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UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES

One of the world's leading universities has just begun to celebrate its 800th anniversary.

Cambridge University, in the UK, was founded in 1209. On 17th January it held a special outdoor celebration to launch a year of events marking its 800th birthday.

The University was founded by scholars from another English university, Oxford. Nobody is exactly sure why they moved to Cambridge. One record shows it happened when two Oxford scholars were arrested and then convicted of murdering a local woman. Other students protested their arrest by leaving the university and going to other towns. It was a group of these scholars that set up a university in Cambridge.

Originally only men were allowed to study at Cambridge. From 1869 women were permitted to study there, but they were not awarded degrees. Women at Cambridge were first awarded degrees in 1947.

Some of the most important discoveries in history have been made by people studying at Cambridge University. The jet engine was invented there. Scientists at Cambridge discovered the structure of human DNA. More than 80 winners of the Nobel Prize, and 15 of Britain's prime ministers, have been graduates of Cambridge University.

Many students from Cambridge University have become famous for becoming among the best in their fields of work. Authors C. S. Lewis, who wrote the Narnia books, and A. A. Milne, who wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh*, also studied at the university.

On 17th January about 7,000 people gathered in the centre of Cambridge to watch a light show celebrating the anniversary. Images and illustrations were projected onto one of the famous university buildings, the Senate House. A piece of music containing exactly 800 notes was played from the nearby Great St Mary's Church.

Cambridge is usually ranked among the top five universities in the world for its standard of research and teaching. Today, around 18,000 students study at Cambridge University.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What important discoveries were made at Cambridge?

Why is Cambridge University considered one of the best in the world?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

People attend a college or a university for the following reasons, to acquire knowledge which is necessary for a career, to contribute to the society, and to experience life.

Firstly college education is a necessary step for a person who wants to start a career in science and technology areas. If a student wants to become a scientist, it is important for him to go to a science school; if he wants to be an engineer, an engineering school is the best place for him.

There is no other place than a college where a student can get sophisticated education in order to be qualified to become a professional in a specific area.

Secondly, a college education can benefit both the society and the student. By attending college one can get himself prepared for and contribute to the society, which seems to demand advanced knowledge more and more. On the other hand, as knowledge plays a very important role in today's economy, it has also become the capital and asset of the person who owns it: a college education can bring wealth not only to the society, but also benefit the individual who processes it.

In addition, college education is a wonderful experience in one's life. Only in a college one can be taught by the finest scholars and meet with the most intelligent people in the nation. Education can also bring happiness to the student. When a student has conquered a difficult mathematical problem, he savors the joy which learning has brought to him, and feels that he is the happiest man in the world.

Of course, learning in a campus does not mean as much for everybody, but it does mean a lot to me. I was brought up in a knowledge-respecting family. My father is an engineer and my mother is a teacher in a primary school. They are both university graduates. My father, being the most influential person in my life and the son of a poor Chinese farmer, did change the destiny of his own by learning hard to earn a university degree. Therefore he firmly believes that "knowledge can change one's destiny and university is the best place to achieve one's goal". Of course this influenced me. I strongly believe that attending university is the best choice for me. I do not have a bit of hesitation to attend a university.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why does the author value higher education so high?

What benefits does higher education bring?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE MOST DIFFICULT LANGUAGE?

People often ask which language is the most difficult to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different. The greater the differences between the second language and our first one, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system. The pronunciation of Chinese appears to be very difficult for many foreign learners, too. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning this language will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than

people studying a language that has no direct use in their day-to-day life. British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many. But the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 grammatical cases.

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity, though native speakers of related languages may find it easier.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What factors play an important role in learning a language?

Why do British diplomats find it difficult to learn Hungarian?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WALL STREET

Wall Street is a place where the sun never shines. This doesn't mean it has a different climate from the rest of New York City. It simply means that the buildings here in New York's financial centre are so high that the street is always in the shade.

The people who work in the Wall Street area are too busy to worry about the weather. They are employed by great banking houses or giant financial companies. They handle big sums of money every day.

Twenty years ago, life was a lot quieter on Wall Street. Many of the companies were old family firms. They had always been successful and did not see the need to work very hard for their money. Sons entering their fathers' businesses could come to work late, leave early and be certain that no one would notice.

Those days are gone forever. Wall Street's big bosses still have beautifully furnished offices on the top floor, with wonderful views over New York. But downstairs in the trading rooms, clever young people work at their computers sending money around the world.

Americans have never quite got used to trusting their banks. They remember too well the great Wall Street 'crash' of 1929, when many banks closed and thousands of people lost their money. In order to keep the dangers small, American law prevents banks from becoming too big. No bank can have offices in more than one state. Perhaps this is why there are so many banks in America – nearly 15,000 of them.

The advantage of having so many small banks is that each one can get to know its customers, and can offer a personal service. The problem is that a traveller who has his or her money in a bank in Denver, cannot easily get any money out from a bank in Washington. But even this is changing now. Computers can send money so fast that the old system of American banks is breaking down.

Many Americans are not so happy about leaving their money in the bank. They want to see it grow, fast. That's one reason why many people spend as much money as they can on buying and improving houses. They know real estate prices often rise faster than anything else.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why don't Americans trust their banks?

What makes Americans spend money on real estate?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

YOUNG BUSINESSMAN

Martin Halstead is a normal English teenager who lives in Oxford with his Mum and Dad. There is only one unusual thing about Martin – at the age of 18 he set up his own airline!

Martin got his passion for flying when he boarded a plane for the first time at the age of six. Ever since Martin has wanted to be a pilot.

Only a year ago Martin was just a student at an Oxford college and was preparing for his final exams in Business, History and English. However, his desire to become a pilot was so strong that he sent an application to Oxford Air Training School before taking his college exams. Martin wasn't very confident that he would get a place but much to his own surprise he was successful. Martin says: "To my surprise, I was given a chance to start at Oxford Air Training School almost immediately. Both my parents and the head of the college could see how much I wanted to become a pilot, so they supported my decision to leave college without taking my final exams."

Martin started his flying course last January. He says: "Last summer I was chatting to my friend and said, as a joke, that my only chance to get a job in that field was to have my own airline."

And that was how it all began. Martin's original plan was to fly between Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford and Cambridge are the two most famous and important university cities in the UK. Although the two cities are not too far from each other, they are not well connected by road or train. However, Martin has now changed his mind. His airline, Alpha One Airways, now plans to fly between Southampton and the Isle of Man.

Where did Martin get money to start his business? Well, he got some money from his Grandmother and also had some savings from doing part-time jobs. Although Martin refuses to say exactly how much money he needed to start the business, he says it wasn't very much.

So, what is next? Martin says: "I hope that this is just the beginning and in the future I will be able to fly to other places." Good luck, Martin!

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What made Martin leave college and start studying to become a pilot?

How did Martin manage to find money for starting his business?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

PERFECT METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students in my English classes sometimes ask for my opinion on the best method of learning a foreign language. The answer I give is always the same: learning a foreign language can never be quick and easy. There is no single method that can guarantee success.

In the Callan Method, the teacher talks a lot and makes the students repeat questions and answers. By contrast, in the Silent Way Method, invented by Dr Caleb Gattegno, the teacher tries not to talk at all! The teacher uses pictures, diagrams, objects to give the students problem-solving activities. The idea is that students learn better if they can discover the rules by themselves. Certainly that is an important part of learning. But I'm not sure it can guarantee success.

I think that it is wrong to look for a method of teaching/learning that gives all the answers. Often, the method is not so important. Obviously, you need good materials (e.g.: a good course book, etc) that are interesting and dear. And you need a good teacher too. The individual qualities of the teacher are very important. The teacher and the students must have a good relationship. The students must like their teacher. That is one important way to help make learning fun.

At the same time, we have to recognize that you can't make progress without doing some old-fashioned hard work. There must be a method involved in teaching and learning, but the same method doesn't work for everyone. People are different and they have different reasons for wanting to learn. The method will naturally change depending on the purpose of the lesson. However, it is important that each lesson should have a clear objective. The material should be presented in a context. There should be practice and consolidation work. Students should use all four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

There is nothing revolutionary about these ideas. But they give the best chances of success for different kinds of learners.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What does the writer answer when asked about the best teaching method?

What is really important for learning a foreign language according to the author?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

HUNDREDS OF ENGLISHES

A friend of mine recently tried to download a new program from the internet. But she soon had a problem. She had selected English as the variant of the program that she wanted. But then she had to choose from a whole list of different 'Englishes': International English, Universal English, American English, European English, South African English... Whatever happened to ordinary English English? My friend wanted to know.

Languages are like living things. They change and grow. In the case of English, the process of change is becoming faster and faster. New forms of the language are

being created, partly because more and more people are now speaking English and partly because of new forms of communication such as email. About 400 million people in various countries of the world use English as a first language. About 600 million people use English as a second language. In addition to these people, there are millions of people who are learning English for use at work or when they travel. It is not surprising that the language has changed to suit local needs, as a result there are many types of English with their own vocabulary and a characteristic sentence structure.

You might think that there are not really big differences between British and American English. Well, that is not really true. British people always find American English a little strange and sometimes totally incomprehensible. Canadians officially use British spelling and usage, but in reality they are very influenced by American English. Once when I was visiting Vancouver, I asked a bus driver if he was going to the centre. I meant, of course, the city centre. He looked at me as though I were mad. "But this is the centre," he said. In reality, we were about 10 miles from the city centre. However, we were at a bus stop outside a shopping centre. Fortunately, I remembered just in time that for north Americans 'downtown' is the word to indicate the city centre, so the problem was solved.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why is English changing much more than other languages?

How much do the variants of English differ?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

SCIENTIST INVENTS CREATIVITY MACHINE

Sydney, Australia – Scientist Allan Snyder thinks that he has invented a machine to make people more creative. Actually, he says that his machine will make people more like *autistic savants*. *Autistic savants* are people who are mentally disabled but they have one remarkable ability. They can be calendar calculators (able to tell you the day of the week for any date in history); musical savants (able to play a complex piece after hearing it only once), or even accomplished visual artists.

The director of the Australian National University and Sydney University's Centre for the Mind says that his machine sends out magnetic signals. The signals stop part of the brain from working so that we can see things in greater detail. He believes that this is the key to the amazing abilities of autistic savants. But their problem is that they can't turn this ability off.

Creativity requires being able to see the details of a situation or idea, as well as the big picture, he says. However, most of us only see the big picture. For instance, if we read a book, we will probably remember what the story was about, but not particular words and passages.

Autistic savants see the detail, rather than the whole. However, for the rest of us, we try to fit the things we see and hear into the big picture in our brains. Snyder believes that creativity machines might eventually be a valuable tool in schools. "The biggest block to learning is that we only see what we know," he says.

In order to make different connections, we have to let goof the big picture-at least temporarily. Snyder says the strategy could help adults speak a second language without an accent and to improve their memory for details.

He defines creativity as being able to make connections between ideas that seem unrelated. In order to make these connections, we have to begin to see situations in a “non automatic way.” “This is the power - and the promise - of the creativity machine,” he says. Snyder argues we all have the ability to become creative. That is why he is not claiming his machine can turn people into geniuses. However, he believes that it might well reveal the genius that is inside a person, underneath layers of automatic thoughts, speech, and actions.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is an autistic savant?

How does Snyder’s machine work?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LONG LIFE

With the development of human society, people are living longer now. Many factors interacting together to enable the longer life. There are three most important causes: the quality of food has been greatly improved: people could have medical sendees; more and more people realize that regular sports benefit their health.

The improving quality of our food is the most important factor of the longer life. We could have not only enough food as we want, but also the healthier food. When we preparing food, we no longer consider the cost, but pay more attention to the nutritions of the food. With the development of transportation systems, inland people now could also enjoy seafood and tropical fruit.

Furthermore, governments are paying more and more money on medical establishments. Citizens could have medical services more easily. Because of the convenient medical service more illnesses could be detected at an earlier stage. Also, many illnesses that had been considered fatal could be cured today. The better detection and treatment enable people's longer life.

Last but not least important is that people care more for their own health. Every morning you could see people doing sports outside. More and more people have realized the saying "life is locomotion". Regular sports build up a strong body. Naturally, people with stronger body could resist more deseases.

To sum up the development of our society causes the longer life of people. People have better food and better medical services. And people spend more time on sports to build up stronger bodies. As we could predict, people are going to live even longer.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What contributes to a long life?

What could happen if people live longer and longer?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

UNDERCOVER MARKETING

You're in a department store and you see a couple of attractive young women looking at a sweater. You listen to their conversation: "I can't believe it-a Lorenzo Bertolla! They're almost impossible to find. Isn't it beautiful? And it's a lot cheaper than the one Sara bought in Rome."

They leave and you go over to see this *incredible* sweater. It's nice and the price is right. You've never heard of Lorenzo Bertolla, but those girls looked really stylish. They *must* know. So, you *buy* it. You never realize that those *young* women are employees of an advertising agency. They are actually paid to go from store to store, talking loudly about Lorenzo Bertolla clothes.

Every day we notice what people are wearing, driving, and eating. If the person looks cool, the product seems cool, too. This is the secret of undercover marketing. Companies from Ford to Nike are starting to use it.

Undercover marketing is important because it reaches people that don't pay attention to traditional advertising. This is particularly true of the MTV generation-consumers between the ages of 18 and 34. It is a golden group. They have a lot of money to spend, but they don't trust ads.

So advertising agencies hire young actors to "perform" in bars and other places where young adults go. Some people might call this practice deceptive, but marketing executive Jonathan Ressler calls it creative. "Look at traditional advertising. Its effectiveness is decreasing."

John Palumbo, another industry expert, is sure that underground marketing is the right way to reach young people. "A product has to have credibility to succeed," he says. "People have to see it. They have to understand it in a real way. The best way to do that is to put it in their world. And that's what we do. We put the product in their life."

However, one might ask what exactly is "real" about two young women pretending to be enthusiastic about a sweater? Advertising executives would say it's no less real than an ad. The difference is that you know an ad is trying to persuade you to buy something. You don't know when a conversation you overhear is just a performance.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Is undercover marketing worse than traditional advertising?

What's the secret of undercover marketing?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ADVERTISING STRATEGIES

Advertisers have many methods to get you to try a product and be loyal to it. Lots of times, what they are selling is a lifestyle, or an image, rather than the product. Here are some ways they get us to spend money on things we may not want.

Ideal Families-always seem perfect. The kids are cool and they have the hottest fashions, haircuts, and toys. Ideal families are all attractive-and they never argue!

Ideal families represent the types of people that people watching the ad would like to be.

Family Fun-an ad that shows a product bringing families together or helping them have fun together. For example, Mom or Dad brings home the “right” food and a boring dinner turns into a family party.

Excitement-Food is great fun! One bite of this and you're surfing in California or soaring on your skateboard!

Star Power-Your favorite sports star or celebrity is telling you that this product is the best! It's very effective. People listen and they usually don't remember that the star is paid to support the product.

Bandwagon-Join the in-crowd! Don't be left out! Everyone is buying this-Why aren't you?

Put Downs-Advertisers criticize the competitor's product to make their own product seem better.

Facts and Figures-Advertisers use facts and statistics to make their statements more credible. Unfortunately these “facts” are often not completely true.

Repetition-Advertisers hope that if you see a product or hear its name over and over again, you will be more likely to buy it. Sometimes the same commercial *will* be repeated over and over again during the same television program.

Heart Strings-Ads tell you a story that make you feel good. For example, one McDonalds commercial shows a dad and his son shoveling snow together. When they finish, the son buys his dad lunch at McDonalds.

Sounds Good-Music and other sound effects add to the excitement of commercials. Those little tunes that you just can't get out of your head make you think of the product. Have you ever noticed that the commercials are louder than the program?

Cartoon Characters-Tony the Tiger sells cereal and the Nestles. Nesquik Bunny sells chocolate milk. Cartoons like these help kids identify with products.

Misleading Words-Advertisers are supposed to tell the truth, but sometimes they use words that can mislead viewers. Look for phrases in commercials like *partof*, *the taste of real*, *natural*, *new*, *better tasting*, and *because we care*. There are hundreds of these deceptive phrases.

Omission-Advertisers don't give you the entire story about their product. For example, an ad claims that a sugary cereal is *part* of a healthy breakfast. It doesn't claim that the breakfast is healthy (or even healthier) without this product.

Are You Cool Enough?-Advertisers try to convince you that if you don't use their products, you are not cool. Usually advertisers do this by showing people who look uncool trying a product and then suddenly becoming hip.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Which strategy tries to make you feel good?

Which strategy uses famous people?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WORKING TOGETHER

We all work with many different kinds of people. Different co-workers have different personality. To me, my co-workers should have some important characteristics such as independence, optimism, and teamwork spirit.

I think a good co-worker must have his own opinions. A co-worker should dare to propose his own opinions. He should not say the same as others and hide his opinions. Only everyone tries his best to analyze every aspect of a thing, it can be done best. So independence of thinking is important for a co-worker.

Another important characteristic is optimism. If we have some difficult problems, he must be brave and should not fear them. He should encourage others to find methods to solve problems. This point is very important because one's mood can influence others easily. Once a co-worker shows a little fear of difficulties, others may become discouraged soon. So a good co-worker should be optimistic.

