

## Text 1



How good are you at keeping secrets? Most of us grow up believing that being a trustworthy confidant is an essential quality for friendship. Recent research suggests that we are not as good at keeping quiet as we think, either about our own secrets, or our friends'. So, are we all hopeless gossips, or are other factors at play?

The impact of hearing confidential information, or concealing something significant about ourselves, has been studied by psychologist, Lizzie Waterman. "There is considerable evidence to suggest that, once we know that something is secret, we tend to think about it far more, up to four or five times as often," comments Waterman. "Forbidden topics become more attractive, and can even become obsessions."

Waterman's research makes a distinction between knowing facts and hiding emotional truths, with the former unsurprisingly being less damaging. While others' secrets affect our relationships, research shows that habitual concealment of fundamental aspects of ourselves can have disastrous effects on our health, both physically and mentally.

An intuitive sense of this led artist Frank Warren to start a novel art project, *PostSecret*, in 2005. He encouraged strangers to divulge their ambitions, misdeeds, hopes and fears on an anonymous, visually-decorated postcard. The results were mini-artworks, a testament to suppressed experience and emotion. The project quickly mushroomed, and has now become perhaps the largest community art project in the world. Exhibitions, lecture tours and published books of secrets have followed.

"We live in the age of public confession," states Lizzie Waterman. "We have an addiction to the private lives of both celebrities and ordinary people, via the paparazzi and reality TV." Whether it is just curiosity, or a healthy way of moving on from a repressed past, only time will tell.

**1. Write a summary of the main ideas of the text. Write no more than 40 words.**

**2. Read the text and answer the questions in your words.**

- Based on the text, how good are we at keeping secrets?
- Which secrets are better for our 'health'? Explain.
- What project did Frank Warren start and why?
- Why does Lizzie think that it's more of a problem to tell secrets now than in the past?

**3. Give a synonym for the following words from the text.**

- somebody you can tell secrets to (paragraph A)
- repeated or frequent (paragraph C)
- mushroomed (paragraph D)

**4. Re-write the second sentence so it is similar in meaning to the first.**

- [...] recent research suggests that we are not as good at keeping quiet as we think, either about our own secrets, or our friends'.

It is difficult .....

- "We live in a confessional age," states Lizzie Waterman. [...] "Whether it is just simple curiosity, or a healthy way of moving on from a repressed past, only time will tell".

Lizzie Waterman .....

## 5. Pronunciation.

- a. In which of the following words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /ɪt/? studied, encouraged, decorated, mushroomed.
- b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently. Grow, own, hopeless, now
- c. Write the word in which the underlined letters are pronounced /dʒ/ as in "suggests". good, unsurprisingly, damaging, gossips
- d. Find a word in the text that includes the sound /ʃ/ like the "t" in "confidential".

## 6. Speaking

- a. Do you have any political, religious or philosophical ideals? How do you express them?
- b. Can you define; communism, capitalism, anarchy, democracy, authoritarianism?
- c. Is there too much political discussion in the world?
- d. How has the politics of this country changed in the last 40 years?

## 7. Weblinks

<a href="#">postsecret</a>	<a href="https://enmarea.gal/">https://enmarea.gal/</a>
<a href="http://www.psoe.es/">http://www.psoe.es/</a>	<a href="http://cambre.bng.gal/">http://cambre.bng.gal/</a>
<a href="http://www.pp.es/">http://www.pp.es/</a>	<a href="https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/">https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/</a>
<a href="https://www.ciudadanos-cs.org/">https://www.ciudadanos-cs.org/</a>	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism</a>
<a href="https://podemos.info/">https://podemos.info/</a>	<a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/">https://www.churchofengland.org/</a>

## 8. Writing.

What do you believe in? Are there any political views you support/oppose? Give your reasons. Write about 80 – 100 words.

## Text 2

In January, we all make New Year's resolutions and change our habits. However, we repeat about 40% of our behaviour almost daily, so if we change our habits, we change our lives. There is no shortage of advice about how to change habits. "Do it first thing in the morning. You should start small. You ought to reward yourself. Make a list." Sadly, as the majority of us know very well from experience, there is no magic, one-size-fits-all solution.

It is easy to assume that if a strategy worked for a neighbour, it will work for us. Unfortunately, that's not true. Similarly, we're often advised to indulge in moderation, to may allow ourselves a "cheat". However, some people find it much easier to abstain altogether from a temptation, like sweets or a video game; for abstainers, having some is far harder than having none.



Some people do better by starting small; others, by starting big. Some people are simplicity-lovers; others, abundance-lovers. Some people need accountability; some defy accountability. Such distinctions matter.

Consider a habit that many people want: eating healthier. An *Upholder* succeeds when he decides how he wants to eat; a *Questioner* when she understands the reasons for a particular eating plan; an *Obliger*, when his partner asks him each day what he ate for lunch; a *Rebel*, when she thinks: "The food companies aren't going to get me hooked on their nasty processed foods."

When we monitor ourselves, we behave better, even if we're not consciously trying to change. So, if you want to change a habit in 2017, think about yourself. What kind of person are you? When have you succeeded in the past? What can you control? Don't assume that if only you kept your desk clear, you'd be as productive as your clutter-free colleague. Don't force yourself to keep a to-do list if you loathe the very idea.

It's simple to change your habits – when you do it the right way for you.

- 1. Read the text and make a summary of the main ideas of the text. Write about 40 words in one paragraph.**
- 2. Answer the questions in your own words, don't copy from the text.**
  - a. Why do so many people want to change their habits in January?
  - b. Is it easy to change your habits? How?
  - c. What is an abstainer?
  - d. Which is the most popular New Year's resolution?
  - e. What solution is the best possible to change your life? Explain.
- 3. Find synonyms for these expressions in the text.**
  - a. A prize for doing things well. (paragraph 1)
  - b. Participate. (paragraph 2)
  - c. Addicted to (paragraph 4)
  - d. Tidy (paragraph 5)
- 4. True or false? Explain your answers.**
  - a. People reward themselves in New Years' resolutions.
  - b. Everybody finds abstaining easy.

