

I-Read the following passage and answer the questions:

Telecommuting

[A] Technology has not only changed the workplace; it has changed the place where we work. Increasingly more of us are working from home. Technology allows people to work from almost anywhere. Millions of people work outside of the traditional office: at home, at a cafe, at a park, and even in their cars! They are telecommuting - working away from the office (also referred to as teleworking).

[B] There are many benefits to telecommuting. For the employee, telecommuting saves precious time. People don't have to waste time sitting in rush hour traffic, crawling down the highway at five miles per hour. Telecommuters also save money they don't have to spend money on gas or public transportation. In addition, they have more flexibility about when to work. This allows them to balance work and family life better. All of these benefits increase job satisfaction for telecommuters. Telecommuting is also good for the environment. Millions of workers are no longer jumping in a car, burning gas, and contributing to air pollution. Finally, the company benefits: telecommuting saves companies money because they do not have to provide office space and parking to all their employees.

[C] Do these benefits point to the office becoming obsolete, or nonexistent? No! Not everyone agrees that telecommuting will bring happiness to the workplace or to workers. Some people are not happy about telecommuting. For example, the colleagues - co-workers of telecommuters - may feel that their telecommuting colleagues don't work as hard as they do. There are also employees who don't want to telecommute because they fear that they will be less known and have less influence if they work virtually away from the office. Another group concerned about telecommuting is employers. Some employers worry that knowledge among employees will not be shared as easily if they are not working together physically. And there's also concern that private company information might get out to the public.

[D] It looks like telecommuting won't replace the office, but it is here to stay. To end on a personal note, you can be sure that I'll keep writing from my home office as long as I can!

Decide if the following statements are True or False:

- 1- The main idea of this reading passage is telecommuting is better than working from the office.
- 2- The title of the reading passage describes the main idea of the reading.
- 3- The writer probably commutes to an office.
- 4- Rush hour traffic usually moves quickly.
- 5- Telecommuting has its pros and cons.
- 6- Because of its advantages, telecommuting will replace the office.

B-Read the following passage and answer the questions:

On August 23, 1999, Blogger was launched by Pyra Labs. As one of the earliest dedicated blog- publishing tools, it is credited for helping popularize the format. In February 2003, Pyra Labs was acquired by Google under undisclosed terms.

On May 9, 2004, Blogger introduced a major redesign, adding features such as web standards-compliant templates, individual archive pages for posts, comments, and posting by email. On August 14, 2006, Blogger launched its latest version beta, codenamed "Invader", alongside the gold release. This migrated users to Google servers and had some new features, including interface language in French, Italian, German and Spanish. In December 2006, this new version of Blogger was taken out of beta. By May 2007, Blogger had completely moved over to Google operated servers. Blogger was ranked 16 on the list of top 50 domains in terms of number of unique visitors in 2007.

As part of the Blogger redesign in 2006, all blogs associated with a user's Google Account were migrated to Google servers. Blogger claims that the service is now more reliable because of the quality of the servers.

Along with the migration to Google servers, several new features were introduced, including label organization, a drag-and-drop template editing interface, reading permissions (to create private blogs) and new Web feed options. Furthermore, blogs are updated dynamically, as opposed to rewriting HTML files.

Blogger allows its users to choose from various templates available, and fully customize them. Users may also choose to create their own template using CSS. The new design template, known as Dynamic View, was introduced recently. It is built with AJAX, HTML5 and CSS3. The time for loading is 40 percent shorter than traditional templates, and allows user to present blog in seven different ways: classic, flipcard, magazine, mosaic, sidebar, snapshot, and time slide.

Blogger has launched mobile applications for users with mobile devices. Users can post and edit blogs, and also share photos and links on Blogger through their mobile devices. Not only advanced mobile devices, such as smart phones, are being considered, since users can also post blogs via traditional cell phones by SMS and MMS.

Decide if the following statements are True or False:

7- Blogger was owned by Google around 4 years after it was launched.

8- "Invader" is a codename for an e-mail

9- Along with migration to Google servers, rewriting HTML files was a new feature introduced to the blogger.

10- Using Blogger mobile applications, only users of smartphones can post blogs.

11- The main idea of the passage is the new features of blogger.