In addition, teamwork spirit is an important characteristic of a co-worker. Although a co-worker should be independent to analyze a thing, he should be tolerant to the different people and their ways of working. He should be willing to dedicate his energy, time and knowledge to reach the goal of whole team.

Independence, optimism and teamwork spirit are important characteristics of a co-worker. If everyone in a work group has these characteristics, the group can overcome difficulties and reach its goals.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why is optimism important for a co-worker?

What other characteristics of a good co-worker does the author give?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

A WORKING TEENAGER

I don't think it is a good idea for teenagers to have jobs while they are still students. It can interfere with their studies, it can disrupt their home life, and it takes away part of their childhood that they can never replace.

Education today is very complex and difficult. In order to learn and get good grades, a student must work very hard and concentrate. This means attending classes from early in the morning until late afternoon, then doing research for projects, then going home and doing homework. It's a busy schedule for anyone. For someone trying to hold down a job, it's even harder. Students need all their energy for their studies. If they're working after class at night, they're going to be tired the next day. They won't be able to concentrate. This will have a negative impact on their learning, and eventually on their grades.

Having a job can also disrupt a teenager's home life. Families spend less and less time together. If a teenager has a job to go to after school, he won't be home for dinner. He won't be home after dinner, either, and may not get home until late at night. This means he doesn't have a lot of time to spend with his family. If he doesn't have a car, it can mean changes in his parents' schedules, too. They have to drive him to work and pick him up. The main drawback of a teenager having a job while he's

still a student is that he's missing out on the fun of being young. He has a whole lifetime in which he'll have to earn a living. This is the last free time he'll have. It's the last chance he'll have to hang out with friends and just enjoy himself. Soon enough he'll have to worry about paying the rent and buying food. Jobs bring money, but money isn't everything. A teenager with a job gives up too much. No one should spend all his time at work, and especially not a teenager.

Ответьте на вопросы.

How can having a job disrupt a teenager's home life?

What's the main drawback of a student having a job?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

CELEBRITIES CLOSE-UP

I think the media pay too much attention to the private lives of famous people. Television, newspapers, magazines and web sites dig up all kinds of past bad actions. They say that these are fine reflections of a person's character. This may be true if they occurred only a few years before, but some of these are things people did as teenagers. People in their forties are expected to explain something they did when they were fifteen. If they killed someone, obviously that's more than a youthful mistake. Usually, though, these incidents involve experiments with drugs or being reckless in a car. They're not something that the public needs to know.

The media love to say that the public has a right to know. That's not true. We don't need to know if a movie star or politician has had an extramarital affair. That is something of concern only to the people involved. We do need to know if someone we're electing to public office has been involved in shady business deals, but we don't need to know if he or she defaulted on a loan twenty years ago.

It seems the media dig up these facts without giving thoughtful consideration to what might happen. It has an effect on the celebrity's family, especially the children. A celebrity's good name and credibility may be mined before he or she can prove that minors are false. If a case goes to court, paying a lawyer can use up all their money. Even if it doesn't come to that, they may find their career mined.

When are we, the public, going to make it clear to the media that we're tired of having to watch this kind of tiling on the news? Wouldn't it be better if they would concentrate on more important issues?

Ответьте на вопросы.

Do public persons have the right for privacy?

Is the public really interested in private lives of famous people?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

CAN CHEATING BE STOPPED?

More and more students at school and university are using the internet to cheat in their coursework. In Britain, about 25 % of students copy material from the internet when they write their homework. In the USA there is a similar problem. One

report showed that about 54 % of students copy from the internet when they prepare for the lessons.

Of course, students rightly use the internet to help them research a topic when they are doing coursework or writing an essay. But some of them also copy and include material from the internet into their own essays without indicating that they are using someone else's work. For example, a student who has to write an essay on Shakespeare can find lots of different essays on particular plays and themes in Shakespeare and copy one of them. So they no longer have to read books in libraries, take notes and plan their own essay.

The internet has certainly helped students to avoid the hard work of writing an original essay, but it is not the only reason why cheating is increasing. In recent years, students' attitudes to school and university have changed. In the past, students had a more idealistic attitude towards a university education. University broadened their minds. Nowadays, a lot of students are more practical in their attitude. They are only interested in passing the exams. They want a degree only to help them get a good job.

Teachers and examiners want to stop cheating in school and university, but they do not agree about how to solve the problem. Some teachers think a student's final grade shouldn't depend on his/her coursework. They think that it is better to have traditional (time-limited) written exams that are held in an examination room. Another way to stop cheating is to have an oral exam at the end of the course. If students cannot answer questions about their coursework, this could indicate that they have cheated. At the same time, the oral exam would give the examiner a better idea of students' real knowledge of the subject.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

How do students cheat using the internet?

Why do students cheat?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

FRIENDSHIP IN THE MODERN WORLD

People often say that our modern way of life, with its individualism and fast speed, has made the world a lonely place. So many of us live and work surrounded by people, but it is hard to find true friendship. The faces we see each day are like pictures in a gallery; the talk that we hear is just sound. Perhaps this is why the websites like 'Facebook', 'Contacts' are so popular these days. They allow people to communicate and even become close without meeting up. It seems that many people's idea of friendship has changed nowadays. But what is friendship? Aristotle was the first western philosopher to discuss friendship in a detailed way. He said that people who chose to live alone were either like animals or gods. He probably meant that it is natural to want friends. Certainly, people who choose to live without friends are frequently regarded as having problems. We either pity them or else we view them as strange.

Aristotle also said that there are three different categories of friends. In the first category, we are friends with people because of some advantage that the friendship gives us. In other words, the friendship has a practical value. Friends in this category would include bosses at work or some of our colleagues. Aristotle's second category of friendship is based on the idea of pleasure. Friends in this category enjoy doing things together and they have a lot of interests in common.

The third category of friendship is the highest form of friendship. In this category, people are friends on a deeper level. The friendship does not depend on anything other than the friends themselves. The relationship is so close that it seems that one soul belongs to two bodies, Aristotle said. Aristotle also said that close friends must have eaten salt together. In other words, they must have shared some of life's good and bad experiences. Most people today would probably agree that these are a fundamental part of true friendship.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What do people think about people who have no friends?

What does Aristotle say about the three types of friendship?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ARE WE SHOPAHOLICS?

If you think you are not one of those people whose buying habits are influenced by advertisements, you are most probably mistaken. The latest survey made by The Consumers' Federation shows what effect modern advertising techniques have on customers.

150 people were asked to answer questions in a short questionnaire just as they were leaving a Tesco supermarket after finishing their shopping. Only 15% of the people agree they buy things because they've seen them advertised. More than 50% insist they do not even watch commercials on television. However, over three quarters had no problems matching the most popular perfume brands with their advertising slogans.

Most people do not realise that advertising aims not only at making them buy a certain brand. It's also all the techniques supermarkets use to make customers buy more than they have actually planned. The music, the smells, the arrangement of products, the reductions, all have one goal – to get as much money as possible out of our pockets. 94% of the people taking part in the survey said they buy between one and five things more than is really necessary, each time they visit a supermarket.

How to avoid spending too much? Here are a few tips: first of all, always make a shopping list and follow it, no matter what special offers you come across. Secondly, never go shopping on an empty stomach – you'll buy tons of unnecessary food. If you really have to take children with you, agree in advance what one thing you'll buy them and don't change your mind later, when they get tired or excited. And, above all, limit the time spent in shops to an absolute minimum; don't treat shopping as a leisure-time activity. Do we have any chance in the battle against the powerful advertising machine? I doubt it. Most of us like spending time in

supermarkets, even if we don't realise it. It's become one of our favourite pastimes, something like hunting combined with a family picnic.

Ответьте на вопросы.

Which methods are used to attract buyers to the shops?

What does the article recommend to do not to become a shopaholic?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

OUR PARENTS AND OUR QUALITIES

An important new report says that a child's chances of success in life depend on their parents. The way parents bring up their child builds up that child's character. And having the right character is important for opportunities for future happiness.

According to the report, there are specific personal qualities that parents should work hard to develop in their children so that they can have a good start in life. One of these qualities is the ability to concentrate on a task and stay with it until it is finished. Another quality is the ability to see things from other people's point of view and understand their needs and feelings. It is the main skill that allows individuals to communicate with each other effectively.

Self-discipline is another important quality. This is something that most children have difficulty learning. Young children often want their desires satisfied immediately. Children don't easily accept 'no' for an answer and they will sometimes have a fight in order to get what they want. When this happens, the parents are under a lot of pressure. There is a strong desire to give the child what he or she wants. But according to the report, this is the wrong thing to do. The problem is that children will grow up believing that they can have everything they want immediately. This can lead to serious problems because they never learn to plan for the future and think in the long term. When they are adults, they may buy too many things because they can't control how much money they spend. They may have poor health because they only eat or drink what they like instead of what is healthy.

For the best chances of success, then, children need to learn how to have self-discipline. They also need to be motivated to work hard at tasks and finish them. Of course, a child's character is influenced by lots of different things. Some of these are beyond their or their parents' control and can make a big difference to a child's chances of success in life.

Ответьте на вопросы.

Why is self-discipline important?

What other qualities should parents bring up in their children? Why?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?

Research by Dutch scientists has shown that optimistic people are 50% less often suffer from heart disease than pessimistic people. Now scientists know that

positive attitudes produce chemical changes in the brain and body which strengthen the immune system.

The connection between health and optimism is a complex one. There are many factors involved. In general, optimistic people are better able to cope with difficult situations. For example, they are usually sociable people with lots of friends. When they have to face a difficulty in life, they have people near them who can give help and emotional support. Optimistic people are also more likely to have a healthy lifestyle than pessimistic people. All these things affect a person's chances of coping with illness and of having success in life. Optimists are open, sociable people with a sense of humour and a positive view of things. So it is a way of thinking, behaving and feeling. Some people may be natural optimists or pessimists. This raises the question of whether pessimistic people can learn to become more optimistic.

There is a lot of evidence to show that it is possible to learn how to be optimistic. Central to this idea is that we all have a choice about how we view life. Two people may have to face the same serious problems. A pessimist would feel negative and believe that the problem could not be solved. An optimist would examine the situation and try to find a solution. If it is true that we have a choice about which attitude to take, then experts say we can learn to become an optimist.

Max More, who describes himself as a dynamic optimist, writes: "Developing a strong, practical optimistic attitude is one of the best ways of creating personal power. A complete dynamic optimist cannot be stopped. He cannot be pushed aside. He will respond to all obstacles, all problems with calmness and will try to solve these problems creatively. Our way of life will be affected depending on whether we are optimists or pessimists."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the advantages of being an optimist?

Which facts prove that people can learn how to be optimistic?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

GOOD MANNERS

Are you sure that you are a polite person? Good manners are important across the globe, but that doesn't mean they are the same. The rules of politeness vary greatly all over the world, from country to country everywhere.

Good manners are taken extremely seriously in Japan. It is considered rude to blow your nose in front of other people, and impolite to eat while standing or walking in the street (except ice-cream). When visiting someone's house you should always take off your shoes, and you should be very careful what you say.

The Japanese are so well-mannered that they think it is rude to express your opinion too directly. In fact, the Japanese have two different words for opinions 'honno' which is your real opinion; and 'tatema' which is your public opinion. Generally, they express their public opinion not to hurt people.

But it isn't only in Japan where you can see the difference. In many countries people shake hands when they greet each other but in others it might be seen as

aggressive. While in Western cultures it is polite to keep eye-contact during a conversation, in other countries it is best to show your respect by not looking directly at the speaker. Just to add to the confusion, whereas we shall nod our heads to say 'yes' and shake them to say 'no', in some parts of the Middle East, shaking your head means 'yes' and nodding it means 'no'!

In spite of all the differences most of the countries have to face one problem nowadays: the disappearance of good manners. In America *Public Agenda* showed that 73% of Americans think that manners are worse now than 20 years ago. At the same time in China the government had to start a campaign during the Olympics to give up bad habits such as spitting in public, littering the streets and using bad language. In England announcements are made on trains to remind people to offer their seats for the elderly and women with children.

As we can see good manners are treated seriously all over the world, that's why we should learn and follow them.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Which facts from the article prove that good manners vary in different countries?

What do the governments in China and England do to teach people good manners?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ARE GM PLANTS SAFE?

A few years ago I read an amusing article about a crazy scientist who had invented a way of making tomatoes grow in cube shapes. That way the tomatoes were easier to pack in boxes. The article was not true of course. But now biotechnology has developed very rapidly. Genetically modified food (GM food) is a fact of modern life.

Genetic modification means that a gene from one plant or animal is put inside another plant or animal. In this way scientists can produce plants or animals that have special qualities that do not exist naturally. The idea of changing the genetic structure of food plants seems a bad thing to many people.

If people do not want GM foods, why are biotechnology companies trying to produce more of them? It is a question of simple economics. Genetically modified food plants are less damaged by diseases and can better survive in bad weather conditions than natural food plants. As a result, harvests are higher and so food costs less to produce. This is an advantage for both consumers and producers.

The biggest worry is the possible danger of GM food for people's health. When scientists put a new gene inside a plant, that gene changes the plant in some desirable way. For example, the fruit stays fresh for longer.

But at the same time, it is possible that the modified plant contains toxic material, making it dangerous for people to eat. Before a genetically modified plant is sold to the public, it has to be tested very carefully so that it will be safe to eat. But some scientists think that no amount of testing will ever be enough. Dr Doug Parr,

Chief Scientist with Greenpeace, says, “When you put a foreign gene into a plant you find that new toxins appear that weren’t expected. These effects are very hard to see in advance because living organisms are very complex.”

Consequently, the testing of GM foods should be very thorough and governments should be very careful before they approve the introduction of GM foods into our supermarkets.

Ответьте на вопросы.

What are the advantages of GM foods?

Why is it important to test GM foods?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN ORAL PRESENTATION

As a student, you are often given a task to prepare an oral presentation such as a book report, debate or power point presentation. How can you speak to the class in an interesting way, avoid getting nervous and get a good grade? Here are a few tips to help you achieve all three of these goals. Many people are good speakers, but most weren’t born that way. What’s the key to their success? Practice. Everyone who speaks well from Angelina Jolie to the president rehearses speeches and presentations ahead of time and asks others for their opinion. Practising your presentation in front of a mirror is also helpful because it gives you ideas on how to improve your posture, body language and gestures.

If you’re allowed to use notes or a plan when speaking, write only main points on note cards. Avoid writing long sentences on the cards because they’re harder to read and encourage you to read your speech rather than speaking to the audience.

One of the most important things to remember about public speaking is that you’re speaking to an audience. Is the audience a group of your classmates? If so, what are some points about the topic that they find interesting? Add anecdotes from the class or bits of humour to keep your listeners interested. The more you can connect it with their own experiences, the better – and the more positively they will listen to you.

The biggest mistake teenagers make is talking too fast. It happens to most of us when we’re feeling anxious. However, you can teach yourself to be slower by practising your speech ahead of time for a friend. You can also record it using a tape recorder and play it back to hear how fast you’re speaking and how many times you say things such as ‘like’ and ‘um.’

Making eye contact with your audience members makes you look confident and competent about your subject. If you’re particularly nervous about speaking in front of the class, you can also try looking at an object just behind the people in the audience, such as a clock or board on the back wall of the room.

Ответьте на вопросы.

What mistakes do presenters make?

Which pieces of advice do you find useful? Why?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

GOING TO THE LIBRARY IN THE PAST

When I go into our local library, I often watch children looking at the shelves filled with a variety of brightly coloured books. They pick a book, glance through a few of the pages and then almost immediately reject it before beginning to look at another book. I smile to myself for when I was a child in the 1910s, we were never allowed anywhere near the books. They were kept in some remote corner of the building to which only the librarian had access.

How, you may ask, did we manage to choose the book which we wanted to borrow? Well, immediately to the right of the entrance was a room which served two purposes: it was a reading room for the older members of the community and it contained catalogues in alphabetical order of the titles and authors of the books kept in the library. Using these, all one had to do was to write out a list of the books required. However, since most of us knew very few authors by name, and even fewer book titles, the whole process of borrowing a book was based upon guesses. There was no possibility of looking through the first few pages to help us form an opinion, no looking at illustrations to discover if a book might arouse our interest.

Even now I recall almost with pain some of the selections my friends and I made. We learned with dismay that titles often gave little guidance as to what the book was about. If we could have returned the book the next day, our irritation would have been considerably reduced, but this was not possible. The librarian did not allow us to bring back any book until we had kept it for at least a week.

Having written out your list, you presented it to the librarian. If you thought your troubles were finished, you were sadly mistaken. Your hands were inspected to make sure they were clean. More than once, one or other of us was sent out of the library and told to return when we had washed our hands.

Once the librarian was satisfied that we were clean enough, she would disappear into another room and return with the first book on our list which was available. When a book was returned, she would make a thorough inspection of the pages to make sure that it had not been damaged in any way. At least that way we never got blamed for something we had not done.