## 5. Pronunciation.

- a. In which of the following words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /t/? advised, processed, succeeded.
- b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently. Shortage, morning, ought, ourselves.
- c. Write the word in which the underlined letters are pronounced /dʒ/ as in "suggests". Indulge, altogether, going colleague
- d. Find a word in the text that includes the sound /tʃ/ like the "ch" in "change".

## 6. Speaking

- a. Have you made any New Year's resolutions this year? Which? Why?
- b. Is it difficult to keep to a diet, a plan, studying regularly? How?
- c. Why do people find it difficult to change a habit?
- d. Which are the most popular New Year's resolutions?

## 7. Web links

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/communication/50-new-years-resolution-ideas-and-how-achieve-each-them.html>

<http://www.webmd.com/diet/obesity/features/6-steps-to-changing-bad-eating-habits#1>

<https://changinghabits.com.au/>

<https://kripalu.org/presenters-programs/changing-habits-mindfulness>

<https://brightfuture.unilever.us/stories/473136/Changing-habits-changing-the-world.aspx>

## 8. Writing

"Making a resolution is a waste of time. You always break it after a week" Do you agree?

## Text 3

Hundreds of model trains were stolen from a model railroad supply store in Lycoming County Montoursville, PA on Monday morning. Dozens of model trains used to cover the wall at English's Model Railroad Supply store. Now some shelves are bare.

"It's really kind of startling when you walk in and everything is empty," said Lee English, owner of English's Model Railroad Supply, a store his family has run for over 50 years. Employees opened the door and found the place was burglarized. "Looks like we are approaching \$80,000 - \$90,000 in lost merchandise," said English.



Montoursville police say hundreds of trains and train sets were stolen from the shop early Monday morning. The store's surveillance cameras caught two men in masks in the store. "Lionel, Mike's Train House, American Flyer. They knew what they wanted. Those are very sellable at train shows," said English. "however, we won't be able to replace them because the makers are no longer in business."

At first, English says he wasn't sure how the burglars got in. Windows were shut. Doors were locked. "I glanced over and underneath the desk here, there was hole going right outside," said English. A portion of the steel siding in the front of the building was cut away. It has already been repaired, but that is where employees say the thieves got in. "We had some real very nice shrubbery here and it hid the hole in the wall," said English. Once inside, the thieves filled carts in the store with trains. "Loaded up, pressed the electric button, and walked out the door."

"By what I'm hearing, it sounds like somebody is going to try make a buck with private collectors," said Larry Fink from Lock Haven. "Money is money, some people won't stop at anything." Larry continues. Employees say lots of their customers make hour's drives to come to their store. Larry Fink drives from Lock Haven over 50 miles away to buy train supplies.

English's Model Railroad Supply does have insurance to cover the stolen merchandise, but there are some things money can't buy like honesty and peace of mind. The idea of such sophisticated burglars has scared English to the bone. The owners plan to update their surveillance system.

ABC News, 15 march 2019

**1. Read the text and write a short summary. Concentrate only on the key ideas.**

**2. Answer the questions.**

- a. What crime was committed?
- b. How did the thieves get into the store. Why didn't anybody notice at first?
- c. Although English is obviously sad at the theft, why is he also sad? Explain.

**3. True or false. Justify your answers.**

- a. English's security was efficient.
- b. The value of the theft wasn't considerable.
- c. Some of the trains stolen can be replaced.
- d. The train store was not very popular locally.

**4. Find synonyms for these expressions in the text.**

a. Products for sale (paragraph 2)	c. Look (paragraph 4)
b. Have closed down (paragraph 3)	d. Money (paragraph 5)

- e. Money to secure property (paragraph 6)

**5. Rewrite the sentences without changing the meaning.**

- a. Once inside, the thieves filled carts in the store with trains.

After .....

- b. "They knew what they wanted. Those trains are very sellable at train shows," said English. "However, we won't be able to replace them because the makers are no longer in business."

Due to the fact that .....

**6. Pronunciation**

- a. In which of the following words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /d/? opened, wanted, loaded, sophisticated.
- b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced /ʃ/. shelves, English's, approaching, portion, sure, sophisticated
- c. Find a word in the text pronounced /ea/ as in "here".

**7. Speaking**

- a. Do you have any hobbies like model trains? What are they? If not, why not?
- b. What is the interest/fun/obsession with hobbies like stamp collecting, birdwatching or scratch building?
- c. Would you travel great distances to pursue your hobby?
- d. People will spend hundreds of euros on a particular locomotive, stamp or coin. Do you appreciate that? What would you spend money on?

**8. Reference**

<https://mrr.trains.com/issues/2018/great-model-railroads-2019>

<https://stamps.org/collect/stamp-collecting>

<https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/>

<https://liveboldandbloom.com/10/habits/interesting-hobbies>

[https://blog.feedspot.com/uk\\_upcycling\\_blogs/](https://blog.feedspot.com/uk_upcycling_blogs/)

**9. Writing. Write about 100 words.**

Many people have special hobbies. Which of these would you be interested in? What do people get from their hobby? Give an opinion.

## Text 4

There was a time, many years ago, when sportspeople didn't have sponsorship deals and logos on their shirts. Nowadays, however, competitors have become mobile advertisements. Sport is a big business and TV has been mostly responsible for its commercialization. Events like the Olympics, the World Cup and the Formula 1 Grand Prix have huge TV audiences, and companies which sponsor events know that millions of viewers will see their names.