II- Read the following passage and answer the questions:

A- Pauline Vernon - Malaysia

My dad was teaching in Kota Bharu, Malaysia. When my mum and I flew out to visit him for three weeks, he had already organised our stay in great detail. On our first evening we had a party on the beach. It was an idyllic scene: a beautiful empty beach, palm trees, white sand, the warm gentle waters of the South China Sea. I swam in the shallow water thinking "this is the life", when a jellyfish swam between my legs. The sting, on both legs, was agony and it was only then I discovered that two people had died from jellyfish stings that year and until that point, no one had bothered to mention the sea-snakes, for whose bite there is no cure. I now understood why the beach was deserted.

B- Sandy Henderson - the USA

I was on a camping holiday in Yosemite National Park in California with a friend, when I awoke to the sound of screaming. I looked out of my tent and saw my friend trying to get out of his sleeping bag, with a giant black bear rearing up behind him. Quite possibly the quickest I've ever got out of bed, I scrambled up and we both sprinted in no particular direction. By pure chance, we'd passed a small cabin a little way back on the trail and we made a dash for that, jumped inside and locked the door. Seconds later, the bear was scraping at the door as we cowered inside, afraid that the whole thing might fall off. After quite a long time, the bear lost interest and we were able to leave the shelter.

C- Cat O'Donovan - the USA

Twenty-three hours into an epic bus trip across the States, I began to wonder what I had let myself in for. I was at Denver bus station, sitting on my backpack, drinking coffee. Before boarding the first bus in LA, I had been filled with romantic ideas of friendship among the passengers and fascinating stops, as well as spectacular scenery. After the guy next to me had finished talking about his time in jail, I realised my expectations were a bit off. After all, I was 17 and travelling alone. I had no idea when the next bus was, so I went up to the counter to ask. One unfriendly staff member was so large I feared she had eaten several passengers, so I waited until her colleague was free. "Three-and-a-half hours," she said. I groaned. Would I ever reach New York? I sat back down to drink my coffee.

D- Graham Whitely - Nepal

It was not my first walking holiday to Nepal, but for some reason I no longer remember, I decided to go several weeks before the walking season actually began. There were no other walkers on the flight to Kathmandu, which suggested I might not have made the best decision. Walking to my empty hotel through rainy streets on the first night, I tried not to think what conditions would be like at higher altitudes. Next day I flew to Tumlingtar to start walking up the remote, rarely visited Arun valley. As I climbed, the bushes on either side of the path were covered in ice and the weather was constantly cloudy. The lodges where I stayed were run by people who spoke no English, and the only meal available was boiled rice with lentil soup. Each day required at least eight hours of unpleasant solitary walking, longing for a conversation with someone. During all the long walk towards Kathmandu, it continued cloudy and I never even saw a mountain.

For questions 1-10, choose from the people (A-D).

Which person

worried about how strong something was? 1/.....

was not pleased to spend so long somewhere? 2/.....

travelled with an ex-criminal? 3/.....

realised the holiday might be a mistake before arriving? 4/.....

had a painful experience? 5/.....

was unaware of the danger in what they were doing? 6/.....

had visited the country on a previous occasion? 7/.....

found an employee intimidating? 8/.....

missed speaking to people? 9/.....

had to hide from danger? 10/.....

III- Choose the correct meaning of the underlined word in (a), (b), or (c) in each of the followings:

11. When the sorting is completed, there will be for each word anywhere from two to three to several hundred illustrative quotations, each on its card.

a) colorful

b) explanatory

c) unusual

12. To regard the dictionary as an "authority," therefore, is to credit the dictionary writer with gifts of prophecy which neither he nor anyone else possesses.
 a) believe b) grant c) understand
13. In choosing our words when we speak or write, we can be guided by the historical record afforded us by the dictionary, but we cannot be bound by it. . . .
 a) led to b) free from c) tied to
14. Living in a hole in the ground and chased by lizards of giant proportions, the creature has been nicknamed "hobbit" by some researchers—a reference to the small, holed dwelling heroes of *The Lord of the Rings*.
 a) hunger b) size c) age
15. The implication was that the toolmakers, presumably *Homo erectus*, were capable of navigating the open sea.
 a) certainly b) unlikely c) probably
16. Spurlock also backs up his implications with solid reporting about the state of school lunch programs, to show how schools are promoting the junk food habit from an early age.
 a) preparing b) encouraging c) serving
17. Working for the space program motivated computer engineers, pushing them toward the development of today's personal computer.
 a) disappointed b) encouraged c) produced
18. The availability of water would make an enormous difference for humans working on the moon.
 a) presence b) lack c) production
19. Several rockets have already been sent to the moon, but so far the results have not been conclusive.
 a) direct b) certain c) simple
20. That is to say, the context of each word is collected, along with the word itself.
 a) sentence b) grammar c) meaning
21. It raises obvious questions about the diversity of the human family, such as whether undiscovered humanlike species might survive today.
 a) variety b) strangeness c) similarity
22. The discovery, described in the journal *Nature* last week, could alter our outlook on our own place in nature.
 a) change b) prove c) limit