Although the librarian appeared very strict and frightening to a small boy, I owe her and the man who gave the library to the town an immense debt of gratitude. They led me into the land of story, romance and adventure, which in years to come brightened many a dull day.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What does the writer say about book titles?

Why is the writer grateful to the librarian?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

BOOKS IN NEVER-ENDING MOTION

Librarians are saddened by the fact that young people tend only to borrow reference books rather than reading fiction for pleasure. Perhaps it's unfashionable to

read these days. However, a new trend is developing, with literary lovers leaving their books in public places, to be picked up and 'borrowed' by others.

The Belarusian National Technical University was the first to support the idea in our country. Several years ago, the Director of its scientific library, Alexey Skalaban, passed an internship in Sweden. At the airport, he saw a huge glass case of books, which he learnt were available for anyone to read. It was a great idea. The question was only where such books might be kept in Minsk.

"Initially, we created a shelf in the reading hall of the University's scientific library. Later, we installed a case in the main building. It's available to everyone," explains Mr Skalaban. "We want to encourage young people to read. Book-crossing is an easy way to do this." Alexey is looking at a website devoted to book-crossing. "Look, we've set free almost 700 books," he admits with pride. On the day I visited, I saw only two books in the case. The inside cover has a plate stating that it is part of the book-crossing programme, alongside a registration number showing who donated the book and when.

Library staff, students and even residents of neighbouring houses bring books. Additionally, publishing houses have donated some editions. Every year, more such 'safe' places are found. Not long ago, a Minsk night club installed a shelf of books. While some people dance, others gather by the shelves of books, magazines and discs. "We've subscribed to several magazines, while books are brought in by our guests, staff and musicians. This is how our collection grows," says Yan Busel, who co-owns the club.

Book-crossing is gaining popularity, with safe shelves found in many libraries, as well as cafes and educational establishments. No doubt, it's a great way to attract visitors.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Who was the first to introduce book-crossing in our country?

Why is book-crossing becoming more and more popular in Belarus?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DO VERY CLEVER CHILDREN NEED HELP?

In our history, there have been some remarkable children. Mozart is a famous example. After he had heard a piece of music a couple of times, he could write it down on paper. He composed symphonies while he was still a child. Today we also hear stories of very gifted children.

Ruth Lawrence, from the UK, became famous at the age of 12, when she began her studies at Oxford University. She was the youngest student ever to attend a university in the UK. Before going to university, Ruth was taught at home by her father. While she was a student, her father was always by her side. He attended all her lectures with her. Ruth did very well at Oxford. She got a first class degree in mathematics. Now Ruth is a mathematics professor.

These young people are, however, extremely special. Because of that they naturally feel different to other children of their own age. They can become lonely.

Michael Howe, a professor of psychology says, "It is good to be good at something while you are young, but if you do not have friends or other experiences you will not have a satisfying life." Gifted children who understand quicker than their classmates can also become lazy. They can behave badly in class because they are bored.

If parents find that their child is especially talented, they have to take some important and difficult decisions. They have to help their child develop but they cannot push their child too hard. If they do, the child may have serious problems later in life. However, if a child is especially gifted, it is clear that they need a special kind of education. These children need to be motivated. This means that they have to study with people who are older than them. But at the same time they must be allowed to be children too.

Despite her great success, Ruth Lawrence does not want her own children to be brought up and educated in the same way she was. They will be sent to a normal school and she has said that she wants them to develop and grow only in a natural way.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What kind of problems can wonderkids have?

What should parents and teachers do for their gifted children?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

HOW TO BE HAPPY

Dr Richard Carlson is thought to be an internationally famous expert on happiness. Tens of millions of copies of his self-help guides have been sold around the world. These books try to help people deal with the many difficulties of life so that they can become happy and feel strong inside themselves.

Dr Carlson is a qualified psychologist, also he is naturally optimistic and has always had a deep interest in the idea of happiness. When he finished his university studies, he began giving lessons on how to be happy to small groups of people. Dr Carlson enjoyed that work but he wanted to try and help more people. He got an opportunity to do this when he began writing articles about happiness for a newspaper. He then had the idea of putting his ideas into book form.

One of the secrets of happiness, Dr Carlson believes, is to approach problems in stages, breaking the problem down into parts that can be solved bit by bit. "Problems often seem so large that you feel shocked," Richard Carlson says. "It's much better to stop a moment and see things in perspective." Another advice is to develop a feeling of inner strength. You must consciously try to be positive about things, seeing problems as challenges. When you have a habit of being positive and optimistic, a lot of your problems either become unimportant, or else they disappear altogether.

Dr Carlson also stresses that it is very important for people to take responsibility for their own happiness. When you realize this, it can give you a sense of power. Instead of blaming others we should learn how we ourselves can change to improve the situation. As a result your personal relations will improve and you will feel happier.

Dr Carlson also recommends people to develop a sense of presence. What he means is that we should always be focused on whatever it is that we are doing at any particular time. If you are successful at doing this, others will respect you.

Millions of people have benefited from Dr Carlson's common sense approach to happiness. He manages to make complex issues easier to deal with.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why did Dr Carlson start writing books?

What advice for being happy does Dr Carlson give?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

MUHAMMAD ALI

You must have heard about Muhammad Ali — probably the most famous athlete and one of the best-known people in the world. But what do you actually know about his life?

He was the first three-time heavyweight boxing champion of the world. He was known for his powerful hands as well as for his poetry. His ability to compose rhymes while boxing impressed many people. He could be called the first rapper. He won an Olympic gold medal and later threw it into a river in protest against racism in America.

Ali's interest in boxing began when he was 12. He was living in a poor black neighbourhood in Louisville, together with his parents and brother Rudy. One day, when his new bicycle got stolen, Ali reported the fact to a local policeman, Joe Martin. He was furious and said that he was going to beat up the thief. Martin was the boxing coach at the Louisville's Club and he also had a TV show called 'Tomorrow's Champions'. Seeing fire in Ali's eyes, he suggested that the boy learned to fight.

Ali passionately devoted himself to amateur boxing. He trained hard and soon became famous in his hometown. Within the next few years, he won 100 of his 108 matches. At 18, he became Olympic gold medalist and very soon he signed a good professional contract.

In the 1960s, Ali became one of the most disputable figures in his country. He refused to serve in the American army in Vietnam for religious reasons and, as a result, he lost his championship belt. He was also sentenced to five years in prison, but later the sentence was cancelled by the Supreme Court.

Muhammad Ali retired from boxing in 1981 and soon afterwards he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. However, he remained active in various fields and he has not been forgotten. In 1999, he was named Sportsman of the Century by one of the biggest sports magazines. In the same year, Ali's daughter Laila made her debut as a boxer despite her father's earlier comments against female boxing.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What encouraged Ali to take up boxing?

How did his sporting career develop?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ATTENDING CLASSES: OPTION OR NECESSITY

Nowadays, it becomes a heatedly debated topic whether a student should be required to attend classes or not. Some people hold the opinion that the university students should be required to go to classes. However, others have a negative attitude. If I were forced to agree with one of the two positions, I would stand behind the latter. My arguments for this point are listed as follows.

I agree with the statement that going to classes should be optional for university students without reservation since I believe a student is supposed to attend those classes he or she is interested in. Naturally, interest is the mother of study. When attracted by a wonderful class, you will attend it unforcedly and immediately. Nevertheless, not all classes are so popular in reality and no one has interest in every class. Consequently, you should select the classes you like to attend for a higher efficiency of studying. It can be given a good example, in current universities, many excellent students almost have the record of skipping some boring and undesirable classes.

Another reason that can be seen by everyone is that it contributes to build a university student's ability of learning by himself or herself. Obviously, by choosing good and meaningful classes, giving up those undesirable, or studying these classes you cannot attend somehow by yourself, you will learn how to distribute your study time and acquire the capability of learning by yourself, which is tremendously important to modern university students. Many celebrities, such as Bill Gates, have such powerful ability by not attending some classes when they were in university.

Admittedly, being required to attend classes has advantages of disciplining the student, however, considering most university students can discipline themselves on their own, I believe it is sagacious to agree with that going to classes should be optional for college or university students.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the reasons for attending classes?

Can attending classes be optional?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

MOBILE PHONE PROTEST

Students in a school in Canada walked out of lessons to protest about the action of their headteacher. They said the headteacher had broken the law and violated their rights.

The headteacher had installed a mobile phone jammer within the school. The jammer stops signals from reaching mobile phones, so it stopped all the students' mobile phones from working.

Teachers at the school claim that students using mobile phones in lessons – especially for texting – has become a major problem. In 2007 the school banned students from taking phones into the classroom.

But teachers say they were each still having to confiscate two or three phones a day because students were ignoring the rule and texting in class. The teachers say this

was very annoying because it was disrupting lessons. It took two days for pupils to work out that a jammer was the reason their phones weren't working.

A group of the students used the internet to find out about the use of mobile phone jammers. They found a reference to a law called the Canada Radiocommunications Act. This law says it's illegal to use any device that blocks people's mobile phone signals.

The students then held a protest rally against the use of the jammer. As soon as the headteacher learnt it was illegal, he switched the jamming device off. He said he was impressed by the way the pupils had done their research into the Radiocommunications Act.

Mobile phones in school classrooms cause a lot of arguments. Many students say it is their right to have them wherever they want. Some parents say they want to be able to contact their children. But many teachers say they can't teach lessons when there are so many disruptions from using mobile phones.

Not all teachers think mobile phones should be banned, though. Many say the best action would be to educate students on when it's appropriate to use mobile phones.

Отвечьте на вопросы.

What made the headteacher switch off the mobile phone jammer?

Why did the headteacher decide to install the jammer?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

SHOPPING IN LONDON

John tells us a bit more about shopping in London... "When I visit London one of my favourite things to do is shopping! I really enjoy hunting around for a bargain in the sales, buying something new to wear out on a Saturday night. Or alternatively, a bit of window-shopping – it doesn't cost a penny. Sometimes I'll spend hours just wandering around a market having a chat with my friends. There are loads of different places to go shopping in London. You can go to Oxford Street, but be warned, it gets too busy sometimes; it can be difficult to go anywhere! Alternatively for a less crowded, more relaxing shopping experience, go to Covent Garden, you can have an expensive cappuccino, and watch some (free) street theatres at the same time.

Some people like shopping in department stores, the most famous one in London is 'Harrods', but for me, it's not modern enough, and too expensive, the sort of place your parents shop. But just down the road is 'Harvey Nies', much more up-to-date, but not cheap. The best of all the big department stores is 'Selfridges' in Oxford Street, it's a shopper's paradise, nice clothes, and the prices. Well I can look, can't I?

You can also try Camden, it's busy, exciting, trendy, and there are lots of bargains! You can buy cheap jeans and cool second hand clothes in the morning and then get a tattoo and a body piercing later on! If all that shopping is too tiring, you can get some Chinese or Thai food for £2 or £3, sit by the canal and have a drink. What could be better?

If Camden is not cultured enough, you might prefer a day in Greenwich – a world heritage site. This is a much more relaxing day out. You can have a walk round the market and shops, and then take in a bit of London’s history – it was the birthplace of Henry VIII, Queen Mary and Elizabeth I. There’s also the park, the ‘CuttySark’ (an old tea clipper ship), the meridian line (where east meets west), and the old observatory... so much to do, but don’t forget the shopping!”

Ответьте на вопросы.

What does John like about shopping?

Why is Greenwich interesting to visit?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

READY-MADE MEALS

It started with shepherd’s pie 30 years ago and now ready-made meals have transformed the nation’s eating habits.

Britons spent £1.9 billion on ready-made meals last year, twice as much as the French and Germans, four times as much as the Italians and six times as much as the Spanish. Nearly one in three British adults eats a ready-made meal more than once a week. Some claim that the reason for it is an excuse “Can’t cook, won’t cook”. However, others consider it to be a case of culture.

The ready-made meal boom also reflects changing social trends in Britain. More people live alone and so are less likely to cook. And with families eating apart more often, ready-meals allow people to eat what they want when they want.

But ready meals also reflect changing tastes in food. Britain’s multi-culturalism has brought a wider range of restaurants than other European countries, and ethnic cuisines, which people are often scared of cooking, are far more popular. One quarter of chilled meals are Indian, and nearly one in five is Chinese. Traditional British food accounts for only 18 per cent of sales.

The quality of ready-made meals has become better since the 1970s. However, DrJebb says: “Ready-made meals tend to be higher in fat, sugar and salt than the meals we would cook ourselves at home. Fat is cheap and it adds flavour. Most of the salt we eat is added by manufacturers – people like it.” But it is not necessarily bad. People can choose healthy options, or have ready-made salads. There is a whole generation that has been brought up with ready meals. They haven’t grown up with cooking, they have neither the ability nor the desire to cook.

If we cook, we are interested in life. For many of us, cooking is a way of keeping some control over our own health and happiness. There is no way to guarantee a long and healthy life, but there are three ways to make it possible. The first is to drink a lot of water, the second is to walk a lot and the third is to cook.

Ответьте на вопросы.

What does DrJebb think about ready-made meals?

Why do people need to cook?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

HOW TO BECOME RICH

I believe that even people who are deeply in debt can become wealthy in ten years or less.

The first step is taking control of spending. So, start living on less than you make. Track your spending for a month. Then review your notes to see where you can make cuts. The next step is looking towards tomorrow. Even people happy in their jobs today understand that things are changing in every profession and that they might not be secure tomorrow.

Lastly, these people are saving like crazy ones. Now is not the time to buy that 42-inch flat-screen TV if you can't afford it.

A poor person should really learn to be as optimistic as a millionaire. Try this simple exercise. For the next three days, notice and write down five good things happening in your world. After three days, you'll see that good things are part of a pattern in your life. This will make you more optimistic, and optimism is a wealth magnet. Study after study shows that people with faith in themselves and in the future get more jobs and keep more jobs. They save for tomorrow rather than spend for today because they're convinced there will be a tomorrow.

I've designed a set of special exercises to help people overcome financial difficulties. The exercises are valuable because they help make changes real and they give you a goal and focus. Most involve keeping a journal or asking yourself challenging questions. One that's really valuable is writing about yourself in the third person. New research shows that when you write about yourself as 'he' or 'she,' it takes away some of the self-consciousness. You can see if you're emphasizing positive or negative attributes and understand how others see you. From there, you can start to make changes.

The research being done by psychologist Bob Emmons on gratitude made a difference. His idea is that grateful individuals lead happier, more successful lives. Bob got me to appreciate the everyday – to stop comparing, to do things for others, to use visual aids to stimulate me, like the sign I put up in my house that says 'Breathe.' In this economy, it's something everyone needs to remember.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What exercises should a person do to overcome financial difficulties?

Why is it important for people to feel optimistic if they want to get rich?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As the owner of a local restaurant, I try to stay on good terms with the members of the community, both young and old. I encourage local people to spend time in downtown Burlington, and I also encourage young people to exercise as much as they can.

However, having these same young people riding skateboards up and down our sidewalks, knocking over pedestrians, and generally being a real nuisance, is not exactly what I had in mind. Right now, young people are skating on the sidewalks

and in the parking lots after school and on weekends, but school will soon be out. What will happen then? I think we all know the answer. Kids will be riding up and down the streets all day long and into the evening. Most of the skateboarding kids are polite and considerate. They try not to bother people walking on the sidewalks, and they stay out of the traffic. But they are still kids, and there will be dozens of them on the street as soon as school lets out. There are always a few troublemakers, too, and they will cause some problems. I would like to suggest that we avoid the whole situation by doing something about it now. I think the best approach would be to build a skate park in the downtown area where kids can skate as much as they want. Such a park would provide a place for the kids to go and would help prevent accidents on the sidewalk and in the streets. I also think this can be done inexpensively. A skate park does not require a lot of resources, and I think many parents would contribute time and money to the project.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What does the author think about skateboarding kids?

What does the author offer to improve the situation?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

FENG SHUI

At the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the most items for sale in the gift shop this year were stone lions. These lions were made by Chinese artist CaiGuo-Qiang. But people could not just buy them. Customers had to explain why they needed the lions. Cai chose the customers he thought needed the lions most. Then, for a cost of \$500 to \$1,000 each, Cai sold the stone lions with directions on where to place them.

The popularity of the stone lions is related to fengshui (pronounced “fungshway”), which is an old Chinese tradition. The words mean “wind and water.” The practice of fengshui involves types of energy and where they are located. Believers feel that you will be successful in life if you arrange your home and place of business in the best possible ways. A good arrangement will attract good energy, and your life will be good. If your home is arranged poorly, bad energy will follow.

Ten years ago, not many people in this country believed in fengshui. But that has changed. Especially in large cities, such as New York and Los Angeles, more and more people now hire fengshui experts to help them find the right homes and improve their lives. But how does fengshui work?

The picture at the right shows where to find the eight important “life stations.”

Now imagine that your home is a square, and the front door is the “Career” station.

The other shape stations are located in relation to the front door. What you place in each location will determine how successful you are. For example, the far left corner is the location for “Wealth.” If you have healthy plants growing in that part of your house, then your wealth will grow. If you have a pile of dirty laundry in that corner, then you will have little success in business.