Apart from teams and events, individual sportspeople are obviously 'good for business'. Companies are always looking for talented, good-looking sports stars, whose names will help to sell products. Look around and you can see the faces of people like Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James or Naomi Osaka.

They earn more from publicity than from sport. These people are ideal for selling most products, because we associate them with health, wealth, happiness and breath-taking success.

Money has definitely changed sport. In 1961, the maximum monthly salary for a footballer in the UK was only £80. Few players could afford a car. Nowadays, sponsors and revenue from TV help to finance the salaries of multimillionaires. Club presidents, speak of 'global business': famous teams travel to places like China and Japan, where they can find new fans and sell more merchandise. Manchester United now has more fans in China than in the UK, and last year Real Madrid sold more than a million football shirts.

But is all of this good for sport? What are the benefits for spectators and supporters, who are paying crazy money to watch sport in stadiums or on satellite TV? For the 'big fish' of the sports world there are better salaries and better training facilities, but there is also a danger that our favourite sports stars may become more worried about money and deals than with fun and competition. In the past there wasn't enough money in sport. Now perhaps there is too much.

**1. Write a summary of the main ideas of the text. Write no more than 50 words.**

**2. Read the text and answer the questions in your words.**

- a. What qualities do sportspeople have for companies to sponsor them?
- b. Why has sport become global?

**3. True or false. Justify your answers with a sentence. Find the information in the text.**

- a. Sportsmen are advertisements for mobile people.
- b. Talent sports stars sell pizzas and phones.
- c. Sportsmen can't have earned more money now than before.
- d. The author thinks money is good for sport

**4. Find synonyms in the text for the words.**

- a. Money you are paid every month (paragraph C)
- b. People who watch sport (paragraph D)

## 5. Pronunciation.

- a. In which of the following words is the ending "-s" NOT pronounced /z/? facilities, viewers, products, fans
- b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently. More, Sport, World, for.
- c. Write the word in which the underlined letters are NOT pronounced /ai/as in "T<sub>i</sub>me". Maria, mobile, China, ideal.
- d. Find a word in the text that includes the sound /dʒ/ like the "g" in "suggest".

## 6. Speaking

- a. What sports do you like/support/practice?
- b. Can you think of companies sponsoring sports?
- c. Is there too much money in sport? How?
- d. Do professional sports people have a similar life to you? How do you think it is different?
- e. What positive and negative aspects can you see in the life of a sports person?

## 7. Writing.

Imagine you are on a professional sportsperson. Describe your life. Talk about the positive aspects of your life but also the negative. Write about 100 words.

## 8. Transformations

Rewrite the second sentence using the first one as a guide.

- a. His homework won't be finished by the end of the day.  
He won't .....
- b. His education is none of your business.  
You .....
- c. Go to the conference check in desk immediately on arrival.  
As .....
- d. After finishing the exam, I started to relax a lot.  
Since .....
- e. There will be someone to meet you on arrival. He will take you to the hotel.  
When .....
- f. The last time I saw him was in 2001. He was going abroad to study.  
I haven't .....
- g. Sharon will finish her exams. Then she will have more free time.  
Once .....
- h. Quite a few DVDs are missing from the shelves. They were the ones people have stolen.  
Several people .....

## Text 5

When you see an old lady in the street, have you thought of wanting to help her cross the road? When a young child cannot open an ice-cream wrapper, would you like to do it for him? Being nice doesn't have to be selfless. There are many benefits to helping others that come right back to you. Professor, researcher, and philosopher Stephen Post talked with **Big Think**, an ethics think tank, about how being good is good for you mentally and physically.

Post's research has shown that people involved in volunteer work feel healthier and happier. A good number of people also feel less stress, and less stress means better well-being, "They had a sense of gratification. They expressed greater resiliency when they experienced problems and tough times in life."

"If you could take those kinds of self-reported benefits and put them in a pill, market them at the drugstore, you'd be a billionaire overnight. But the thing is that you don't really have to do that because if people simply get in touch with that evolved aspect of their being, they tend to benefit from it." Post says.

Post has also found it doesn't have to be volunteer work, either. If you just make an effort to be kinder and more helpful in your daily life you can benefit from it. You don't have to change your routine, schedule, or your whole life. You just need to see those opportunities in your daily life where kindness can exist.

Has anyone ever done something for you that just made you feel happy, relieved, better? Just a little bit of kindness here and there can go a long way, and it benefits everyone.



**1. Read the text and write a summary.**

**2. Answer the questions using ideas from the text.**

- How does being nice to others have health benefits?
- How can we reduce stress, based on Dr. Post's research?
- Do you have to change your lifestyle to become a better person?

**3. True or false? Explain your answers.**

- Being a nice person is something physical.
- Research has shown that the more stressed you are, the better you can do voluntary work.
- Helping others is beneficial for you.

**4. Find synonyms in the text to these expressions.**

- An institution that analyses society (paragraph A)
- A place to buy medicine (paragraph C)
- Being nice to others (paragraph E)

**5. Pronunciation.**

- In which of the following words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /t/? talked, involved, expressed, experienced.
- Write the word whose underlined letters are not silent. Wrapper, shown, whole, where.
- Write the words in which the underlined letters are pronounced /ʊ/ as in "good". tough, could, touch, young.
- Find a word in the text that includes the sound /ʃ/ like the "ch" in "change".

**6. Writing. Write 100 words.**

Choose 1:

- Can you remember a decision that you had to take but later regretted? Describe the story.
- Look at the pictures
  - What dilemma can you see?
  - What solutions do you offer?



Write a text identifying the dilemma and offering the possible solutions to it, if there are any.