IV-Choose the correct sentence(a), (b) , or (c) in each of the followings:

- 23-A-This shop sells many children's bikes.
 B- This shop sells many childrens' bikes.
 C- This shop sells many childern bikes.
- 24-A- I want to make money; I don't want to die poor.
 B- I want to make money, I don't want to die poor.
 C- I want to make money , nor I don't want to die poor.
- 25- A-The coach looks for three things in her athletes: desire, discipline, and selflessness.
 B- The coach looks for three things in her athletes. Desire, discipline, and selflessness.
 C- The coach looks for three things in her athletes; desire, discipline, and selflessness.
- 26- A- Hagur was born on July 10, 2002; Tanta, Charbeya.
 B- Hagur was born on July 10, 2002 : Tanta, Charbeya.
 C- Hagur was born on July, 10, 2002; Tanta, Charbeya.
- 27-A- Mathematics are important for those students studying physics.
 B- Mathematics is important for those students studying physics.
 C- Mathematics are considered important for those students studying physics.
- 28 A-I love jogging , I hate sweating.
 B- I love jogging, but I hate sweating.
 C- I love jogging but, I hate sweating

- 29-A- Mary Lou decided not to eat the alphabet soup the letters spelled out "botulism."
 B- Mary Lou decided not to eat the alphabet soup , for the letters spelled out "botulism."
 C- Mary Lou decided not to eat the alphabet soup , the letters spelled out "botulism."
- 30- A- Max gave a wonderful performance in the school concert although his headache.
 B- Max gave a wonderful performance in the school concert despite his headache.
 C- Max gave a wonderful performance in the school concert despite of his headache.
- 31-A- I can hardly wait until Jim Bob gets his jaw out of traction.
 B- I can't hardly wait until Jim Bob gets his jaw out of traction.
 C- I can't never wait until Jim Bob gets his jaw out of traction.
- 32-A- Neither have a dime left by the second of the month.
 B- Neither has a dime left by the second of the month.
 C- Neither own a dime left by the second of the month.
- 33-A- Jean asked why no one makes a paper milk carton that opens without tearing?
 B- Jean asked why no one makes a paper milk carton that opens without tearing.
 C- Jean asked why does no one make a paper milk carton that opens without tearing?
- 34- A- The action of the new senator haven't been consistent with her campaign promises.
 B- The action of the new senator hasn't been consistent with her campaign promises.
 C- The action of the new senator are consistent with her campaign promises.
- 35-A- Sam is accustomed to eating all the cookies.
 B- Sam is accustomed to eat all the cookies.
 C- Sam is accustomed to eaten all the cookies.
- 36-A- It's not a sport too difficult, so I think you can learn it quite quickly.
 B- It's not a very difficult sport, so I think you can learn it quite quickly.
 C- It's not a too many difficult sport, so I think you can learn it quite quickly.
- 37-A- When you play chess, you have to think more hardly than when you're gaming.
 B- When you play chess, you have to think harder than when you're gaming.
 C- When you play chess, you have to think hardlier than when you're gaming.
- 38-A-The prickly pear anchors themselves on rocky, barren slopes and grows to about 3 meters.
 B- The prickly pear anchors itself on rocky, barren slopes and grows to about 3 meters.
 C- The prickly pear anchors theirselves on rocky, barren slopes and grows to about 3 meters.
- 39- A- Public transport are still the best way to get around the city.
 B- Public transport is still the best way to get around the city.
 C- Public transports are still the best way to get around the city.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Waleed Samir