop changed the flow of the first half. Watson then moved Cleveland downfield with accurate throws to Concepcion and tight end Harold Fannin Jr. Szmyt made a 28-yard field goal as time expired, and the Browns carried a 17–14 lead into halftime. Their patient offense had erased Tennessee's fast beginning one drive at a time.

The Final March

The second half became a struggle for every extra chance. Tennessee linebacker Hill forced Fannin to lose the ball, but Cleveland cornerback Ward intercepted Cam Ward's next deep pass. Later, Tate caught a 13-yard pass before losing the ball himself. Cleveland did not score after those openings, but its defense prevented Tennessee from taking control.

After Szmyt missed from 43 yards early in the fourth quarter, Tennessee moved into range for Slye's 29-yard field goal, tying the score again. Cleveland responded with its strongest drive. Fannin made two important catches, Concepcion ran 18 yards on an end-around, and Watson scored from 9 yards out for a 24–17 lead with 4:34 remaining.

Cam Ward answered with a 26-yard pass to Elic Ayomanor and a throw that put Tate at the 1-yard line. Pollard scored his third touchdown with 58 seconds left and finished with 129 rushing yards. Still, Cleveland had time. Fannin's 36-yard catch placed the Browns at the Tennessee 19, and Szmyt completed the final march. Cleveland improved to 5–2, while Tennessee fell to 1–6.

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

1 **What does the phrase "a sharp early hole" mean as it is used in the first section?**

- (A) Cleveland faced an early 14–0 deficit.
- (B) Cleveland lost a player to an injury.
- (C) Tennessee missed an early field goal.
- (D) Tennessee began with poor field position.

2 **Which sequence of events most directly led to Cleveland taking a halftime lead?**

- (A) Pollard scored twice, and Tennessee led 14–0.
- (B) Cleveland stopped Pollard on fourth down, then drove for Szmyt's field goal.
- (C) Judkins ran 30 yards, then Tennessee intercepted Watson.
- (D) Concepcion found open space, then Tennessee scored near the goal line.

3 **Which central idea is best developed across the article?**

(A) Cleveland overcame setbacks by responding steadily and finishing its last drive.

(B) Tennessee's running game controlled every part of the contest.

(C) Field goals were the only important plays for either team.

(D) Both teams relied mainly on defensive turnovers to score touchdowns.

4 **How did Cleveland's defense help keep Tennessee from taking control during the second half?**

(A) It scored two defensive touchdowns after missed kicks.

(B) It stopped Tennessee from gaining any first downs.

(C) It answered a lost ball by intercepting Cam Ward's deep pass.

(D) It recovered every lost ball before Tennessee could react.

5 **Which detail most directly explains how Cleveland created the opportunity for Szmyt's winning kick?**

(A) Slye made a 29-yard field goal for Tennessee.

(B) Fannin caught a 36-yard pass to the Tennessee 19.

(C) Pollard scored with 58 seconds remaining.

(D) Concepcion ran 18 yards on an end-around.

6 **Explain how Cleveland changed the course of the contest after Tennessee's fast start. Use details from across the article to show how Cleveland responded in the first half, handled key moments in the second half, and earned the final victory.**

MATH Use the game stats. Show your work.

1 **In week 7, Quinshon Judkins averaged 5.65 yards per rush. Suppose his practice average is 2.83 yards higher. What is his practice average?**

(A) 33.95
(B) 2.82
(C) 8.48
(D) 5.93

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 **On Mia's stat sheet, in a week 7 game, Quinshon Judkins had an average of -2.26 - (-7.91) yards per rushing attempt. Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -10.17
(B) 0.29
(C) -5.65
(D) 5.65

SHOW YOUR WORK

3 **In week 7 of the 2026 season, Browns running back Quinshon Judkins had 17 rushing attempts. A model predicts y = 3x + 30 rushing yards for x attempts. How many yards does this model predict for his attempt count?**

(A) 141
(B) 51
(C) 81
(D) 561

SHOW YOUR WORK

4 **On Mia's stat sheet, in a week 7 game, Cam Ward had an average of 8.76 + (-2.92) yards per passing attempt. Evaluate the expression.**

(A) -3.00
(B) 5.84
(C) -11.68
(D) -25.58

SHOW YOUR WORK

5 **In week 7, Cam Ward had 31 passing attempts. His practice total is 70% lower. Find it. Round to the nearest whole number.**

(A) 30
(B) 53
(C) 9
(D) 22

SHOW YOUR WORK

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT · Quinshon Judkins (CLE)

Rushing yards: 96
Catches: 1
Rushing TD: 2
Receiving yards: 8

6 **Quinshon Judkins's stats from this game (CLE): 96 rushing yards, 2 rushing touchdowns, 1 catch, 8 receiving yards. Use the Player Spotlight above. Scoring: each rushing yard = 0.1 point; each rushing touchdown = 6 points; each catch = 1 point; each receiving yard = 0.1 point. How many fantasy points did Quinshon Judkins score?**

(A) 22.6
(B) 13.8
(C) 22.4
(D) 23.4

SHOW YOUR WORK

Answer key starts on the next page. Keep it back before handing out.

ANSWER KEY

Browns Steal Back the Finish in Tennessee · Grades 7–8 · NFL Week 7 · 2026

About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.8.1 · RI.8.2 · RI.8.4 · 7.NS.A.3 · 7.RP.A.3 · 8.SP.A.3

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

1 A Cleveland faced an early 14–0 deficit.

The article explains that Tennessee scored twice in just over six minutes to take a 14–0 lead. This early deficit is the "sharp early hole" Cleveland needed to overcome.

2 B Cleveland stopped Pollard on fourth down, then drove for Szmyt's field goal.

After Cleveland stopped Pollard short on fourth down, Watson led a drive with passes to Concepcion and Fannin. Szmyt then made a field goal as time expired to give Cleveland a 17–14 lead.

3 A Cleveland overcame setbacks by responding steadily and finishing its last drive.

Cleveland fell behind 14–0, worked back into the lead, withstood a late tie, and set up Szmyt's winning kick. These events develop the idea that the Browns responded to setbacks and finished strongly.

4 C It answered a lost ball by intercepting Cam Ward's deep pass.

After Hill forced Fannin to lose the ball, Cleveland cornerback Ward intercepted Cam Ward's next deep pass. The article says Cleveland's defense prevented Tennessee from taking control despite Cleveland not scoring after its openings.

5 B Fannin caught a 36-yard pass to the Tennessee 19.

Fannin's 36-yard catch moved Cleveland to the Tennessee 19-yard line, putting the team in position for Szmyt's final field goal.

6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response should explain that Tennessee built a 14–0 lead, then describe how Cleveland tied the score and took a halftime lead through Judkins' scores, a fourth-down stop, and Szmyt's field goal. It should also discuss how Cleveland's defense limited Tennessee's control in the second half, how the teams traded late scores, and how Fannin's catch set up Szmyt's winning kick.

MATH Correct answers are filled in.

1. C 8.48
2. D 5.65
3. C 81
4. B 5.84
5. C 9
6. D 23.4

   96 rushing yards × 0.1 = 9.6
   2 rushing touchdowns × 6 = 12
   1 catch × 1 = 1
   8 receiving yards × 0.1 = 0.8
   Total: 9.6 + 12 + 1 + 0.8 = 23.4