The same kinds of principles apply in other life stations. Plants, crystals, lights, mirrors, and candles are things that attract good energy. Half-moon shapes, the sun, bells, and chimes are good, too. Stones (like the stone lions), trees, and lamp stands add strength to your home. But long halls, fans, toilets, TVs, and such can block energy. They must be placed carefully or removed. Also, piles of junk must be cleaned up and toys put away. Everything should be in order.

Does the practice of fengshui really work? No one can say for sure. But paying attention to where you put things and cleaning up piles of junk will probably improve your life anyway. So why not try it? FengShui Ba-Qua Life Stations Fame Relationships Children Helpful People Career New Knowledge Health Family Wealth

Ответьте на следующие вопросы.

What is the origin of fengshui?

What are the principles of fengshui?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LEANING TOWER

PISA, Italy—Engineers said last week that they have stopped the sinking of the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. The tower has been closed since 1990 for fear that it would someday fall over. Now, according to project leader Paolo Heiniger, the tower has been fixed. But it still leans. This city in Italy would not be the same if the Tower did not lean. Millions of tourists visit Pisa every year to see the 196-foot tower.

Until ten years ago, people could also climb to the top of the tower. Some people believe that is where Galileo did his experiments with gravity nearly 500 years ago.

Construction of the tower began in 1173 when Pisa was a center of power and wealth. But work was stopped several times because of wars. The eight-story tower was not completed until the late 1200s. Even then, the tower leaned. The tower itself is made of marble and weighs 16,000 tons. Problems in the construction of the tower were caused by the soil underneath. The ground is softer on one side than on the other. The entire tower has been slowly sinking into the ground for centuries. The south side has sunk 6.1 feet below ground level. The north side has sunk 12.3 feet! Now, engineers have completed the 20 million dollar project. They have removed soil from under one side of the tower and pulled the tower a bit more upright. These corrections should keep the tower standing for another 300 years.

Ответьте на следующие вопросы.

Why was the tower closed in 1990?

What problems did the construction of tower face?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

TULIPS BUSINESS

When most Americans think of the Netherlands, a country that is also called Holland, they think of tulips. In fact, Holland produces about three billion tulip bulbs each year, and Americans buy about one billion of those bulbs. But tulips did not originally grow in Holland. How they got there and became so popular is a tale so strange it is hard to believe.

The brilliantly colored flowers now known as Dutch tulips first came to Europe in the 1500s. They came mainly from Turkey and parts of Central Asia. In Turkey, tulips had been cultivated for centuries. In fact, the name tulip comes from the Turkish word *tülbent*, referring to a kind of hat worn by many Turks and Persians of that time. The hat and the flower were similar in shape.

The first tulip bulbs were brought to Holland in 1593 by a botanist named Carolus Clusius. He planted the bulbs and grew beautiful flowers. But he would not share his bulbs with anyone. Several “businessmen” who saw the flowers also saw an opportunity to make money. They visited Clusius’s garden in the middle of the night and stole most of his bulbs. That was the beginning of a remarkable mania for tulip bulbs that created some huge fortunes in Holland—and then destroyed them. By 1624, several kinds of tulips were being grown in Holland, but only in small numbers. The gorgeous flowers were very popular, especially those with unusual colors or stripes. Very rare kinds of tulips were even given important-sounding names, such as “*Semper Augustus*.” Since there were so few bulbs available, however, they were very expensive. Only the wealthiest citizens could afford to buy them. Such demand made the tulip bulb a status symbol—people simply had to have them—and prices began to rise. When merchants and tradesmen saw how much money rich people would spend on tulip bulbs, they began planting and raising bulbs in any soil they could find. From this point on, the tulip business became a madness. One of the most expensive kinds of tulip in 1624 was the “*Semper Augustus*.” Its flowers had maroon and white stripes. This kind of tulip sold for as much as 3,000 guilders per bulb, or about 1,500 U.S. dollars. In 1624, that was a huge amount of money! For 3,000 guilders, one could buy a fine house in the city of Amsterdam, or enough food to last a family for most of a year. Instead, the money was spent on tulip bulbs.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why are the Netherlands associated with tulips?

What made tulips a status symbol?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LEARNING FROM HISTORY

September 6, 1900. A terrible storm struck the Gulf of Mexico and was headed toward the coast of Texas. A hurricane watch was posted for the southern coast of the United States.

September 7, 1900. Heavy rain began to fall at 4:00 A.M. By 9:00 A.M., winds had increased, and huge waves began pounding the shores of Galveston Island. The

Weather Bureau posted hurricane warnings, and nearly 20,000 people evacuated the island. Unfortunately, thousands of others paid no attention to the warning. Many people from Houston rode the train to Galveston to see the hurricane and watch the enormous waves. When the waves destroyed the boardwalk and smashed several wooden boats to pieces, people on the island realized it was time to leave. For most of them, it was already too late.

September 8, 1900. By 3:00 A.M., winds had reached 125 miles per hour. The three bridges connecting Galveston Island with the mainland had all been destroyed, so there was no way to escape. Waves more than 20 feet high crushed wooden buildings, houses, and ships. People fled to the center of the island, which was slightly higher than the shore, but it was no use. By early morning, most of the island was 15 feet under water. The only remaining structure above water was the Bolivar Point lighthouse, and it was overflowing with more people than it could hold.

September 9, 1900. As the storm began to move away from Galveston, the extent of the disaster became clear. More than 8,000 people died on Galveston Island in a period of 24 hours, most of them by drowning. More than 2,600 houses and over 12 square blocks of the city were completely demolished. There was no trace of these structures left. All bridges to the island and 15 miles of railroad track were destroyed, and the few people who survived on the island had no way to communicate with people on the mainland. The only functioning structure left was the Bolivar Point lighthouse. Its beacon shined for several days to help ships back to shore and to tell people on the mainland that there were survivors on the island who needed help.

After this massive storm, the people of Galveston immediately began to rebuild the city. First they worked to raise the elevation of the island to a few feet above sea level. Then they constructed a concrete seawall that was 17 feet high and 3 miles long.

Galveston soon became a thriving city once again, and it is thriving today. For decades, most of the construction in Galveston has stayed behind the seawall. But now, as the population continues to grow and oceanfront homes become more popular, people are once again building houses on the beach. The lessons learned from the great hurricane of 1900 have faded into the past.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why do people often ignore wheather forecast warnings?

Why didn't people learn the lessons from the past?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

A KEY TO SUCCESS

I fully agree with the claim that there is no correlation between success and luck. Moreover, I understand success to refer to one's ability to achieve the predominant part of his goals in his lifetime, which in turn leads to a correlation between success and income since the accomplishment of such a natural goal as to provide a good future for your loved ones demands the means. What is the simplest and most lawful way to earn enough to consider yourself a successful person? To receive a good

education and to find a good job. Both receiving an education and making a career presuppose one's readiness to work hard, and success without hard work is simply not possible for the vast majority of the world's population. The reasons and examples listed below will strengthen my point of view.

First of all, considering an education and a career as key factors of success, one will choose to pursue a degree from a college or a university. One wishing to be admitted to the university will have to take several tests. It is doubtful that someone will be so lucky that knowing nothing, he could pass the test with a high score. A low score means failure, and that test taker will not likely be admitted. Therefore, in order to be successful, one should prepare for the tests and work hard, because a good education will provide him with a good job and an opportunity to accomplish some of his goals and dreams. In my lifetime, I have never met a person who could graduate from a college without working hard.

Secondly, it is impossible to make a career if one is indolent and lacking knowledge, at least in developed countries. Luck plays no role in achieving this success. Even if someone was unbelievably lucky enough to become a manager not being qualified enough, he will be asked to resign in the near future because of his inability due to lack of knowledge and experience to make right decisions. For instance, I used to work for a very small company owned by a friend. This company was later closed because of bankruptcy. The cause of bankruptcy was wrong strategies and decisions made by the owner. After the failure, he went to a university and worked for another company so that he could obtain experience and become a successful businessman.

Nowadays, he considers himself a successful person because he had turned into reality his two biggest dreams of producing consumer goods of high quality and making charitable donations to needy people.

In sum, as long as someone understands success as an ability to turn into reality some of his dreams and goals, he will have to work hard because he will need money. And his chances to earn that money will remarkably increase if he could graduate from a college and make a career. All of these things are simply not possible without hard work. Luck has no place in such a scheme of events.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

How does the author determine success?

What role does luck play in achieving success?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

BEING SUCCESSFUL: DESTINY OR HARD WORK

There is a humorous saying in English - "The grass is always greener on the other side of the valley". The saying is used ironically to point out that there is a temptation in us all to insist that others are more fortunate than we are. This is nowhere more true than on the question of luck and hard work. When faced with the "bad times", we often find comfort in the idea that we are special in our degree of

misfortune. I feel that such an attitude is negative, and that it can bring only further misfortune.

Many famously successful people have begun from small origins. Mao was the son of a (modestly prosperous) peasant; the explorer Captain Cook was so poor that, as a child, he had to work by day and study by night; many of the affluent Americans of today are the children of the poor immigrants of yesterday. Beethoven, it should be remembered, became deaf before the end of his career. There are many, many more people who have also made genuine, though less spectacular, successes against the odds.

Within his own terms, a person who is born into poverty in India is a great success if he manages to own a house in later life. Poverty cannot be reduced by merely complaining and blaming others: no matter how guilty other people are, each individual must reach out to success for himself. Indeed, some economists believe that the world operates by what they call “the rule of the jungle”. They believe that in economics a person always attempts to gain profit from his neighbor: that given the chance the poor man would quickly make himself rich by trading to his own advantage.

Also, it is presumptuous to judge another according to his or her apparent fortune. No man can ever truly understand the sufferings of his neighbor. A man who appears comfortably rich may have suffered elsewhere in his life - through the death of a loved one, for example. Retired businessmen have often worked long hours in their youth. Surely, it must be wiser to respect achievement than to deny that anyone has achieved good in the world.

To rely on notions of luck - to believe that life is a kind of lottery - is an attempt to escape reality. Paradoxically, the only time a person can claim that luck is more important than work is when he reflects on his own success. Because of that modesty, the great man then becomes even greater.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Do you agree that the world operates by 'the rule of the jungle'?

What makes people successful?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

FIREWORKS

We all love watching fireworks, from the flashy shows on the Fourth of July to the Roman candle burning in the backyard. But let's stop and think about the price we pay for just a few minutes of excitement.

First, the amount of money we spend on fireworks is absurd. The excitement is gone, literally, in a flash. Let's face it, what we really are doing is burning money. Yet, year after year, thousands of cities and towns spend our tax dollars for fireworks displays. Those tax dollars would be put to much better use feeding our hungry and housing our homeless.

Second, there is the matter of pollution. Fireworks contain chemicals that are harmful to people and animals. Over the years, these chemicals will poison the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Third, let's consider the trash left behind after a fireworks display. What a mess! One would expect that those who set off the fireworks would have the decency to pick up the trash afterwards. But they don't. The mess they leave behind reflects the kind of attitude many Americans have toward our environment.

Fourth, fireworks are dangerous. Some fireworks can damage your hearing, especially the fireworks used in public displays that give off a big BANG. Losing your hearing is too high a price to pay. Despite all the safety warnings, we still see injuries and deaths as a result of fireworks. Approximately 10,000 Americans are injured every year by fireworks. According to the Council on Fireworks Safety, children from the ages of five to fourteen are the ones most often injured. Those sparklers that seem so harmless cause 10% of the injuries. But sparklers run a distant third after skyrockets (number two) and firecrackers, which are the leading cause of injuries. In my view, all consumer fireworks should be banned. Public fireworks displays should be kept to a minimum and should be paid for through volunteer funding, not tax dollars.

Finally, those people in charge of fireworks displays should be responsible for cleaning up the mess they make.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the disadvantages of fireworks?

According to the author should fireworks be banned?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

FUNNY MONEY

Counterfeiting of paper money in the United States has quite a long history.

Ever since people began using paper currency, criminals have been making fake money. During Colonial times, when each colony issued its own "notes" or bills, counterfeiting was a huge problem. Most of the Colonial bills were small and printed on only one side. The designs on them were fairly simple. Anyone with just a bit of skill and the right tools could copy them without too much trouble.

Counterfeiting was also a problem in the 1830s when up to 1,600 different banks were issuing paper money. There were so many different kinds of bills circulating that it was hard to pick out the counterfeits. In the 1860s, the United States Treasury began issuing its own paper money. The government tried to design bills that would be hard to counterfeit. The bills were printed on cotton and linen paper with red and blue fibers running through it. The bills bore a Treasury seal and very elaborate designs. While these steps did help cut down on some of the counterfeiting, they did not put counterfeiters out of business.

Since 1877, the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing has printed all U.S. currency. But counterfeiting is still a problem. Today's thieves are quick to take advantage of new technology. For example, counterfeiters now use

advanced copiers and printers to make copies of money, or they use a computer to scan images of the bills and print them out on desktop printers.

In 1990, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing introduced security threads and microprinting on its bills to try to prevent counterfeiting. In 1994, the government came up with better designs for bills. Newly designed \$100 notes were issued in 1996, \$50 notes in 1997, and \$20 notes in 1998. The new \$5 and \$10 notes came out in 2000. The government does not plan to issue newly designed \$1 bills since they are not popular with counterfeiters.

These new bills boast many features designed to help cut down on counterfeiting. One of them is a special ink that changes color when light hits the money at different angles. Another is microprinting of words that are so small, they are hard to duplicate.

Many people think the new bills look funny. The portraits on the front of the bills are much larger than before, and they are slightly off center. The new bills also have watermarks, which are based on the same art as the portrait. The watermarks can be seen from both sides when the bill is held up to a light, and they are extremely difficult to copy.

Preventing counterfeiting seems to be an ongoing battle. But who knows, it just might be this “funny money” that finally puts an end to the phony money business forever.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What features have been designed to prevent from counterfeiting?

What is called phony money business?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

BRITAIN VS AMERICA

We take an insulting (and hopefully humorous) look at the differences between Americans and British people and probably manage to offend both of them!

Americans aim to do three things in life:

1. 'Look after Number One'
2. Live forever and look beautiful and young for as long as possible
3. Make lots of money and/or become famous

They will do anything to achieve these three goals. The British are very different. They would like to be quite rich, but are happy to accept their lot if they're not. They would never dream of putting themselves before others (which is why they like to queue so much and allow people to go in front of them in races), even if their lives depended on it. They are proud of the class system that divides them.

Food and drink

The Americans love food, in large quantities and endless varieties. Many American meals often don't even fit on the plate. Americans like their food to be wrapped in clingfilm (or shrink-wrap as Americans call it - see what we mean about this language difference thing!) and ready for the microwave. This is true unless of course they are Californians in which case they eat 'raw energy food' known to the

rest of the world as salad. The British only eat food to survive and would never dream of enjoying it. They prefer to cook their food for twice as long as necessary just to make sure it's done, and don't like to have too many choices on menus as they find it impossible to make up their minds.

Children

Both British and American parents are proud of their children, but here the similarity ends. American parents publicly admire their children and like to share their successes with everyone, assuming that everyone else is interested. They change their children if they don't like them the way they are, by, for example, straightening their teeth or boosting their self-confidence by planning extra activities for them.

British parents think that too much praise would make their children overconfident.

British parents are happy to accept their children as nature intended, even if it means their teeth look terrible.

Weather

In America, 'hot and sunny' means that you should wear factor 20 suncream and you could cook eggs on the sidewalk (or 'pavement' as the Brits would say). In Britain, 'hot and sunny' means it isn't raining so you should expose any white skin in a public place until it goes pink, or it starts to rain.

Television

America has thousands of TV channels because most Americans have a very short attention span.

TV and film companies won't film anyone who isn't blonde and beautiful, who is slightly overweight or who does not have perfect teeth, unless they are appearing on a talk show.

Britain is well known for its comedy, drama and award-winning commercials (or 'advertisements' as those 'quaint' little Brits would say) and the fact that it has only 5 TV channels. However, as most British people would never want to appear on TV, they don't need more than 5 channels.

Houses

Americans spend thousands of dollars employing decorators to create a perfect home and lifestyle for themselves. They are particularly fond of gadgets, as well as things which are remote-controlled (garage doors and temperature controls), extremely large (fridges) or just for lazy people (ice cube dispensers). Britons are much less vulgar than the Americans. They really like patterned carpets and furniture (as many different patterns as possible in the same room) and are not concerned that they live in freezing conditions indoors as well as outdoors.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the three things Americans try to achieve?

What's the difference between American and British parents?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DOWN AND ACROSS

Did you know that an oryx is an African antelope with straight horns? Did you know that an arete is a mountain ridge formed by glaciers? That a naira is a unit of money in Nigeria? If you happen to be a person who likes crossword puzzles, you will probably run into these words and many more that are just as unusual. If not, then you may never see these words again. They are not exactly the kinds of words you would use in everyday conversation, but I have always had a certain fondness for them.

I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a writer, and I loved to solve crossword puzzles. Perhaps it was inevitable that I would begin writing my own puzzles. My original plan was to write novels and win the Nobel Prize for literature, but the first things I ever got published were crossword puzzles. I would sit for hours and hours at the kitchen table trying to think of words that would fit into the puzzles I made. Quite often I would visit the dictionary for help, and I would find words I had never heard of before.