**7. Transformations.**

- Jack would never become independent if he had stayed at home.  
If Jack ..... .
- I robbed a bank. I'm in prison now.  
If ..... .
- She isn't here today. If she had caught her plane she could have been on time.  
If only ..... .
- Unless you stop being rude, you'll get into trouble and get sent to the Head Teacher.  
I ..... .
- Bicycles must not be left in the driveway.  
People ..... .
- Last year 2,000 new units had been produced by the time we introduced the new design.  
We ..... .
- The book says you should take care when working on electrical equipment.  
Care ..... .

## Text 6

Two massive luxury real estate deals in Los Angeles have shone a harsh light on the wealth gap in a region where tens of thousands of people live on the streets while mansions the size of football fields sell for more than \$100m.



On Monday, Variety reported that the Uber co-founder Garrett Camp has purchased a Beverly Hills mansion for a record-breaking \$72.5m. It wasn't even the biggest Los Angeles luxury real estate deal reported this week. A 56,500-square-foot Holmby Hills chateau, once home to television producer Aaron Spelling, sold for \$120m, making it the highest home price in Los Angeles county history. The extraordinary mega-mansion sales come at a time when Los Angeles is faced with widening inequality and escalating concerns about the housing crisis and a dramatic rise in homelessness, prompting intense debate about who gets to benefit from the growing economy.

Camp's purchase has drawn the ire of activists and drivers who have long been protesting about Uber's labor practices and advocating for better working conditions. "This is a perfect example of the 1% stealing from the rest of us," Nicole Moore, an uber driver in Los Angeles complained. "Drivers are living in their cars. We're fighting for fair wages. At least share that wealth with the people who have actually built your company."

News of the \$120m Holmby Hills sale came the same day that officials carried out another major sweep of a homeless encampment in downtown Los Angeles, the epicenter of the humanitarian crisis of people living on the streets. Los Angeles has experienced a 16% increase in the homeless population over the last year, with more than 36,000 people now homeless in the city.

The Rev Andy Bales, CEO of Union Rescue Mission, a Los Angeles homeless organization, said \$120m could be used to shelter thousands of people living on LA's streets. "Everyone just wants to sweep human beings away," said Bales. "It doesn't do any good to sweep people, when there is nowhere to sweep them to. There are no shelters, no services where we can direct people."

[theguardian.com/us-news/02/07/2019](https://theguardian.com/us-news/02/07/2019)

**1. Read the text and write a summary of the main idea the writer wants to argue.**

**2. True or false, justify your answers.**

- a. Homeless people are buying mansions in California.
- b. Garrett Camp's workers are happy with his new house.
- c. There is an enormous sweep of rich people in downtown Los Angeles.
- d. There are lots of places for homeless people to go in LA.

**3. Read the text and answer the questions.**

- a. Why are Uber workers so angry with the CEO of their company?
- b. Why do these two property deals have angered so many people?
- c. How could the money spent on these deals help ordinary people?
- d. Is there a growing housing crisis in America? How do you know?

**4. Find these words in the text**

a. Severe. (paragraph A)	c. anger and outrage (paragraph C)
b. buy (paragraph B)	d. raid or attack (paragraph D)

**5. Look at these sentences. Rewrite the using the ideas given.**

a. The sales come at a time when Los Angeles is faced with widening inequality and a dramatic rise in homelessness, prompting intense debate about who gets to benefit from the growing economy.

People and politicians ..... .

b. "It doesn't do any good to sweep people, when there is nowhere to sweep them to. There are no shelters, no services where we can direct people."

Homeless people ..... .

**6. Pronunciation.**

a. In which of the following words is the letter "i" pronounced /aɪ/? as in "die"; fields, this, crisis, fighting, direct.

b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently. real, wealth, deal, least, increase.

c. Write the word in which the underlined letters are NOT pronounced /ð/ the same as "there" wealth, with, another, than

d. Find a word in the text that includes the sound /dʒ/ like the "j" or "dg" in "judge".

**7. Speaking**

- As a species, are we very selfish?
- Does somebody need a house with 50 rooms?
- Could we help more people if we weren't so envious of other people's wealth?
- Should people be allowed to buy such expensive houses?

**8. Writing.**

"Rich people have too much money! We should make them help poorer people." Do you agree? Give your opinion.

## Text 7

- A. Two weeks ago, Michael Dunleavy, the Republican governor of Alaska, decided that it would be better to destroy his state's future than to raise taxes, even a little. Although this is not new, they add a twist to what is a key story about 21st-century America: the growing divide between thriving and lagging regions.
- B. Thanks to the money from oil, Alaska has long been able to afford high public spending while levying low taxes and giving every permanent resident an annual dividend. But oil profits have been declining. The state needs to make a choice — raise taxes, cut the oil dividend, or cut spending.
- C. Dunleavy chose spending cuts — but not just any spending cuts. He abruptly cut funding for the state university system by 41 percent. They will have an apocalyptic impact. Rather than accepting the need for a tax increase, he chose to destroy public higher education.
- D. It's an amazing story, but it fits a pattern. When low-tax ideology meets fiscal reality, education often suffers. The infamous Kansas Governor Sam Brownback's "experiment" in tax-cutting came to an end when even Republicans were horrified by the damage spending cuts were doing to education.
- E. What happens when states cut education funding to keep taxes low? Obviously, it's bad for the American Dream of upward social mobility. It was the good, affordable education which was one of the great American icons, but in much of America it's disappearing. In addition, it's also bad for those states' economic prospects. Of course, that's not how the low-tax people see it. In their vision of the world, low taxes are an invitation to business, moving from high-tax states and relocate to where the rates are lower. But that destroys local business and creates economic migration.
- F. Now, growing regional differences reflect powerful economic forces, but destroying a key part of your state's education system to keep taxes low is a good way to guarantee that your state will fall ever further.



