

**G R A M M A R**

**Complete the sentences using the word given at the end of each. Your sentence must mean the same as the 1<sup>st</sup>. You cannot change the word given.**

1. He was nervous because he had made very few speeches. **USED**

He was nervous..... speeches.

2. I hate it when I have to get up early. **STAND**

I .....to get up early.

3. Snakes don't frighten me at all. **AFRAID**

I .....snakes at all.

4. It's such a pity you didn't talk to me about this problem earlier. **WISH**

I .....to me about this problem earlier.

5. They got lost because they didn't take a map. **TAKEN**

They wouldn't have got lost .....a map.

6. She was rude and she was mean. **ONLY**

.....also mean.

7. You won't find a kinder man anywhere! **NOWHERE**

..... a kinder man.

...../7pts

**G R A M M A R (continued)**

Read the conversation. For questions 8-10, choose the best adverb from the options offered. Underline your answers.

John: Have you heard? Sam failed his exams! I just don't get it – he's not stupid!

Tara: 8. *Apparently/Presumably/Surely* he didn't do much revision.

9. *Seriously though/Incidentally/Strictly speaking*, did you hear what happened to Professor Frank? Someone filled his convertible with whipped cream!

John: 10. *Apparently/Actually/Frankly*, that was Sam.

...../3pts

Complete each sentence with the correct articles. Use *A, AN, THE* or *X* (if no article is necessary).

11. (a)..... medicine (b)..... doctor gave me makes me feel ill.

12. Could you give me (a)..... hand taking out (b)..... rubbish?

13. That's (a)..... last time that I go to see (b)..... horror film.

14. He's staying at (a)..... Grand Hotel by (b)..... Lake Balaton.

15. Under (a)..... circumstances, I would say he hasn't (b)..... chance.

...../5pts (.5pt each)

**Total Points: ...../15pts**

**Kategória 2D – Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – Celoštátne kolo 2010/2011****V O C A B U L A R Y**

Complete the article below by putting the WORD at the end of each line into the correct form in the gap in that line.

School inspectors have found that, contrary to all 1....., EXPECT  
 children don't mind homework at all. In fact, many do more than their  
 teachers suggest, either because of 2.....about their ANXIOUS  
 marks or simply for their own 3..... . The inspectors ENJOY  
 recommend the 4..... of homework charters. These tell INTRODUCE  
 parents how much 5..... work is expected. They also ADD  
 provide 6..... to schools to form links with parents ENCOURAGE  
 who can check that tasks are 7..... completed. PROPER  
 International 8..... suggest that a typical 14-year-old COMPARE  
 does six hours homework in Britain, eight hours in Italy and nine hours in  
 Japan.

...../4 pts (.5 point each)

For questions 9-20, choose the best word to complete each sentence from the options offered. Underline your answers.

9. After I drank a cup of black coffee, I felt wide **awake/awaken**.
10. After the fire the cruise ship, managed to **sway/limp** back to port.
11. Ann **marched/paced** into my office yesterday and demanded a pay rise.
12. Climbing the stairs often leaves me **panting/gasping** for breath.
13. Dealing with both students and parents are **ins and outs/part and parcel** of my job.
14. It was **hit and miss/touch and go** whether he'd finish the work on time.
15. James's father is **handicapped/invalid** so he needs a wheelchair.
16. Shopkeepers always try to rip **into/off** tourists by overcharging them.
17. Stop **creeping/tiptoeing** around the subject and just get to the point.
18. The storm caused a lot of **damage/damages**.
19. These tablets may make you feel **dozy/drowsy** so you shouldn't drive.
20. We need a person with relevant **experience/experiences**.

...../6pts (.5 point each)

**Total Points: ...../10pts**

**READING COMPREHENSION**

**Read the article on this page and the next. There are two (2) tasks to do after you read.**

**New Gadgets** – Technological innovations are often quite stupid.

The idea that you might want to walk down the street holding a mobile phone in front of your face, just to experience the wonder of video calling, is clearly ridiculous. Luckily for the tech companies, however, there are some people who jump at the chance to buy into new gadgets before they are fully ready and cheap enough for the mass market. They are called early adopters, and their fate is a terrible one.

Early adopters have a Mecca. It's Tokyo's Akihabara district, also known as "Electric City", a neon-soaked warren of high-rise gadget emporia. There, in 1999, I bought a digital camera, a new-fangled type of gizmo that few people in Britain had heard of. Over the next few years I watched in mounting dismay as digital cameras became more popular, cheaper and more powerful, until better models could be had for a quarter of the price I had paid. Did I feel stupid? What I actually did was this: I splashed out more money last year for a new one, one that let me feel pleasantly ahead of the curve once again. But I know that cannot last, and I'll probably have to buy another in a few years.