Constructing crossword puzzles is not as difficult as it seems, but it does take a lot of time. First, you have to think of an idea, or theme, for the puzzle. For example, you might decide that the puzzle will focus on the names of states. You choose the states you want to include, and then you build a diagram, like the ones used for puzzles in the newspaper. Crossword puzzles come in certain sizes, and the diagrams are always symmetrical. That means that there are certain patterns of black squares and white squares. If the first word across the top is six letters long, then the last word along the bottom must also be six letters long.

Once you have the diagram and the theme words, then you fill in the rest of the words in the puzzle. Since all the words must fit together across and down, you really need to know some unusual words. For example, let's say you need a five-letter word, and you know the middle letters have to be a-i-a. The word could be naiad, which is the name for a water nymph from Greek mythology. How often do you think you would see that word? When the words have all been filled in, then you number the squares in the diagram and write a clue for each word.

After several years of writing crossword puzzles for the Boston Globe, The New York Times, and many other newspapers and magazines, I finally did start writing novels and stories. But crosswords got me started, and they taught me a vast number of words that I may never see again. As for the Nobel Prize? Well, I did use the word Nobel several times in crossword puzzles. . .

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What was the original author's plan?

Did the author's plan work out?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ROLLING STONES

ALES—Nearly every day for the past six months, a ragtag group of volunteers has been pushing and pulling a large blue stone through dirt and mud. The stone

weighs three tons, and it comes from the Preseli Mountains in southwestern Wales. The group's goal is to move the stone 240 miles across land and water to the Salisbury plain in England. There, the stone will be reunited with its long-lost cousins at a place called Stonehenge.

About 5,000 years ago, people in what is now Britain began building a mysterious circle of blue stones. The building of Stonehenge probably took hundreds of years to complete. The structure has 80 stones in all. Each stone weighs about three tons, and archaeologists believe that all of the stones were transported from Wales to Salisbury.

The goal of this year's stone-moving project is to prove that it would have been possible for the people of long ago to move the stones to Salisbury. The group has used wooden sleds, logs, barges, and pure physical strength to move one stone many miles. Group leader Philip Bowen believes the effort will take a total of almost nine months.

Stonehenge has attracted and mystified people for centuries. No one is sure why it was built, but its design was apparently based on the movement of the sun. Its 80 stones are arranged in a circular design with one stone—the “heel stone”—set apart. Many of the stones stand upright with horizontal stones laid across the top to form arches. If you stand in the center of the circle on the summer or winter solstice (the longest and shortest days of the year), the sun sets directly over the heel stone. For the rest of the year, the sunset moves to different parts of the circle. Scientists have invented many theories to explain Stonehenge. Some people think it was a calendar used to keep track of days and years. Some think it was a monument for sun worship, or perhaps a monument where people went to honor the dead. Others think that aliens who visited Earth thousands of years ago left Stonehenge behind just to let us know they were here. For whatever reason it was built, Stonehenge continues to amaze people who see it. Every year on the solstice, thousands of people go to Stonehenge to dance and celebrate. Now Philip Bowen and his group of volunteers are rolling a new stone across the country. They will deliver the stone to Stonehenge, and then . . . well, then they will stop.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is a 'stone-moving project'?

What is the idea of Stonehenge?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHAT IS A MONEY AUCTION?

The Bank of England is holding an auction offering to lend £10bn to the UK's banks. But what exactly is an auction of funds? The Bank of England is doing it and it's not the only one. So is the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank (ECB), the Swiss National Bank and the Bank of Canada. In total £54bn (\$110bn) will be made available to world money markets by the five central banks, with £10bn up for grabs in the UK. The ECB has made £250bn available (\$500bn). It's known as

an auction of funds and it's the first time the banks have joined forces in such a way. But what is the auction all about?

An auction of funds is when the world's central banks offer cash loans to help banks deal with a credit crisis. It's supposed to ease the strain on the system and help business to continue as usual. Banks normally borrow from each other or borrow funds from the money markets when they have a mismatch between borrowers and cash. But the money can dry up if some banks start to hoard cash to guard against uncertainty in the world's financial markets. Institutions are currently nervous about lending money because of heavy losses linked to problems in the US mortgage market. No one knows how big the losses are so banks want to hoard money against future losses, and they also fear lending to their competitors who may also be holding big, undisclosed losses. As a result banks are unable to borrow in the money markets or elsewhere at a cheap rate of interest. It also means that any cuts in interest rates made by central banks are not passed on to individuals and companies.

Banks with high loan-to-deposit ratios, such as Northern Rock, have been hardest hit, as they rely heavily on money market funding which has now dried up. Offering to inject the cash into money markets by auction is an attempt by the Bank of England to reduce the interest rates banks are charging each other and encourage them to start lending to each other more readily. "One of the Bank's two core purposes is to maintain the stability of the financial system," says a Bank spokesperson. "It has to make sure the overall system is safe and secure and that threats to financial stability are detected and reduced." BBC business editor Robert Peston says just the announcement of the auction has injected a bit more confidence in markets, but it is limited. "By way of evidence, the interest rates at which bankers are prepared to lend to each other have come down," he says. They fell from 6.627% to 6.514%. The money on offer does not exist before the auction. It's created for the purpose of lending it out to banks and electronically transfers to their accounts. When the banks pay it back it is usually worked into the bank's accounts but can just disappear again.

The amount of money up for grabs is announced before an auction and at what rate it must be repaid and over what period. The £10bn on offer in the UK today will have a three-month repayment period. Banks then bid for as much as they like of the total available. They put in a bid saying how much of it they want and what interest rate they are prepared to pay above the minimum rate set by the bank. The Bank then allocates the money to the highest until it has run out. In this case, the Bank had bids for the whole £10bn. It allocated 75% of the money at the low interest rate of 5.39% and the rest at higher rates. There is always chance that the money could be left untouched. It can be an expensive way of borrowing and there is also a stigma attached to drawing on such funding, as it shows a bank needs to get hold of extra funds.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What institutions are authorised to hold auctions of funds?

What organizations do the banks borrow money from?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE WORLD'S RUBBISH DUMP

CNN NEWS, 12.04.08: A "plastic soup" of waste floating in the Pacific Ocean is growing at an alarming rate and now covers an area twice the size of the continental United States, scientists have said. The vast expanse of debris - in effect the world's largest rubbish dump - is held in place by swirling underwater currents. This drifting "soup" stretches from about 500 nautical miles off the Californian coast, across the northern Pacific, past Hawaii and almost as far as Japan. Charles Moore, an American oceanographer who discovered the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" or "trash vortex", believes that about 100 million tons of flotsam are circulating in the region: "The original idea that people had was that it was an island of plastic garbage that you could almost walk on. It is not quite like that. It is almost like a plastic soup. It is endless. Marine detritus includes plastic bottles, golf balls, plates, knives, forks, toothbrushes, helmets, tubes, beach toys, syringes and fishing tackle."

Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer and leading authority on flotsam, has tracked the build-up of plastics in the seas for more than 15 years and compares the trash vortex to a living entity: "It moves around like a big animal without a leash. When that animal comes close to land, as it does at the Hawaiian archipelago, the results are dramatic. The garbage patch comes up, and you get a beach covered with this confetti of plastic," he added.

The Mediterranean suffers more pollution from discarded plastics than any other sea, especially the north-west sector that washes up on holiday resorts in Spain, France and Italy, an ecological study has found. Around 6.5 million tons of rubbish lie below the surface of the world's oceans. The highest concentration by far - including almost 2,000 pieces of plastic per square kilometre - is in the Mediterranean. A separate Spanish study also predicts global warming will bring hurricanes to the Mediterranean, whipping usually tranquil waters into cyclones. This means the garbage may not remain on the seabed for long. Most of the human rubbish in the seas consists of plastic containers and bags. These present a serious environmental problem if you bear in mind that their average life, before they disintegrate, is around 450 years. The non-biodegradable pieces of rubbish that wash on to the beaches of southern Europe form only 15 per cent of the total. "Most of it we never see, since 70 per cent sits on the sea bed. And another 15 per cent floats suspended in the water," said Mario Rodriguez, Greenpeace's campaigns director. "Our perception that the Mediterranean is clean is false. During the holiday season the beaches are cleaned constantly. But, if you stroll along a beach between September and May, you find plastic rubbish all over the place."

Greenpeace's report *Plastics Debris in the World's Oceans*, produced last year, compiles all current data on the matter. Yesterday was the first time they focused on the Mediterranean. "It's clear we are drowning in a sea of plastics," Mr Rodriguez said. The pollution is due to the sea being enclosed, surrounded by industrialised countries, and with high levels of tourism and commercial traffic. A recent study of the endangered loggerhead turtle off Spain's Mediterranean coast found that 75 per cent of them had swallowed plastic bags. Mr Rodriguez said: "We have to understand

the sea is not a tip; it will constantly return to us what we throw in." Plastic debris compounds an already serious pollution situation in the Mediterranean.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is marine detritus?

Where does plastic debris cause a serious pollution situation?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE CONCRETE GENERATION

THE DAILY MAIL, 12.03.08: More than a million youngsters have never been on a trip to the countryside. A generation of children have never visited the countryside and believe their food originates at the supermarket, according to research yesterday. The youngsters - dubbed 'concrete children' by psychologists because of their exclusively urban lives - are more likely to have gone abroad than walk in the woods, fields and farms of their native country. In all, it is thought that 1.1 million eight to 13-year-olds have never set foot in the countryside. The findings have alarmed Prince Charles, who today launches a campaign to get children back in touch with the nation's rural roots. A poll uncovered the scale of the problem when it found the source of food such as rhubarb or spinach was a mystery to many. One child believed cabbages came from Asda while another said lemons originated in Birmingham. A third of the 1,000 children polled to coincide with Charles's campaign thought white bread was made with milk while brown bread was made with wheat.

Charles, who is patron of the Year of Food and Farming campaign, said youngsters needed to understand how the food they buy affects the environment. The poll found that one in five has never visited the countryside and 17 per cent have been only 'once or twice', meaning a third of children overall have the most fleeting of contact with the rural world. The research follows other studies which found the average six-year-old had spent a year of their lives watching television while a fifth of them had never picked fruit and eaten it. Dr Aric Sigman, who led the latest research, said healthier food choices were more likely from those with hands-on experience of its origins - with some youngsters even prepared to say they liked broccoli. But the benefits went further. Dr Sigman, an associate fellow of the British Psychological Society, said previous research showed contact with the natural world appeared to improve concentration, behaviour and even thinking skills among the young. He added: 'In the early years of the 21st century, we have witnessed the rise of the "concrete child", who sees life through a TV or a computer screen, rather than by simply being in the great outdoors.' Dr Sigman said, however, that annual pilgrimages to the countryside would not be enough to shift attitudes. He suggested growing vegetables in allotments, gardens and even plant pots could help to change children's dietary tastes.

Charles will launch the campaign at Highgrove today with a group of children 'walking the food chain' at Duchy Home Farm. The initiative aims to link school and youth groups with farmers and food producers who can give them hands-on

experiences of how food is grown. The prince warned of a growing disconnection of young people from the land'. 'This has many consequences, not least that too many children have no idea where their food comes from or how it is grown. We need to change this,' he said. 'What can make the most difference to children is having the chance to grow food themselves. The experience of eating food which they have grown can have the most profound effect.'

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Who are 'concrete generation'?

Why is contact with natural world important?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

SWEDES TRACE FRAUD TO RUSSIAN HACKERS

250 clients were robbed of \$1.1 million in the record-breaking Internet scam. A Russian organized crime group is suspected to be behind an Internet fraud scheme that swindled 250 customers of a Swedish Bank out of \$1.1 million in one of the biggest online scams of all time. Customers at leading Swedish bank Nordea received a series of e-mails containing a Trojan virus over a period of three months, Swedish media reported Friday, citing police sources. Opening the e-mail automatically caused the computer to install the virus, called Haxdoor, on the user's computer.

"Haxdoor is a keylogger and one of the best-known Trojan viruses written by Russian hackers," Alexander Gostev, a virus expert at Kaspersky Labs in Moscow, said "Haxdoor is designed for precision attacks." A keylogger is a piece of software that registers a user's keystrokes, which can enable hackers conducting malicious surveillance on the user's computer to harvest their secure passwords. In the case of the Nordea online bank, the attacker must have also been in possession of the database of the bank's customers. It would not have otherwise been possible for perpetrators to launch an attack without first obtaining inside knowledge about the bank's clients, he said.

Swedish police established that the log-in information was being sent to servers in the United States and then to Russia, making Russian hackers the main suspect, trade publication Computer Sweden reported Friday. "The fact that the Trojan Horse is of Russian origin is not proof that the attacks on the Nordea bank were orchestrated in Russia," Gostev said. He stressed that the virus could be written to order for any hacker with enough information to launch an attack. The Interior Ministry said locating the perpetrators would not pose any problems as soon as the Swedish police supplied all the information on how the attacks were routed. "We have 45 monitoring points out there through which states or organizations can report on activities of Russian hackers," said Irina Zubareva, head of the Interior Ministry's department on computer-related crimes. "As soon as we receive details on the Swedish bank, we'll swing into action." Zubareva also said her department had all the experience necessary to track such hackers, be they in Moscow or other parts of the country.

A press officer for Citigroup, the country's largest online banker, said banking security systems must always be a step ahead of hacking technology. "Hackers are

improving their techniques by the hour, therefore a combination of multilevel security systems is needed to provide bulletproof customer-side banking operations to prevent the kind of attacks that took place on Nordea," Citigroup press officer Vladimir Andreyev said.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Whatisakeylogger?

Why should security systems be a step ahead of hacking technology?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

PARENTS ARE BEST TEACHERS

Who are the best teachers in our life? In my opinion, the first teachers we have in our lives in most cases are our parents. They teach us to walk, to speak, and to have good manners before we reach "the real world." More than even the professional teachers that we have in school, parents are generally the most involved in the development and education of children.

The main reason for my view is that our parents are the best teachers at the beginning of our lives, which actually corresponds to the parents' role in nature. Parents are most committed and involved in teaching their children; they have a kind of instinct to sacrifice a part of themselves for the betterment of their children. They love us and have great patience while passing down their knowledge to us. They wish us a success and thus will not teach us bad things. And of course, implicit learning occurs when children unconsciously copy some of their parents' habits and styles of behavior.

Also, during the second stage of child development, adolescence, parents can still be in the best position to offer advice even though the children might not accept it. In this case, perhaps the child's friends would be the best teachers. Adolescents are notoriously rebellious in many cultures and may automatically reject any advice from their parents. My first marriage for instance, was solely a matter of doing the opposite when my parents tried to intrude in offering their advice. So in such matters, parents should be much more flexible and be rather the partners with their children. So we can see that being a teacher of growing child become more and more complicated case as the time passes and many parents are simply not able to meet the increased demands.

On the other hand, I would say that parents are not professional teachers and they tend to be very biased by their love of their children. So wishing good things and an easy life may prevent children from maturation. In any case, parents usually can present only one viewpoint of the world, while good teaching should be based on different attitudes. Thus, when children go to school and have a great diversity of teachers, they learn much more than their parents could probably give them. Furthermore, once our parents get older, they become more conservative and cannot always be objective in regard to modern trends and fashions. Things we need to take their advice with caution during that period. However, some kind of intuition which I

believe shared between relatives about what everybody needs and great love which exists in families still makes our parents very good teachers and advisers at any time.

In short, while parents are not the ideal teachers, and well-rounded children will generally need a great diversity of teachers in their lives in order to have a more accurate view of the world, parents are generally the most committed of all teachers and have the greatest emotional investment in their children and then future.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Are parents always objective?

What makes parents great teachers?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ADVOCATING TELEVISION

When asked about what has been brought by television different people have different answers.

There are some people who don't like TV saying that television has destroyed communications among friends and family, however other people take a negative attitude on this issue. In my opinion, I disagree with the above statement. The reasons are given below.

Television is only one instrument for people to relax. There are many ways of amusement for people to select after the working time nowadays. You can select to meet your friends, to accompany your parents or to take part in some sports activities. Watching TV at home is simply one way to live. It is too narrowly to regard TV as one main reason to damage relationship among friends and family just because some people has spent a lot of time on it.

Another reason that I disagree with the above statement is that TV can provide some additional topics for communication among friends and family. Talking about the news, the soap drama or soccer game watched on the TV last night is also good communication ways to increase your affections with your friends and your family. Also sometimes, skipping one TV program could probably make you lose voices among your friends.

Last but not least, watching TV is one good medicine to cure the loneliness when your friends and parents cannot accompany with you. I would not forget the warm which was brought by TV when along outside the hometown.

I can't deny that some people have ignored friends and family when they are addicted into watching TV. However, everything has its two sides. All the factors mentioned above determined me to draw the conclusion that it is not reasonable to say television has destroyed communications among friends and family.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

How does television contribute to communication among people?