Paul Krugman - NY Times 17/07/19

- 1. Read the text and write a summary of the main idea the writer wants to argue.**
- 2. True or false, justify your answers.**
  - a. Alaskans get free money from the oil companies.
  - b. Cutting education budgets is good for education in general.
  - c. Republicans like to have high taxes in their states.
- 3. Read the text and answer the questions.**
  - a. What is the difference between lagging and thriving?
  - b. How has the Governor's policy affected the state education system?
  - c. Why is a good education system so important to states like Alaska?
  - d. What is the concept of a low-tax economy? Is it good for the economy? How?
- 4. Find these words in the text**
  - a. A fundamental idea. (paragraph A)
  - b. Falling behind others (paragraph A)

- a. Charging (paragraph B)
- b. Money from people and business (paragraph C)

**5. Look at these sentences. Rewrite the using the ideas given.**

- a. Two weeks ago, Michael Dunleavy, the Republican governor of Alaska, decided that it would be better to destroy his state's future than to raise taxes, even a little.

Taxes .....

- b. What happens when states cut education funding in order to keep taxes low? it's bad for students, but it's also bad for those states' economic prospects.

If States .....

- c. The infamous Kansas Governor Sam Brownback "experiment" in tax-cutting came to an end when even Republicans were horrified by the damage spending cuts were doing to education.

Spending cuts .....

- d. [...] destroying a key part of your state's education system to keep taxes low is a good way to guarantee that your state will fall ever further.

You shouldn't .....

**6. Pronunciation.**

- a. In which of the following words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /t/? *decided, passed, educated, declared, boomed*

- b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently. *Leying, every, royalties, destroy, mobility*

- c. Write the word in which the underlined letters are pronounced /aʊ/ the same as "ow" in "now" flow, lower, Brown, growing, toward.

- d. Find a word in the text that includes the sound /ʃ/ like the "t" in "emotion".

**7. Speaking**

- a. What are taxes? Are they a good idea?
- b. Who should pay high taxes and who shouldn't?
- c. What do you think we should pay taxes on?

**8. Writing.**

Are taxes good for you and the country? Should we pay less tax or more than we do now? Give your opinion.

## Text 8

Apple unveiled its newest store on Wednesday, one that looks out over the main hub and busy concourse of the historic Grand Central Terminal in New York making it a new venture for the company. The shop, which the company says is one of its largest, is Apple's fifth in Manhattan and will employ 315 workers. The store opens to the public on Friday.

Bob Bridger, vice president for retail and development at Apple, said the company had designed the store to appeal to rushed commuters who might have only a few minutes to shop. As in most Apple stores, there are sections devoted to handheld devices like the iPhone, iPod and iPad, as well as accessories, desktop computers and the company's signature *Genius Bar*. But there will also be express pickup stations where people can pick up Apple products that they've purchased in advance.

Mr Bridger also said that the Apple app that lets people buy items using their phones would also allow people to purchase items on the store floor by scanning their bar codes. In addition, the company will offer truncated versions of its instructional workshops, condensed to 15 minutes for those passing through.

"It's perfect for the hundreds of thousands of people who pass through Grand Central station," he said during a preview of the new store on Wednesday morning.



The global network of Apple stores attracts 300 million visitors each year, Mr Bridger said.

- 1. Write a summary of the main ideas of the text.**
- 2. Explain in English the meaning of the following expressions used in the text.**

- a. "...Apple unveiled its newest store on Wednesday!"
- b. "...where people can pick up Apple products ..."

- 3. Re-write the sentence so it means the same as the first one.**
- a. The shop, which the company says is one of its largest, is Apple's fifth in Manhattan and will employ 315 workers.

Apple's largest shop .....

- b. There will also be express pickup stations where people can pick up Apple products that they've purchased in advance.

Apple products .....

- 4. Answer the following questions in your own words.**

- a. Why is Apple's new store in New York special?
- b. Why have they opened the store in Grand Central station?

- 5. True or false? Explain your answer.**

- a. You can collect your products at an express pickup station before you buy.
- b. Grand Central Station a popular station for European commuters.
- c. Use can use your Android phone to go shopping in the Apple store.
- d. The Apple store is a convenient way of doing your weekly shopping.

**6. Pronunciation.**

- a. In which of the following words is the ending “-ed” pronounced /d/? devoted, purchased, truncated, said
- b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced /ʃ/. Venture, largest, store, desktop, instructional
- c. Write the words in which the underlined letters are pronounced /ɔɪ/ as in “boy”. only, they, company, employ, Wednesday, buy

**7. Web Links**

- a. <http://www.cultofmac.com/284804/apple-opens-new-store-madrid/>
- b. <http://www.versiondaily.com/the-marketing-strategy-of-apple-a-concise-analysis/>
- c. <http://www.macworld.co.uk/feature/apple/how-work-for-apple-how-get-job-at-apple-research-3598280/>
- d. <https://blog.bufferapp.com/new-marketing-strategies>

**8. Answer the following in your own words. (min. 80 words, max. 100 words)**

What do you know about technology and the future of mobile communication? How has our life changed because of mobile and computer technology?

## Text 9

In the mid-1950s, Giuliana Benetton made her elder brother Luciano a multi-coloured pullover. "Don't tell me why, but it was the pullover which started the whole thing off," Luciano tells me as we sit in his villa near Treviso in North-Eastern Italy, where he was born.

"The colours were more exciting than the ones normally used in men's sweaters at that time. I saw that my friends liked it and I thought that it had a market potential."



And so the Benetton brand was born. The bright, vibrant colours in which the original sweater was knitted became its fixed trademark. Today the gigantic multinational clothing empire is one of the world's biggest suppliers of casual clothes.