Thus early adopters are betting on the people eventually feeling the same desire. And it's worse if that future never arrives. Early adopters of the Betamax home-video format in the 1970s could only look on in dismay when their investment was nullified by the triumph of VHS. All sorts of apparently marvellous inventions, such as videogame consoles like the Atari Jaguar have been consigned to the dustbin of history right after a few early adopters bought in. Those who invested thousands in a Segway motorized scooter on the wave of the absurd hype that accompanied its launch a couple of years ago can join the club.

You think we should just stop being silly. Save our money and wait to see what really catches on. But the logic of the industry is such that if everyone did that, no innovation would become popular. Imagine the third person to buy an ordinary telephone soon after Alexander Graham Bell had invented it. Who was he going to call? Maybe he simply bought two phones, one for a special friend. But still, the utility and eventual ubiquity of the device wasn't clear at the time. Indeed, the telephone was originally marketed as a way to listen to music concerts from the comfort of your own home. Nobody dreamed of the possibility of being able to speak to any one of millions of people. And yet if 'Telephone Man', and the subsequent hundreds and thousands of early adopters after him, had not bought into the idea, the vast communication network that we all take for granted today would never have been built.

The same goes, indeed, for all new technologies. Those yuppies holding bricks to their ears that we laughed at in the 1980s made the current mobile phone possible. People who bought DVD players when they still cost a fortune, instead of today's cheap one at the local supermarket, made sure that the new format succeeded. Early adopters' desire for desires bankrolled the future. And what did they get for their pains? They got a hole in their bank

**(continues on the next page)**

**Kategória 2D – Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – Celoštátne kolo 2010/2011****( R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N – c o n t i n u e d )**

account and inferior, unperfected technology. But still, they got it first. And today they are still at work, buying overpriced tablet PCs, Blu-ray players and huge plasma televisions, and even 4G phones, so that you will eventually be able to buy better and less expensive ones.

So the next time you see a gadget-festooned geek and feel tempted to sneer, think for a minute. Without early adopters, there would be no cheap mobile phones or DVD players; there would be no telephone or television either. We are the tragic, unsung foot soldiers of the technology revolution. We're the desire-addicted vanguard, pure in heart, dreaming of a better future. We make expensive mistakes so you don't have to.

The Guardian Weekly, 2004

**Based on what you read, choose the best answer (a, b, c or d) for each question. Write the letter of your answer in the space provided.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is an early adopter?
- Someone who likes to buy the latest gadgets.
  - Someone who invents new gadgets.
  - Someone who gets to the shops first.
  - Someone who likes getting new gadgets as a present.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What is Tokyo's district Akihabara famous for?
- Stores there sell cheap gadgets.
  - Stores there have high quality gadgets.
  - Stores there sell the latest gadgets.
  - Stores there introduce new gadgets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. According to the article, which of the following gadgets was the most successful?
- The Atari Jaguar console
  - The Segway motorized scooter
  - The VHS home video
  - The 3G phone
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. How were telephones first marketed?
- As a means of speaking to special friends
  - As a means of listening to music
  - As a means of communicating with millions
  - As a means of getting the news
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Why are early adopters so important?
- They are very brave.
  - They try out new inventions for the rest of us.
  - They end up being really rich.
  - They spend lots of money.

...../5pts

**R E A D I N G   C O M P R E H E N S I O N   (continued)**

**The expressions below (1-5) are all in the article. Choose the best meaning (a or b) for each one as it is used in the article. Put the letter of your answer in the space provided.**

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. jump at the chance  
a. just miss the opportunity  
b. grab the opportunity enthusiastically

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. splashed out money  
a. saved a lot of money  
b. spent a lot of money

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. ahead of the curve  
a. smarter than everyone else  
b. better than everyone else

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. the wave of absurd hype  
a. a lot of advertising  
b. no advertising

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. catches on  
a. becomes popular  
b. becomes more affordable

...../5pts

**Total Points: ...../10pts**

## L I S T E N I N G   C O M P R E H E N S I O N

**You will hear part of an interview in a Formula One racing commentator explains how his job is done.**

**Based on what you hear, decide whether statements 1-10 are true (T) false (F). Circle your answer.**

- T / F 1. The commentator has a lot of screens around covering the circuit to look at during the race.
- T / F 2. Computers are a big help to commentators during the race.
- T / F 3. The commentator often talks to drivers after the race.
- T / F 4. The way his commentary is done hasn't changed over the years.
- T / F 5. The commentator can easily identify drivers on the circuit.
- T / F 6. It's usually very hot inside of the racing car.
- T / F 7. The commentator always has to be near the track.
- T / F 8. The commentator always sounds cheerful for the benefit of viewers and listeners.
- T / F 9. Commentating technology has changed a lot.
- T / F 10. The commentator thinks he is lucky to have this job because it is well paid.

**Total Points: ...../5pts (.5pt each)**