Do you agree with the author's position?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LIFE AND BIG CITY

In English, there is a well-known fairy story about a poor country boy. Dick Whittington, who goes to London because he believes that the streets of that city are 'paved with gold'. The story is a tale of 'from rags to riches'. Dick eventually becomes the Lord Mayor of London. Like the hero of that story, I always find wonder and adventure in cities.

Cities contain a great assortment of people. Whenever I walk around a shopping precinct at midday on a weekend, I am fascinated by all the different types of people hurrying around the shops. Sometimes, I just sit on a public bench and simply watch the variegated streams of shoppers. Today, in the age of globe-trotting transport and communications, city life is more mixed than it has ever been. Capital cities are not cosmopolitan, and eager to attract foreign trade and currency. There is a contemporary English joke which tells that "you can never find an Englishman in London".

Whether rightly or wrongly, governments and local authorities usually build public amenities in the big cities. Money is invested in transport, libraries, parks and museums. Often, countries will compete with each other for the best "show-case" building. Malaysia has built a skyscraper that is taller than is anything in New York. In large countries, region will compete against region: New York against Chicago, Shanghai against Hong Kong and Beijing.

All of this is good for the citizen. The magic of the Dick Whittington story is rekindled in me when I enter a library in a magnificent building. If a person is at university studying art or music, a large city usually offers galleries and public performances. Even as a teenager, I appreciated the worth of living in a city because two or three times a year there was a rock concert by a favorite band.

Architecture is the urban landscape. If a person has an appreciation of architecture, a city can be as visually exciting as the Himalayas. A modern metropolis is a mountain range of height, light and solidness. And then there are the old buildings: the quaint, unspoiled side-street or shops and homes from a distant age. If a person lived all of his life in one large city, he would continue to discover its architectural secrets into his old age.

Man is a 'social animal'. He talks, mixes and creates. Cities offer the libraries, universities and café bars for him to meet others of his kind.

Ответьте на вопросы.

What are the advantages of living in a big city?

What does the saying 'you can never find an Englishman in London' mean?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

VISITING MUSEUMS

It is an interesting phenomenon that, when traveling to new places they have never been to before, many people choose to visit museums. Why museums are people's common choice? Based on my personal experience and according to my

observations, I think this is because museums tell people a lot about the culture of those places and give them pleasures.

It is easy to find out many ways to obtain knowledge about the culture of the place where people visit for the first time. You can go to a theater or worship or a nightclub. Another option is to sit in the park and listen to the people around you. Among various options, visiting museums might be the easiest way. Museums show you the history and those things that the locals think important by exhibiting objects and works, some of which might be unique in the world. On the other hand, the museums themselves are part of the landscape of the places. Many museums are designed and built based on the historical and artistic characteristics of the places where the museums are located in. The Forbidden City Museum is the most favorite tourist site because not only it contains a large variety of historical objects and art works but also it is the representative of Chinese history and the highest Chinese ancient architecture achievement. As a result, people are willing to select museums as their first destination to understand culture of the place they visit.

Museums also give people pleasure. Even if you are not interested in art or history, there is always something to get your attention. Many museums now have what they call "interactive" exhibits. The "interactive" activities were originally designed to keep children occupied while their parents were looking at exhibits. However, the interesting thing is that adults are keen to these activities as well as their children. It is fascinating to create your own work of painting in an art museum or to design an appearance of a robot by yourself in a science museum. People can be really pleased through performing the "interactive" works in museums, as well as gaining related knowledge.

Museums are welcomed by both local people and newcomers because they are an essential part of our life. They reflect our history, our art, our values, our creations and our dreams. No matter who you are and what you like, somewhere there is a museum that will amaze and interest you.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why are museums popular among people?

Why do interactive exhibits attract both children and adults?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

NEXT-DOOR PEOPLE

If you have a good neighbor, you are a lucky person. You have someone who cares about your needs and your property, who is helpful in the little day-to-day situations that come up, and who is supportive in times of crisis.

A good neighbor is someone who, for instance, understands that your children may occasionally run across his lawn, even though you tell them not to. He'll realize that children can be careless about things like that, and he won't make a big fuss about it unless it becomes a regular thing. In the same vein, he knows that you'll understand if some of the trash from his trash cans blows across into your yard. In other words, he is sensitive to the unintentional things that can happen. He doesn't

make a big deal about them. A good neighbor is also respectful of your property. For example, she asks your permission before doing anything that interferes with what's yours. This means she wouldn't plant a huge tree in between your houses without asking how you felt about it. If she wanted to put up a fence, she would let you know first. She might work with you to decide where it should be placed. Maybe the two of you would even split the cost.

A good neighbor would lend you some milk if you ran out. She'd give you a ride to work if your car was broken, and let your children stay at her house in the evening if you got stuck working overtime. You would do the same for her. Both of you would help make the other's life easier.

When something really awful happens to you, like a death in the family, a good neighbor will volunteer to help in any way he can. This could mean something small, like making some casseroles to put in your freezer to feed visiting relatives. Or it could mean something big, like helping you get through the sadness of the funeral.

I think only someone who has experienced a bad neighbor can really appreciate a good one! A good neighbor can be a good friend. He or she can make all the difference in the world to your life.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is a good neighbour?

What troubles can a bad neighbour make?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

A GOOD BOSS

Even though job situations can be very different, there are several qualities that all good supervisors have in common. A good boss treats all her employees fairly. She doesn't single out one employee for better (or worse) treatment than the others.

A poor supervisor has favorites. Sometimes she'll even use her favorites to spy on other employees. She expects them to tell her what the others are saying about her. This can cause a lot of bad feelings among employees.

A good supervisor gives clear and understandable directions. She doesn't constantly change her mind about what she wants employees to do. She also doesn't get angry with an employee who is confused and needs her to explain the directions again or more fully. Delegating authority well is another quality of a good supervisor. She knows how to use the skills of her employees to best advantage. A poor supervisor insists on doing everything herself. She is unwilling to give any authority to others.

A good boss evaluates her employees on a reasonable set of criteria, not on how she feels about them personally. And she lets the employees know what those criteria are, so they have a fair chance of meeting them. She gives both praise and criticism in a straightforward manner. She also offers guidance when needed. A poor supervisor will criticize without giving any suggestions on how to improve.

Most importantly, a good supervisor sets the standards for her employees by her own behavior. She works hard and treats employees like valuable assets to the

company. This promotes good morale among her workers, and this is of great benefit to her business.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What differs a good boss from a bad one?

Is it difficult to be a boss? And a good boss?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

MOVE YOU LIFE

With the development of the transportation system and some residence institution, the world is getting smaller and smaller, and people are not restricted in only one area. In addition to the convenient condition, because there are different places with different cultures, living standards, education environment and other disparity, they are inclined to transfer from one place to the other. Is it better to move around than stay in one place? I believe there are no uniform answers, but in my opinion, I do agree with the claim that to move around is better than to stay in one place.

Most people's growth comes with the transfers in their life. As for me, when I was young I lived in a small county. Because the school in there was not suitable to me, I transferred from my little county to a city to get a better education. As soon as I got to the city, I was amazed that the world here was so different here as my hometown. If I still lived in my hometown, it was impossible for me to make the wildest guess at what the real world looked like. The first transfer has made me to imagine my own life and spur on me to go further. With the confidence, I went into a university which I would never think of it before. The university is located in a different city so that I have to come into another world. Compared with my living city, the one is more complicated in which there are different people, more convenient transportation, more competitive environment. I love all of this very much. Communicating with different students and teachers. I have learned much from them which will benefit me throughout my life and my lifestyle. Now I am in a graduate school also so beautiful that I will never regret my selection of leaving my hometown because the transfer has given me a splendid life.

Also, like we students, there are many adults transferring their work place in order to grasp better opportunities. No matter in industry, in agriculture or in service, workers have rights to choose their work companies which leads them to work from place to place and then they accumulate precious experience and skills to get priorities to others.

People not only transfer in their own country, but also go abroad to get education, work or live through the rest of their life in appropriate countries. We can see that many students including me want to go to the foreign countries to study further and forge ourselves, and that many parents send their little sons or daughters to foreign countries to study. After all, diverse circumstances give persons new experience and broaden their narrow sight, even help them get more comprehensive understanding of the world, the society and our life itself.

However, some people may say that if people move around, they will pay for much such as money, time and energy. It is right to say that it takes one person some time to get used to his or her new environment, new personal relationship which indeed influences the growth of children, the efficiency of our work and the stability of our society and family. And I have to admit that people should make considerate plans before changing their places and may not transfer aimlessly and frequently. But I think sometimes it is just all the friction that has made the world wealthier and more beautiful. Therefore, I still think it is better to travel around than to live in one place.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is good about moving around?

Why is it necessary to make plans before changing places?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

TEENAGE DEPRESSION

According to Young Minds, in a school of 1,000 pupils aged 14 -18, 50 of them might be seriously depressed. As many as 1 in 5 could be affected at some time. We investigate why more and more teenagers are suffering from mental illness.

Being a teenager has always been difficult. Emotions and moods change rapidly. Many teenagers feel confused and afraid when the safety of childhood is left behind. These days, experts say that things are even harder. Peter Wilson, the Director of Young Minds, says, "We live in particularly difficult times for a growing youngster. There are huge cultural pressures and a lot of broken homes. Kids may have difficult relationships with parents, or in other cases, have no one to support them."

Everyone feels unhappy, lonely or misunderstood from time to time. But a small number of teenagers become depressed for weeks or months without change, and they begin to find that they can't continue with their normal lives. Many teenagers don't want to ask, or don't know how to ask for help. Perhaps they don't even realise they are depressed. It is usually other people - friends, parents and teachers, who identify the symptoms of depression and offer help. One teenager explained that after a close friend had died, "I stopped believing that anything could be any good anymore. I became very aggressive, I snapped at my parents and I lost touch with friends. Things were bad for me for a year until, fortunately for me, a teacher noticed that things were wrong."

If you recognise these symptoms in yourself or a friend, there are lots of things that can be done. You can't expect yourself, or someone else to just 'snap out of it'. You need to find ways to cope with the feelings.

If you are worried about a friend, listen to their problems and try to be sympathetic, and be patient. Most importantly, try and help them find help. If you're feeling blue yourself, don't panic - you need to try and understand your emotions. You are not the first person to feel like this. Try writing things down in a diary or talking to a friend. Perhaps writing a poem or song, drawing a picture or listening to music will help you express and understand your emotions. But most importantly of

all, do something you enjoy, whether it's watching TV, playing sport or just going for a walk.

It is a good idea for teenagers who feel depressed to try and talk to someone they like and feel comfortable with. But if they don't want to talk to friends and family, there are lots of people who are there to help. They could talk to their teacher or school nurse or maybe their doctor. Alternatively, there are telephone helplines which give confidential help to anyone with a problem. Talking to someone might help others to cope with how they are feeling.

Sometimes, depression can become a very serious problem, and teenagers think about trying to escape their feelings. They might consider suicide or self-injury. When the problem has got so bad, professional help from qualified specialist counsellors is vital. Counsellors are trained to talk to people about their worries and problems.

It is important to remember that everyone feels sad and unhappy sometimes, it is natural. Remember that, no matter how bad you feel, the feelings of sadness and happiness will come to an end.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What are the difficulties of being a teenager?

How to help yourself when you are depressed?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

BEING BEAUTIFUL: HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO?

We examine some of the extremes that people have gone to in their search for perfect beauty.

Appearance has been important throughout the centuries. Cleopatra and other ancient Egyptians had a practical beauty regime. Some women shaved their heads to keep cool. Heavy black eye make-up (kohl) was thought to be beautiful and act as protection against eye disease. Men had clean-shaven faces as facial hair was looked down on as a sign of laziness. Elizabethan women 'painted' their faces white with highly dangerous lead-based make-up in imitation of their pale-skinned Queen. Ladies also shaved their hairline to give the appearance of a high forehead like the Queen's. Men and women have been wearing wigs and corsets for centuries.

To recreate the look of your favourite star, using make-up or copying their eyebrows using stencils, seems quite tame compared to having hair sewn into your head, silicon put into your body, or having parts of your body reshaped or even removed to improve your appearance. Everyone knows about (and has noticed!) the changing face of Michael Jackson. However, the rumour that Cher had her bottom two ribs removed to make her waist thinner seems too crazy to be true. An American woman, Cindy Jackson, has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars having cosmetic surgery - 27 times so far! She wanted to bring Leonardo da Vinci's ideas of a classically proportioned face to life. Did it work? Her nickname is 'the human Barbie doll', so it's probable.

As the number of people having cosmetic surgery increases, fewer people now regard it as 'unnatural'. As ancient history shows, those in the public eye and in positions of power and wealth were often perceived as the most beautiful people around. The situation hasn't changed much. Experts say that these days we are constantly shown images of 'beauty' and 'perfection' through the media, and told that those who achieve beauty, achieve success and happiness. Presumably then, the longer your life will be successful and happy, too.

The Ancient Egyptians believed that by preserving the body (if you could afford it) you were assured of immortality. These days the process, called cryogenics, is a bit more hi-tech, but the idea is similar. Most popular in America, people are paying huge amounts of money to have their bodies drained of blood and frozen in liquid nitrogen when they die.

This is so that they may be revived in the future when science has found a way to bring them back to life. There are no guarantees that this process will work, but the desire to live on is so strong that they are prepared to spend thousands of dollars on something that might never happen.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

How did an ancient beauty look like?

Whatis cryogenics?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE BEST NIGHT OF THEIR LIVES: HIGH SCHOOL PROM

Having a big party (called a 'prom') in the junior and senior years of high school is a great American tradition. It's a special night which people plan very carefully, and remember for the rest of their lives.

The high school prom season usually starts in April and continues through May. Planning starts as early as February however, when the magazines and stores begin to show prom fashions. There is a lot of organization to be done.

Proms are held in many different places. Some schools still hold their proms in school gymnasiums but this is considered a bit old-fashioned now. Most high schools today have their Junior (first year of high school) and Senior (last year of high school) proms at a hotel or country club.

Girls spend a long time deciding what kind of dress to wear and fashions change from year to year, and from school to school. Fashions range from cocktail dresses to full ball gowns and can be extremely glamorous. Sometimes girls have their dresses specially made by dressmakers. Each year there are different styles, but as the proms are quite traditional occasions, classic clothes are usually a good choice. Boys generally wear tuxedos.

One of the most important aspects of the prom night is finding a date. It doesn't have to be a regular boyfriend or girlfriend, but you do have to presentation of the corsage to know who your date will be some time in advance of the prom so that you can plan it together. Sometimes the issue of having a prom date can put a lot of pressure on the students. No one wants to go to the prom alone and people can get

really upset about it if they don't find a date. Often students hire limousines to take them to the prom. Usually they share the cost of this with two or three other couples. Sometimes at the prom the students elect a prom king and queen, who are the most popular couple of the year. They are given crowns and lead the dancing when the music starts again.

Boys are expected to buy a 'corsage' for their female dates. This is a small flower arrangement which they wear on their left lapel or on their wrist. Girls also wear a 'boutonniere' on their dresses, which is usually a carnation. The presentation of the corsage to the girl happens before the prom usually at her parents' house. Parents sometimes allow the kids to have a small party at their home before they go to the prom where they eat something and take photos or have photos taken by a professional photographer. Often students hire limousines to take them to the prom. Usually they share the cost of this with two or three other couples. Sometimes at the prom the students elect a prom king and queen, who are the most popular couple of the year. They are given crowns and lead the dancing when the music starts again.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What's a prom?

Where are proms usually held?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE COOL SCHOOL

When people ask you what you want to be in the future, they seem pleased if you say 'a doctor' or 'financial consultant'. But if you say 'an actor' or 'a dancer' or 'a DJ' they often laugh and say 'no chance!' The Brit School takes such ambitions seriously: everything is done to make sure talented kids fully explore their passion for the creative arts.

The Brit School centres its studies on the performing arts. Singing, dancing, acting, music, theatre, TV and film production are all on the curriculum, as well as academic subjects like Maths and English. The staff stress the importance of continuing academic studies. Students enter the school when they are 14 and 16. There is a strict selection process because there is a lot of competition for each place. Entrants at 14 have an interview, and at 16 there is also an audition. The procedure is tough because the school is Britain's only non fee-paying entertainment school.

The main thing that makes the Brit School like other schools is that it takes academic study seriously. But in other ways, the atmosphere could not be more different. The teachers are called 'guides' and speak to the kids in a more informal way than many are used to. There are no uniforms and no bell at the end of the lesson. The school also makes sure that no one lives more than an hour away from the school so they don't get too tired. This is important because having lessons in radio production, theatre and video-recording as well as regular lessons is very hard work. The terms are eight weeks long, with 2-week breaks in between and only four weeks in the summer, so it involves much more attendance than an ordinary school.

Everyone who goes there is incredibly enthusiastic about it. Even though the school's curriculum and hours make it very demanding for them, they don't mind. Monique, 18, said she found it a bit strange at first because it was so unlike her old school. "Everyone seems so creative here so I don't stand out much. Everyone's an individual, independent and single-minded and we don't all wear the same sort of clothes." Most of the students are outgoing, and shy students say that being there makes them more confident.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What do students study at the Brit School?