In the 1960s the two younger brothers, Carlo and Gilberto, joined Giuliana and Luciano to build what is probably the most remarkable family venture of the late 20th century, a corporation which has now diversified into banking, supermarkets, sporting equipment, restaurants, and Formula One racing cars.

Of the four founders, Carlo, the youngest, is the production director of Benetton Group worldwide. He also supervises the sheep farms in Patagonia where ten per cent of Benetton wool is produced. Gilberto, vice-president, is the financial expert. Giuliana is the design director, the creative genius behind Benetton's clothes. The eldest, Luciano, is president of Benetton Group and responsible for the company's long-term and global strategies.

The firm's success depends on a family structure which is now rare in Italy and the rest of Europe. Luciano is convinced that Benetton could never have taken off without the family partnership. "The crucial pillars of the operation were my sister and two brothers," he says. "Undoubtedly, the success of this relationship depended on a division of work and on our total trust in what each of us was doing." They admit that they have their falling outs from time to time, but they always get over it in the end.

"As long as I know what my brothers are doing, then it's alright." Giuliana declares. "By the way, where are they?"

**1. Write a summary of the text. Choose the main ideas. Write no more than 40 words.**

**2. Explain in English the meaning of the following expressions used in the text.**

a. Company (paragraph 3).	c. Organic material (paragraph 5)
b. Key famous quality (paragraph 3)	d. Foundations (paragraph 6)

**3. Transformations. Re-write the sentence so it means the same as the first one.**

a. "Don't tell me why, but it was the pullover which started the whole thing off,"

Benetton ..... : "

b. Carlo and Gilberto, joined Giuliana and Luciano to build what is probably the most remarkable family venture of the late 20th century,

If Carlo and Gilberto ..... .

**4. True or False? Explain your answers.**

- The key element to explain the success of a firm like Benetton is individuality?
- Benetton's brand has always been about sport.
- Family business are very common in Italy.

**5. Pronunciation.**

- In which of the following words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /t/? liked, knitted, convinced, fixed.
- Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently. Born, thought, colours, corporation
- Write the word in which the underlined letters are pronounced /ɜ:/ as in "per". pullover, sweater, diversified, director
- Find a word in the text that includes the sound /ʃ/ like the "sh" in "sheep".

**6. Writing. Choose one and write about 80 words to 100 words)**

"Marketing and advertising today is very important for the success of a product. Without advertising, products wouldn't sell." Do you agree? Explain your ideas.

**7. Transformations**

Rewrite the second sentence using the first one as a guide.

- Jack claimed Jenny had done it, but she said she hadn't.

".....".

- "What is she like?" John asked.

John asked .....

- If you don't know how to spell the word, why don't you check in the dictionary?

Look it up .....

- My parents went without a lot of things so that they could save enough money to buy their house.

If my parents .....

- Have pity on me that I have to go to work early on Monday. There's a breakfast meeting.

..... (Modal of opinion)

- "My husband is a waiter in a top hotel restaurant." The woman said proudly.

..... . (To boast)

- My father is going to a school reunion and will meet up with people he hasn't seen for 40 years!

The school reunion .....

- "Wake up will you? You are going to be late for school!"

Tom's mother .....

## Listening 1 - Names

Listen to the text and do the activities.

A. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentences.

1. Humans have been using names since prehistoric times because;
  - a. In some cultures it gives information about our family.
  - b. They are popular
  - c. They want to know who is who.
2. Some African cultures use different names for etymological reasons
  - a. No, they like popular names.
  - b. No, they give information about the order in which each child is born.
  - c. It is fashionable.
3. In 2004 the most popular girls name was
  - a. Jack
  - b. Maria
  - c. None of the above
4. When parents choose names for their children
  - a. They are more traditional with daughters' names.
  - b. They are more traditional with sons' names.
  - c. They are more adventurous with boy's names.
5. Jack is the most popular boys name ever.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  - c. Jack is not a name.

B. Complete the sentences with ideas based on the audio.

6. Morpheus and Trinity are ..... .
7. Armani, ..... , is a popular name for hundreds of American boys.
8. Pink, Ruby and Scarlet are popular ..... .
9. Zowie Bowie changed his name because ..... .
10. The writer thinks people ought to think before ..... .

## Listening 2 - Richard and Jackie Driving

Listen to the text and do the activities.

A. Choose the correct answer.

1. What does Richard suggest?
  - a. That Jackie's father knew she was a bad driver.
  - b. That Jackie's brother was worse than Jackie.
  - c. That Jackie's father was a bad driver.
2. Jackie's father paid for her driving lessons
  - a. TRUE
  - b. FALSE
3. It wasn't frightening to drive in London because the traffic went very slowly.
  - a. TRUE
  - b. FALSE
4. When did Jackie start to drive regularly?
  - a. Immediately after her driving test, in a Morris Minor lent to her by a friend.
  - b. A little after her driving test.
  - c. Sometime after her driving test, in a car lent to her by a friend.
5. For Richard, what was different about driving in Sydney from where he learnt to drive?
  - a. There were not so many hills in Sydney.
  - b. It was not so quiet in Sydney.
  - c. Where he learnt, there were more roundabouts, hills and traffic lights.

B. Complete the sentences with ideas from the audio

6. Jackie was ..... old when she learnt how to drive.
7. Richard passed his test in a very quiet ..... in Australia.
8. Being a good driver involves ..... but also .....
9. Yes, well I like driving but I think I really prefer being the .....
10. I find myself falling asleep .....

## Listening 3 The Millionaire

Listen to the text and do the activities.

A. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentences.