What are the differences between the Brit school and an ordinary school?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ROAD RAGE

'Road Rage' describes the strange behaviour of some people who can't control their temper when they're driving. A recent report showed that 75% of British drivers said that they had been a victim of road rage at some time. 1.3 million drivers said that they were forced to pull over or stop their car and 250 000 people said that they had been attacked by other drivers. Does the stress of driving make ordinary people more aggressive? Or is 'road rage' just a new excuse for violent behaviour?

According to the British police, there is no such thing as road rage. Drivers who harass or attack other drivers are breaking the law. However, British motoring organisations like the AA and the RAC do believe in road rage. They think that there's something about driving a car that brings out the worst in people.

Psychologist Conrad King agrees that road rage is real and he's developed a theory to explain it.

King describes a case where a motorist almost killed himself by trying to overtake a long queue of cars that were stuck behind a slow-moving vehicle. The driver got angry because he thought that the other cars were deliberately holding him up. King believes that road rage is a product of modern technology and primitive instincts. When inside a car, drivers behave like animals. If they feel threatened by another driver they respond aggressively, just like a guard dog chasing an offending car for miles and miles.

In one incident, two young women followed a nurse for two miles. When she stopped outside her house, the young women jumped out of their car and started screaming at the nurse and her elderly patient. King's research shows that people behave differently when they get behind the wheel of a car. Perhaps it's because they feel safer inside all of that metal and glass. Cars can give normally peaceful people a feeling of power that can make them more aggressive.

When annoyances turn to anger, powerful chemicals like adrenaline and endorphins are released into the blood. The heart starts beating faster and the body prepares to fight, or run away. Perhaps it's not so surprising that 1,200 road-rage related deaths were reported in America in the 1980s. Anger can be a dangerous thing in a country where it's not unusual to own a gun.

Critics of 'road rage' psychology say that it's wrong to make excuses for violent behaviour. One British comedian defined road rage as 'men being stupid in cars as well as everywhere else.' Some experts point to evidence that supports this theory. According to government figures, men aged between 18 and 26 are most likely to behave aggressively or violently whilst driving. Interestingly, drivers with small cars are more likely to be aggressive. Drivers of big cars like four-wheel-drive vehicles are more likely to be the victims of aggressive behaviour like tailgating.

According to behavioural psychologist Matthew Joint, 'nine times out of ten, road rage depends on the psychological profile of the drivers.' In other words, mad person + car = mad driver. Perhaps that explains recent reports of 'trolley rage' in the supermarket and 'ski rage' in the queue for ski lifts. Despite their new concern about road rage, a European poll confirmed that British motorists still think that they are the best drivers in Europe. Unluckily for the British, the rest of Europe believes that Germans are the best drivers.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What is road rage?

What kind of feeling do cars give peaceful people?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE AGE OF THE INTERNET NERD

Some people are making a fortune in cyberspace. Here are some teenage Internet entrepreneurs who are showing the adults how to do it.

Most companies have their own website these days, but some companies exist only on the Internet. They are sometimes called 'dot com' companies. A lot of them don't make a profit from selling products and some companies only provide information to the general public. They usually make money from advertising.

How are young people connected to Internet business?

Some of the most successful Net entrepreneurs are teenagers who are still at school. Tom Hadfield, 16, started a football results website called SoccerNet in his bedroom and it became a business worth 180 million. Cyber-Britain.com and Jewishnet were started by Ben Cohen, who is 18.

David Hands, of the Federation of Small Businesses, says: 'Children are at ease with the Net and new technology. They can now start a small business from their bedrooms and it doesn't cost them much money.'

What kind of teenagers start dot com companies?

Charlie Skilling of the charity Young Enterprise, which helps teenagers learn about business, says that there are two kinds of teenage entrepreneur. "There are those who want to get rich and those who want to be creative and provide something for the community."

How do they get interested in the Net?

Ben Cohen's story is a classic example. When he was 13 he became very ill and couldn't leave his house. "I hadn't been into the Internet much before that, but I

started using it to keep in touch with the world. I realised how powerful it was for reaching people at a low cost," says Ben.

How did he start Jewishnet?

He borrowed J150 from his dad to buy the domain name Jewishnet.co.uk and contacted the venture capitalist who had given money to support Soccernet. Despite the success of his web businesses, Ben has continued a normal life. He still goes to school and took his 'A' levels last summer.

What is Jewishnet?

It is a successful website for the Jewish community. You can find links here to sites on everything from bar mitzvahs to teenage chat rooms. Ben also started CyberBritain.com which is the fastest growing on-line network in Europe.

Some young people report feeling a lot of pressure to succeed after venture capitalists

have invested money in their companies. They often have no social life.

They also say they sometimes have problems with other students. "When I go into the college laundry room, people say things like, 'Oh, I didn't think millionaires did their own washing,'" one student entrepreneur said.

"Certain people in my company didn't like having a boss who was 17 years old," Ben Cohen says. "And I'm having to make decisions that I don't really want to, like how many desks we should have and what colour the walls should be. Sometimes I think it's pressure I don't really need."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why are young Internet businessmen so successful?

Are there any disadvantages to being young and successful?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

E FOR EXSTASY, EUPHORIA... AND DEATH

Originally used by club-scene ravers, the drug Ecstasy, known as E or MDMA, has now spread from the dance floor to schools, offices and homes. Cliques in American High Schools use it; executives in high positions use it. But is it safe?

One of the main arguments E- users cite to defend their choice of drug is that it is safer than alcohol which claims thousands of lives a year. It is certainly true that for teens in the USA, alcohol is still the deadliest drug. For Americans aged 16-20 car crashes are the leading cause of deaths, and 37 percent of those involve alcohol. Ecstasy, however, can still endanger life.

Users of Ecstasy will defensively declare that taking it is completely safe.

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Users of Ecstasy will defensively declare that taking it is completely safe. Anti-drug agencies will say it is completely unsafe. Both sides are guilty of stopping

people understanding the true risks and assessing the real impact the drug can have on your body. Although anti-drug agencies mean well, their scare tactics often annoy young people who sense that they are being presented with an exaggerated story. This means many young people often refuse to listen to the scientific facts.

The rave scene is indisputably cool - the electronic music, the clothes, the people, the DJs. For many, the experience is made even better by 'taking an E', the music sounds incredible, you feel a sense of 'love' for your fellow clubbers and you just want to dance all night long. There's no denying that this is true, however, the biological way Ecstasy gives you a high is also the way it can harm or kill you.

E works by causing nerve cells in your body to release serotonin.

This is the body's mood-regulating chemical. When the brain is flooded with serotonin, it can cause you to experience feelings of bliss, empathy, and perceived insight. The problem with this is that the body is not designed to release serotonin all at once; it is supposed to be stored in nerve endings. In some cases E causes the nerve endings to be permanently damaged. This phenomenon has been linked to short-term memory loss and depression the day after taking the tablets.

OvErhEating and dEath

Serotonin is also used by the body to regulate temperature. While the brain is flooded with it, the body cannot produce any more at the nerve endings where it is usually stored. Particularly when several pills are taken, the body starts to overheat. Dancing in a hot room with other people makes the situation worse. Regular users know they must drink water but often it is too late. Some deaths have been caused by people drinking too much water. Some people's blood temperature can reach 43 degrees when they use E. At this temperature the blood coagulates and the user dies.

From E to E.R. - It's impossible to know what you're buying

E is indisputably a dangerous drug for many people. Even more dangerous is the stuff that is sold as E but is something else. The majority of people who end up in the E.R. (emergency room) of hospitals, have not taken E. They have been tricked and have taken fake E, containing cheaper and more dangerous chemicals than those in E. According to TIME magazine, as demand for E has grown, so has the incentive to manufacture fake E, especially for one-time raves full of teens who won't see the dealer again.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Is Ecstasy safe or not?

What are the side effects of Ecstasy?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ACCURATE TIME

All the world lives by the "earth time" or the "star time" as the astronomers call it. It means that our clocks are timed according to the earth's rotation, for the turning earth is the master clock by which all other clocks are set.

This nightly task of timing the earth's rotation is carried out at the observatories of various countries. What an astronomer does is to determine how the star time compares with the average time of the observatory's master clocks.

To keep them as exact as possible, the clocks are protected from all outside influence. The pendulum clocks are kept underground, away from vibrations and changing temperatures. Each pendulum swings in a vacuum (that is, in a case from which the air has been pumped out), for air resistance would gradually slow down their time of swing. Each pendulum swings in a different direction, too, so that the vibration of one will not affect another.

The observatories' time signals are based on crystal clocks, since they are the most accurate. Vibrating crystals by means of which these clocks are run, are sealed inside vacuum tubes and kept vibrating by electric current.

To provide the accurate telling of time an exact measure of time is required. Such a measure is the "standard second", that is made available just as the "standard metre" and other units of measurement.

In today's world not only the second but even a fraction of a second plays an important part. Our electric clocks are run by current that vibrates 60 times a second. If they vary from that, they are wrong. X-ray pictures taken in one millionth of a second are now possible, to reveal what is happening inside machines operating at a very high speed.

But we are chiefly interested in the time we live by, standard time, divided into hours and minutes. An hour is a man made thing, just one-twenty-fourth part of the time it takes for the earth to make one complete turn.

Today the world runs on standard time, but not so long ago most localities used their own local time. In 1884 an International Meridian Conference extended standard time to the entire world which was divided into 24 time zones. Standard time in each zone varied by one hour from the next, the time at Greenwich being taken as the zero point.

In future we may use atoms to measure time, because they have within them very precise frequencies of oscillation that will prevent the clock from gaining or losing. A crystal could be adjusted to vibrate at the same rate as the atoms of some pure element.

The crystal's vibrations could be used to run a clock. Such an atom-controlled clock would keep more accurate time than the turning earth itself.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What's the "earth time"?

What kind of clock we'll probably use in future?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE CLOCK

The ancient Greeks are known to have used water clocks for timing the speeches of their orators. The simplest water clock consisted of a vessel of water with a small hole in the bottom. Filled up to a certain mark, the water gradually escaped out of the

hole in approximately the same intervals of time. Next, the inventive mind of man produced the hourglass, or sandglass.

The first true clock, from the modern point of view, appeared in the 14th century. Earlier clocks had neither hands nor face and told time merely by striking the hour. Bells were struck by hammers held in the hands of little mechanical figures. As the time passed clocks were improved, the pendulum being introduced into the clock mechanism by Christian Huygens (1629- 1695), a famous Dutch scientist. That improved the accuracy of clocks so much that it became possible to measure not only hours but minutes as well.

The early clock developed into a watch of a portable size made in the form of books, animals, fruit, stars, flowers, etc. During the 17th century the watches were still more improved by the use of jewels for bearings, which reduced friction and increased regularity of the running of the watch.

It was little by little that the watch reached its present day perfection.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What did the simplest water clock consist of?

What improved the accuracy of the water clock?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE WORLD'S FIRST COMPASS

It was in the compass that magnetism first found a practical use. Many centuries ago the people of ancient China noticed the attracting properties of loadstones, that is, magnetic oxides of iron. (A loadstone is a name given to the natural magnet, that is, to a kind of magnetic iron ore). The property they had noticed helped them to discover that a freely suspended magnetized bar points North and South, and so it can be used to determine direction. Thus the compass was invented. In ancient books we find a description of the compass of those days. It was shaped like a spoon mounted on a graduated plate. We know the spoon had to be rotated by hand and when it came to rest, it was pointing North and South. About the end of the 11th century the Chinese began to use the compass in navigation. As early as the 11th century they had discovered how to make magnetic needles. This was the first time such a thing had been done anywhere in the world. These iron, fish-shaped needles which floated on water, were acted on by the earth's magnetic field. In the 12th century the compass of the floating needle type came into use. Its iron-needle was fastened to a thin strip of cork or wood, so that it floated in a bowl of water. The needle was magnetized by contact with a natural magnet taken from the earth. This early seagoing compass was in use on Chinese ships up to the 17th century. It was probably the best type available if we consider the scientific and technical level of the time. In Middle Ages there was a lively trade and a busy cultural exchange between China and the Arab countries. It was from the Chinese that the Arabs first learnt to make compasses and to use them in navigation. The Arabs in their turn introduced the compass to Europe, where it began to appear over eight hundred years ago. We know it was used on Italian, Portuguese and Norwegian ships of the 20th century. The great invention of the

ancient Chinese was further developed thanks to the skilled Arab and European scientists and thus reached its present perfection.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

How did the compass look like in ancient times?

Who introduced the compass to Europe?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

NEW RESTAURANT WITH THAT SPECIAL DOG IN MIND

Do you want to get your dog a special birthday present? If you live in Chicago, you can take Spike or Fifi out to dinner at the Pet Cafe. It has tables for the humans and eating stands for the dogs. A meal costs less than four dollars. For that price, your dog gets an entree, a fortune dog biscuit (the canine version of a fortune cookie), and a bowl of peanut-butter flavored ice cream. You, the owner, on the other hand, are only offered candy.

You may think a restaurant for dogs is strange. However, restaurant owner Vera Carter does not. She says, "People want to return the loyalty and love their animals give them. For a dog, the best way to do that is to give them good food."

Carl Gregory, a pet-industry expert agrees. He says Americans are not just buying food; they are spending millions of dollars on toys, beds, classes, and even clothing for their pets. In fact, today Americans spend twice as much on their pets as they did in 1994. In that year, they spent about 17 million dollars. In 2004, they spent more than 34 million dollars. For these reasons, many different types of businesses are offering services to pet owners. Some hotels now rent pet-friendly rooms. Some even have room service for dogs. Mail-order companies offering steak for dogs have become more popular. There are also many bakeries selling pet treats in addition to pies and cakes for people. More and more restaurants are adding food for pets to their menus. However, there aren't many sit-down pet restaurants like the Pet Cafe.

Some people don't like the idea of a restaurant for dogs. As Web blogger Jack Simpson says, "Dog restaurants are absurd. "Dog owner Sherry Evans doesn't agree. She went to the Pet Café with her dog, Lulu. "No, it's not ridiculous," she says. "Everyone has to feel needed. Lulu is my sweet, precious baby."

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What do Americans buy for their pets?

What services are offered to pet owners?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LIFE AFTER DEATH?

Kittens Tabouli and Baba Ganoush look alike, but they aren't twins. They're clones. Feline clones are exact genetic copies of another cat. They were created in a laboratory by a company called Genetic Savings and Clone. The company expects to make a lot of money cloning pets after they die. Lou Hawthorne, the president of the company, says, "It's a multibillion-dollar business waiting to happen." Hawthorne's company already has a list of people who want cloned cats. They will each pay

\$50,000. Dogs will cost more. "We guarantee that the clone will be healthy and that it will look very much like the original animal," Hawthorne says.

One woman has ordered a clone of her late cat. "I made the decision to clone him before he died. Then I had hope that I might share a part of him again," Marsha Brooks says. For many people, losing a beloved pet is very upsetting. It can be like losing a member of the family. But even some pet lovers say that cloning seems absurd. However, this cat owner doesn't agree. She wants her cat back. "He was more intelligent than most of the people I know," she said. "And I can't wait to meet the clone!"

But while one woman waits for a clone, others are looking for new pets. Karen and Michael Lawrence decided to spend \$50 instead of \$50,000. When their cat, Marshall, died, they went to the animal shelter. "You know, there are a lot of great cats and dogs who don't have homes," said Karen.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are clones?

Do all pet owners want to clone their pets? Why (not)?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

EXTREME IRONING

What activities are sports? Running and football? Sure. Synchronized swimming? Probably. Ballroom dancing? Maybe. Playing cards? Probably not. Gardening? Definitely not. Most people believe that sports must combine physical activity and competition. If we use this definition, then extreme ironing is a sport.

What is extreme ironing? Extreme ironing is pressing clothes in very difficult places. Ironists must carry their irons, ironing boards, and wrinkled laundry with them to the competition site. Some ironists take electric generators. Others heat their irons on gas stoves. The competitors get more points for the difficulty of the location. However, the quality of the ironing is important, too. Each item must be well pressed.

Extreme ironists compete in some amazing places. Contestants iron while they are climbing rocks, climbing mountains, and climbing trees. They iron in canoes, on the backs of cows, and even underwater. One team ironed while on a kayak in the Atlantic Ocean.

This sport is not a joke. Teams from 30 countries competed in the first world championships in Germany in 2002. Phil Shaw is the inventor of extreme ironing. He says that there are about 1,500 ironists worldwide. Some teams have corporate sponsors. The German corporation Rowenta, an iron maker, pays for Shaw's team. The goal of extreme ironists is to have their sport included in the Olympics. Maybe then they can start using their real names. At the moment, contestants use names such as Steam, Cool Silk, and Iron Man. Why? Shaw admits, "Most competitors don't want people to know that they are ironists."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Is extreme ironing a very old sport?

What do ironists get points for?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHAT MAKES A SPORT?