1. Why did Marc Allen decide to be a millionaire?
  - a. Because money was central to his life and made him happier.
  - b. Because it was harder to do what he wanted if he was poor.
  - c. Because he wanted to make his family and friends happier.
2. Which sentence describes his apartment correctly?
  - a. It was the same age as him: 30.
  - b. It had only one room.
  - c. The rent cost 55 dollars a month.
3. What has not changed from a hundred years ago?
  - a. The number of opportunities.
  - b. The number of adversities.
  - c. Both of these things.
4. What is his attitude to people's doubts and fears?
  - a. They can prevent us from reaching our goals.
  - b. We can overcome them if we dream of our goals.
  - c. If we change our thinking, we will have more doubts.
5. According to Marc Allen, how much of what we earn should we spend?
  - a. 80 per cent.
  - b. 90 per cent.
  - c. 20 per cent.

B. Complete the sentences with the correct answer.

6. He goes to his office ..... every week, arrives quite late.
7. His attitude to wealth and spirituality is you can be ..... for other things.
8. Marc says we are NOT here to .....
9. Marc Allen advises us to .....
10. You can't buy his latest album at Watercourse Media because .....

## Listening 4 Eating Out

Listen to the text and do the activities.

A. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentences.

1. Marian normally goes out to a restaurant
  - a. more than once a week
  - b. sometimes, if there's a birthday party
  - c. once a week, sometimes more
2. Marian
  - a. gets bored if she goes to different places
  - b. likes to vary the kind of food she eats
  - c. only eats Chinese and Italian food
3. If she's just got paid
  - a. Marian is worried about the price
  - b. Marian can choose a nice restaurant
  - c. Marian probably puts price right on top of the list
4. For Marian, the ambiance
  - a. is one of the two most important things about a restaurant
  - b. is the most important thing about a restaurant
  - c. is the least important thing about a restaurant
5. She thinks that
  - a. waiters usually pay more attention to men than to women
  - b. restaurants are never really sexist
  - c. waiters usually discriminate age more than sex

B. Complete the sentences with ideas from the audio.

6. When Marian's with people who look younger than her, waiters .....
7. In a restaurant, Marian feels that she .....
8. When a friend tells her about a new restaurant .....
9. If the bill says "service included", Marian would probably .....
10. She is just about to go out to ..... restaurant.

## Listening 5 Ten years without books

Listen to the text and do the activities.

A. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentences.

1. The author likes James Bond.
  - a. Yes, he is watching a Bond film on his computer.
  - b. Yes, he is reading a Bond book.
  - c. No, he is watching television.
2. The author probably read "Where the Wasteland Ends: Politics and Transcendence in Post-Industrial Society":
  - a. in 1972
  - b. in 1982
  - c. in 1992
3. When he was a boy, the author:
  - a. avoided books
  - b. looked at books but didn't read them
  - c. preferred videos to books
  - d. read enthusiastically
4. What did the author find in 1982?
  - a. The bible.
  - b. A wonderful, long, thick book of a famous author.
  - c. A book he took out of the library three times.
5. Students at university used to spend the evenings:
  - a. discussing philosophy
  - b. thinking deeply
  - c. the author doesn't say how they spent the evenings

B. Complete the sentences with ideas from the audio.

- a. At work, the author didn't have to ..... .
- b. The author hasn't read a book ..... .
- c. At dinner time, the author ..... .
- d. At home, now the author has ..... .
- e. Today the author reads ..... .

## Listening 6 Word Up!

Listen to the text and do the activities.

A. Choose the correct answer to complete the sentences.

1. What has Matt been doing for the last 16 years?
  - a. Living and teaching in Melbourne, Australia.
  - b. Living and teaching in Thailand.
  - c. Teaching English in Australia and Thailand.
2. What games did Matt's family have when he was a boy?
  - a. Computer games on their home computer.
  - b. Board games like Monopoly and Scrabble.
  - c. Computer games, but not chess or Cluedo.
3. Why did Matt start inventing different kinds of games?
  - a. Because it was fun to do this while he learnt the Thai language.
  - b. Because he needed extra money to supplement his salary.
  - c. Because his students wanted to have fun while they were learning.
4. What did Matt still have to do after the company agreed to produce his game?
  - a. Design the box for the game.
  - b. Grade the questions in different levels.
  - c. Write the rest of the questions.
5. Matt...
  - a. would like more students to use Word Up! at home, not only at school.
  - b. only sells Word Up to schools, on the Internet.
  - c. only sells Word Up to teachers and schools in Thailand.

B. Complete the sentences with ideas from the text.

6. Matt uses Word Up in his classes to .....
7. Matt Errey wants to develop .....
8. Matt believes that Word Up is .....
9. Matt thinks ..... people can play Word Up.
10. The name Word Up comes from .....

## Listening 7 Jackie and Sue

A. Listen to the text and then choose the correct answer.

1. Who does Jack work for?
  - a. A building company
  - b. A media company
  - c. A company on Tower Bridge
2. Which sport magazine does Jack NOT work for?
  - a. Sporting Magazine
  - b. Golf Monthly
  - c. Rugby World
3. Which of the following is true?
  - a. The children she helps are in the Education Department
  - b. They are between eleven and sixteen years old
  - c. The children achieve targets at school
4. These children perform
  - a. better than other children
  - b. worse than other children
  - c. as well as other children
5. Which of these is true about Jackie?
  - a. She has brought her children
  - b. She is Sue's sister-in-law
  - c. She is married to Kevin

B. Now complete the sentences with the correct words.

6. Jo helps children who .....
7. Jack is ..... older than Jo?
8. At the Olympics, Kevin .....
9. At the moment, Sue's husband .....
10. Sue's work involves .....

## Listening 8 Dull and Boring

A. Listen to the text and then choose the correct answer.

1. English teenagers use the word "boring"
  - a. to describe activities like going to the cinema with friends
  - b. to describe activities which they do with their parents
  - c. to describe activities which they do when they are 15
2. In the past,
  - a. Dull was a very boring place
  - b. Dull was an early Christian settlement
  - c. Dull had a very interesting church
3. The speaker says that Elizabeth Leighton isn't dull because
  - a. She lives in Boring
  - b. She lives in Dull
  - c. She went cycling in America
4. Boring is a place where
  - a. People commute to work by train
  - b. Many of the inhabitants are very dull
  - c. Guide dogs are trained for blind people
5. Elizabeth Leighton thought that
  - a. Dull and Boring could become twin communities
  - b. Dull and Boring's inhabitants have a sense of humour
  - c. People would pass by Dull and Boring and smile
6. The name "Dull"
  - a. comes from old Scottish
  - b. comes from the name of an old soldier
  - c. comes from the name of a whiskey

B. Now, complete the sentences with ideas from the text.

7. The word "dull" means .....
8. Oregon is a state .....
9. it was Elizabeth's idea which .....
10. Boring was named in honour of .....

## Transformations.

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine> - page for resource

An important ability in English is being able to describe what you want to say in other words.

E.g. You can't go in there; it is not allowed.

Entry ..... - *Entry in that place is forbidden / isn't permitted.*

When we make a transformation, we give the same information, but in a different manner, using a particular aspect of grammar.

E.g. Harry scored the goal that gave his team the victory in the cup final.

Harry's team ..... .

*The team won the Cup Final because of Harry's goal. / because of the goal Harry scored.*

Here we are using synonyms to transmit the meaning. It is almost the same to say – to get a victory as – to win

We must retain the same meaning in our transformation, as far as is possible.

1. Make transformations using these sentences as a guide.

- a. Jane was at my house about ten years ago for the last time. How is she getting on?

I ..... . (Present Perfect)

- b. They moved to this house in 1997.

..... since 1997. (Present Perfect)

- c. At the end of the film, the hero could catch the villain and kiss the girl.

..... (Be able to)

- d. I haven't seen Tom for ages. What do you think he is doing these days? I think I am going to telephone him.

It's been a long time ..... . (Present perfect, since)

- e. He didn't want to join in the celebrations. He had just lost a friend in an accident.

As ..... . (Past Perfect)

- f. I took a sweater but it wasn't necessary, it wasn't as cold as I thought it would be.

As it wasn't cold ..... . (Modal verb: needn't + Perfect Infinitive)

- g. He was able to escape the building and the police using a disguise.

By means of ..... . (Sentence and word order)

- h. "This pasta tastes great." Jane asked Tom. "How did you cook it?"

Jane asked ..... . (Reported speech)

- i. I agree that people cannot smoke in bars. People have to be able to smoke somewhere, but not in a public place.

People ..... . (Modal use should / ought to)

- j. Pittsburgh is less exciting than New York. There isn't even a good museum there.

I like ..... . (Comparative)

2. Transformations. Read the sentences and make the transformation.

a. This will be my student's first performance in Canada.

It is .....

b. The last time I saw him was in 2001.

I .....

c. Sharon will finish her exams. Then she will have more free time.

After .....

d. This course will take us six months to complete.

In six months' time .....

e. There will be someone to meet you on arrival.

When .....

f. The money didn't arrive for a month.

It was .....

g. That car was too expensive for us to buy.

If .....

h. Course fees must be paid in full before the course begins.

You .....

i. I haven't been to Oxford for at least ten years.

The last time .....

3. Transformations. Read the sentences and make the transformation.

a. She'll have to make her presentation at the end of his speech.

When he .....

b. Peter wasn't always so moody.

Peter didn't .....

c. The number of people who understand his ideas exceed his expectations.

More people .....

d. I am afraid I'm still having problems with understanding life in New York.

I haven't .....

e. I think we have to get a new car because this one is finished!

(Deduction modal) .....

f. I'd prefer it if you didn't smoke in here.

Please .....

g. Many people were delayed because of the traffic jam.

The traffic jam .....

h. It was such an interesting novel I stayed up all night to finish it.

Because .....

4. Transformations. Read the sentences and make the transformation.

a. Although he was able to do the job, he wasn't given the position.

Despite .....

b. I think you should take the train instead of the bus to be on time.

If .....

c. Can you describe him to me?

What ..... ?

d. It isn't necessary to buy a first class ticket.

.....

e. I'm sure he was at home last night.

He .....

f. I didn't understand what he was saying because I hadn't read his book.

If .....

g. They believe the students were educated in Canada.

It .....

5. Transformations. Read the sentences and make the transformation.

a. Remind me to call Jack.

I .....

b. I don't agree with prohibiting smoking in bars.

..... (In favour)

c. It doesn't need to be finished this afternoon.

The work .....

d. It was difficult for my mother to set up the new software.

My mother .....

e. The escalator isn't working; please use the stairs instead. (out)

The stairs .....

f. "I'm sorry I broke your mug" Janet said.

Janet .....

g. They cancelled the flight because of thick fog.

If .....

h. The summit meeting will be held in Istanbul in summer with luck.

They .....

i. The car had almost stopped when it hit the wall.

By the time .....

j. That waiter has served over 100 customers today.  
100 .....

k. Have you had your dinner cooked today by your mum, you lazy so and so?  
Did .....

l. Gina had taken the rubbish out before I arrived home.  
The rubbish .....

m. It is said Lee Harvey Oswald shot John F. Kennedy in 1963?  
JFK .....

n. You had your windows cleaned yesterday, because they are very shiny.  
The cleaner .....

o. Has your father fixed Tim's bike yet?  
..... by your father?

p. The estate agent is going to sell our house.  
..... by the estate agent.

q. The chef made his dinner at a top restaurant last week as a gift.  
He .....