What is a sport? In my opinion, there are some activities that are definitely sports: baseball, football, basketball, hockey, golf, and bowling. And there are some activities that are definitely not sports: cheerleading, dance, figure skating, and gymnastics. How did I decide? An activity is not a sport if a judge or a group of judges chooses the winner. The competition itself should decide the result. Judges decide the winners of figure skating, cheerleading, dance, and gymnastics competitions. Therefore, none of them are sports. In the non-sports listed, judges determine the winners based on their opinions. Judges are human and many things can influence them. Maybe they think one competitor wins too often or not enough. Perhaps they don't like one of the contestants. Perhaps they just prefer one competitor's music or their clothes. The point is that we can never be certain that the winner was really the best. Of course, you might say that every sport has judges. Umpires in baseball and referees in basketball make decisions, too. However, one bad decision by an official doesn't decide the winner of these games. The competition does. According to my definition, activities like bowling, Ping-Pong, and even curling are sports. The person or team that has more points or finishes first wins. The opinion of a judge is not necessary.

There is one more important point. You can be an athlete and not participate in a sport. Cheerleaders, dancers, gymnasts, and figure skaters are incredible athletes. Their activities require a lot of athleticism, strength, and flexibility. They are athletes, but they do not participate in sports. They participate in athletic competitions. In addition, you can participate in a sport and not be an athlete. Bowlers and golfers do not have to be great athletes. They are people with a specific skill, but they are not athletes.

There is one exception to my definition. NASCAR is not a sport. It is simply entertainment. And, in my opinion, it's not even good entertainment.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What activities are sports according to the writer?

Is everyone who participates in a sport an athlete?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DIVORCE: A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE?

Divorce is a growing problem in the United States and many other developed countries. Although thousands and thousands of happy couples get married every year, more than 50 percent of them get divorced. Two researchers at the University of Washington studied marriage and divorce. They learned a lot from their research. With this information, they created a mathematical formula that predicts divorce. Mathematician James Murray and psychologist John Gottman agree that their predictions are correct almost all of the time.

How do they do it?

A husband and wife talk about a difficult subject for 15 minutes. The researchers videotape them. In addition, they record physical information such as heart rate. Then

the researchers listen to the conversation. They watch the body language and look at the facial reactions. After that, they give the couple positive and negative points.

For example, the couple might talk about mothers-in-law. If the husband says, "Your mother is a lot of trouble" the couple gets two negative points. If the wife rolls her eyes, they get two more negative points. However, if the husband says, "Your mother is a lot of trouble, but sometimes she's funny" then the couple gets one positive point. If he smiles, they get another one.

In the end, the researchers add up the points. A good marriage has five more positive points than negative points. However, the researchers say that a bad score is not necessarily the end of a marriage. Marriages with bad scores can survive. They hope that couples will use the information from the study to learn to communicate. However, not everyone believes that mathematics can stop divorce. A professor of psychology at New York University says that it is 'absolutely impossible' to use mathematics to help a marriage. The scientists disagree. They have studied this problem for 16 years. In that time, they have studied more than 700 couples. Their predictions are 94 percent accurate. It seems necessary for the survival of marriage that we listen to them.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What three things do the researches look at?

Do all agree that maths can stop divorce?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF DATING AND MARRIAGE?

Many single people need help finding husbands or wives. Some people hire matchmakers. Others use computer dating services on the Internet. Now, at least two governments want to help their citizens tie the knot.

One of them is the United States government. The government in Washington gives each of the 50 states money to encourage marriage. The states are using it to persuade people that marriage is good. Some states are also offering classes on marriage. The government says that the future of the United States depends on strong families. However, its programs are not for all families. They are for one special group-the poor. They want to tell low-income people about the benefits of marriage. Some government officials argue that women with children should have husbands. If they have husbands, they will not need money from the government. Their husbands will work to earn money for their families. Some people are against government programs that promote marriage. They say that marriage is a private decision. They are also afraid that poor women might think they have to get married.

The American government is not the only one that is interested in marriage. The government of the tiny island nation of Singapore is spending money on marriage, too. Why is the government in Singapore interested in marriage? The government has noticed that women with college degrees often do not get married. Government officials think it is important for them to get married, so they have started a government dating service. The Social Development Unit (SOU) began in 1984. It

organizes parties and trips for single people. It also teaches single people about marriage. The SOU says that 50,000 Singaporeans have met and married through this service.

And what do young Singaporeans think of the government dating services? Some of them are happy with it. Ms. Ralls-Tan says that the SOU helped her get married. She and her husband married two years ago. Today they have a six-month-old child. Others just laugh at it. "Single, desperate, and ugly," says a young woman at a local bar. Another says, "We're adults. And the government is not our parent."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What two countries does the writer talk about?

What groups of people do the two government programs try to help?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ADDICTED TO THE MALL

What do you do for recreation? Do you swim, dance, play cards, garden, or read? Many people today prefer to spend their free time shopping. These people are called recreational shoppers. Recreational shoppers do not always buy something. They really enjoy the shopping experience.

Of course, many people like going to indoor malls. However, for recreational shoppers, the mall is more than stores. For them, the mall represents happiness and fulfillment. For these people, a visit to the mall is an adventure. In fact, for many recreational shoppers the art of looking for and buying something is more fun than owning it. Recently, a group of psychologists studied recreational shopping. First, they used tests to identify recreational shoppers. Then they compared recreational shoppers with ordinary shoppers. The psychologists discovered that the two groups were different. Recreational shoppers were usually younger, less self-confident, and more often female. In addition, they were more interested in material things and had less self-control. The recreational shoppers also went shopping when they felt worried, angry, or depressed. Ordinary shoppers didn't. Most of the recreational shoppers said buying something helped them feel better - it made them happy. Their negative feelings went away. Many recreational shoppers also did something unusual while they were shopping. They pretended that they were different people with different lives.

Of course, shopping is an important part of our contemporary consumer society. We spend a lot of time in malls. In a recent study, people spent most of their time at home, at work, and in school. Shopping malls ranked fourth. However, in the future, will we think of recreational shopping as an addiction like smoking or drinking?

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

How does the writer feel about recreational shopping?

Where can you find inexpensive restaurants at the mall?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON CONSUMERISM

How important is shopping to you? How many hours of your life do you spend earning money to buy things? How much time do you spend shopping for these things? And how much time do you spend organizing these things in your home? In the future, how much time will you use up spending money in movie theaters, at amusement parks, at drive-thrus, at shopping malls, at convenience stores, at the gas pump, or at your desk paying bills? When you add it all up, you will probably see that you spend a lot of your life consuming stuff. Consuming products is not necessarily bad. However, since we spend so much time doing it, we should look at it carefully.

Imagine that you have a week off from school or work. You don't have to go to the office or go to class. However, in this week, you cannot spend any money - no shopping, no movies, no amusement park rides, no eating out. How would you spend your time? What things would bring you happiness? Perhaps you would take a walk on the beach with your best friend. Maybe you would climb a tree. You might just sit outside and enjoy the sunshine. Maybe you would play with your dog. Maybe you would draw a picture or write a story. Perhaps you would read a book, have a conversation with a stranger, or help a child read. You might sleep under the stars, daydream, or spend time with your family.

On our deathbeds, it is likely that nonconsuming experiences like these will be our most important memories. Why? Nonconsuming activities are active, not passive. They don't come in a package. You make the experience yourself. For example, each person who reads to a child will have a different experience. The experience changes with the reader, the child, and the book. However, if you watch a movie with a friend, you will each have a packaged experience. It requires no action and little interaction between the two of you. When you take a walk and have a conversation with a friend, however, you are actively creating an experience. The conversation that you have with your friend cannot be experienced or recreated by anyone else.

The consumerist environment we live in encourages us to have packaged experiences. We feel that we must consume because we believe that buying is doing. When we say to our friends, "Hey, let's do something," we usually mean, "let's spend money." However, we can start a personal revolution against consumerism. How? By consuming less. We can ask ourselves what experiences bring us the greatest satisfaction? Then we can organize our lives so that we have more of those kinds of experiences. The capitalist system can use us or we can use it. It's our choice.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What kinds of consuming do people do?

What kinds of experiences are more important – consuming or nonconsuming?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE STRIP

This is a picture of the strip. It's the most famous street in Las Vegas. It was the home of the first hotel and gambling casino in the city first named El Rancho Vegas.

Other early hotels included The Last Frontier, Thunderbird, and Club Bingo. But the most famous one was the Flamingo. Mobster "Bugsy" Siegel built it in 1946.

This was not unusual at the time. The American mafia built many lavish hotels on the strip, including the Aladdin Casino, Circus Circus, The Sands, and The Tropicana. These hotels were popular. Their casinos offered free entertainment all night, so customers liked them. The gangsters liked them, too. They laundered their dirty money in the casinos and the businesses made profit.

Organized crime is not very important in Las Vegas anymore. Why? The capitalists bought out the mobsters. In the 1980s, businessmen saw that the casinos were profitable. The mafiosi sold their casinos and moved away. Some longtime Las Vegans are sorry. They say Las Vegas was better with the mob in charge. The food was cheaper and everyone had more fun.

Today, Las Vegas has customers coming for many different reasons. It is a popular vacation destination for people from around the world. There are nonstop flights from Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; and Berlin, Germany. The yearly profit from gambling is over eight billion dollars.

Gambling is not the only profitable business in the city. In the year 1953, hotel rooms cost between three and eight dollars a night. Today, tourists pay up to \$400 for a luxury room. The image of the Las Vegas strip is different, too. Of course, gambling, prostitution, and no-wait weddings are still legal here. However, ritzy hotels also offer fine dining, classy shops, and luxurious health spas. The gamblers still come, but tourists looking for a relaxing time come, too.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

In what ways was Las Vegas different in the 1940s and 1950s?

In what way is Las Vegas the same as it was in the 1950s?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SHOPLIFTERS

Terrence Shulman used to shoplift. Now he helps shoplifters stop stealing. He divides shoplifters into six types.

Compulsive Shoplifters: 85%

For these people, shoplifting is a compulsion. They can't stop themselves. These shoplifters often have other compulsive behaviors such as overeating, shopping, drug use, or gambling. They often don't take care of themselves. Usually they steal items that are inexpensive. Then they give these things to others as gifts. If they are caught, they are very emotional they might cry and feel shame.

Professionals-People Who Steal For Profit: 2%

Professional shoplifters steal expensive items. They often take many items at the same time. Many of them use special tools. If the police catch them, they will try to run away. If they can't escape, they show no emotion. They are cool, calm, and collected. They never feel guilty.

The Poor-People Who Steal Because They Have No Money: 5%

These shoplifters usually steal necessities like food, baby diapers, toiletries, or children's clothing. If they are caught, they will say that they are sorry. However, they will also explain that they have no money. They may be angry at society because they are poor. They believe shoplifting is necessary to support themselves and their families.

Thrill Seekers-People Who Steal for Excitement: 5%

These shoplifters will often steal in groups. Many teenagers belong to this type. They steal because it's exciting. Teenagers steal clothes, CDs, makeup, and computer games. They often feel afraid if the police catch them.

Drug Addicts: 2%

Like professionals, they take expensive items. Then they sell these things to get money to buy drugs. They are usually less careful than the professionals. If they are caught, they will try to run away.

Kleptomaniacs - Those Who Steal for No Reason: 1%

Kleptomaniacs are impulsive. They don't think before they act. They are also often careless. They will often take items they don't need and can't use. For example, they might steal shoes that don't fit. If they are caught, they will usually admit they are kleptomaniacs. They do not feel guilty and they are not ashamed. They will often give excuses like, "I don't know why I took it because I don't even need it."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the types of shoplifters?

What do shoplifters do if they are caught?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

HOLIDAY STRESS IS WORSE FOR KLEPTOMANIACS

Springfield, Ohio, November 28 - Although the holidays are stressful for many people, kleptomaniacs have an even greater problem than most of us. They are afraid to go shopping because they have a compulsion to steal. Large crowds make holiday shopping time difficult for store owners, too. As stores become more crowded, store detectives have a harder time watching the customers. The president of the state's store owners' association, Larry Mason, says that there is also an increased problem with shoplifting. "During the holiday season, we have more shoppers, more sales, and more shoplifting-the problem is worse because of the number of sales."

People shoplift for a variety of reasons. Some steal for profit and sell the merchandise afterwards. Others simply pick up an item because they don't have enough money - they can't afford to buy it. Others are addicted to shoplifting. Mason says that there is no average shoplifter. "There are shoplifting grandmothers, doctors, teachers, and even movie stars. Last year, actress Winona Ryder was caught shoplifting." In the same way, shoplifters might steal just about any kind of merchandise. Clothing, DVDs, and jewelry are at risk, but large items like skis and stereo equipment are also in danger. Store-owner groups say that more than \$15 billion worth of merchandise walks out of store doors 'every year. And that's pricey news for customers since decreases in store profits mean increases in prices.

According to one store-owner group, between three and five percent of the price of an item pays for security and stolen merchandise.

Five years ago, Terry Schulman formed CASA (Cleptomaniacs and Shoplifters Anonymous). He says his own addiction became so bad that he stole something every day. "The addictive-compulsive shoplifter, like myself and most of the people who come to the group, shoplift as a way to cope with life," Schulman says. CASA is a support group. Some people come because they have to - a judge has told them that they must. However, most people come because they want to get better. Many people at a recent CASA meeting were worried about the holidays. They said that the stress of the holidays and the need to shop increased the chance that they might steal.

As they left, Schulman smiled and said to them, "Keep coming back - that's the key phrase. Just keep coming back."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why are holidays stressful for kleptomaniacs?

How does shoplifting hurt everyone?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WORLD OBESITY - WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

The number of overweight people around the world is increasing. For example, in China the number rose from 9 percent to 15 percent between 1989 and 1992. The increases in Latin America and Europe were similar. However, the most worrying statistic is the increase of obesity in children. A new study by the World Health Organization (WHO) says that 3.3 percent of children are overweight. But some countries have much higher rates. In the United States, almost 33 percent of children under five are overweight. In some parts of Europe, the rate is almost 30 percent. Even developing countries have problems. In Egypt, Chile, Armenia, and Algeria, for example, the rate is well over 5 percent. In Uzbekistan it is almost 15 percent.

The problem is the change in our diets combined with the change in our lifestyles. We used to eat whole grains, vegetables, and fruit. Now we eat foods that contain a lot of fat and sugar. We consume many more calories than before, but we need many less. All those extra calories turn into fat.

Experts say that it is not surprising that people eat too much of the wrong foods. Everywhere we look there are advertisements for high-calorie, high-fat foods. These foods are low in nutrition but also low in cost. In other words, they may not be good for you, but they are really cheap. Some experts call this a toxic-food environment.

Most of us do not recognize this unhealthy environment. Therefore, we believe if you are fat, it's your responsibility. This is not completely true. We learn a lot about food from advertising. The most well-advertised foods are usually the least nutritious. Unfortunately, a great number of advertisements are made for children. In the United States, the average child watches 10,000 television advertisements each year. More than 90 percent of these advertise sugary cereals, candy, soda, and other junk foods.

Today, many food corporations are focusing on developing countries. In 1998, one soft-drink company told its stockholders that. "Africa is a land of opportunity for

us.” The number of fast-food restaurants around the world is also growing rapidly. The largest American fast-food company opens five new restaurants every day. Four of them are located outside the United States.

It is terrible to think that we may soon live in a world where everyone eats fast food and drinks soda. However, it is not unavoidable. Governments should educate their citizens about the dangers of eating the wrong food. This is particularly important for tomorrow's adults.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What is a toxic-food environment?

Why does the writer think we eat unhealthy food?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS - MAKING MONEY FOR YOURSELF

DALTON RIVER—The Wise Women’s Circle promises “true sisterhood” and a “strong backbone of energy.” It’s a scam, but it works. Suppose you are a woman and a good friend tells you about a new women’s group. The purpose of the group is to help other women. You have to give \$5,000 to a woman in need. Then in just a few days or maybe a week or two, you’ll get \$40,000. Doesn’t it sound good? Wouldn’t you do it?

Each group usually consists of 15 women. Although it is called a circle, it is actually a pyramid. There is one woman at the top. There are two under her. Then there are four beneath them and eight at the bottom of the pyramid. The woman at the top gets \$40,000 when the bottom level of the pyramid is complete. She then leaves the pyramid, and the group divides itself into two more pyramids. All the members move up one level. Both groups must then find eight new members to complete the bottom level of the two new pyramids.

What’s wrong with the plan? The math doesn’t work. If each person must find eight people, then eight cycles requires the participation of more than 2 million people. A few more cycles and the number is greater than the entire population of the world. At least 90 percent of the participants will lose everything they put in.

It is not just poor or uneducated people who don’t understand the math. In Dallas, Texas, a few years ago, professional women-gifters had meetings at their homes. The meetings often began with a pep talk about the benefits of the program. The speakers always explained how the group needed more women to keep the circle from breaking. The leaders also said that it was legal - because the payments were gifts. At each meeting, one woman received a birthday gift—eight gift-wrapped packages. Each one contained \$5,000.

Two women finally blew the whistle on the scam. They suddenly realized that the circle didn’t help other women. It hurt them. They each gave \$5,000. Then they invited friends and family to join. Two weeks later, it was time for their “birthday party.” But before the meeting, they read a newspaper story about the scam. They then went to the police. “One lady was going to sell her jewelry and another lady was

going to get the money from her credit card,” one of the women told the Dallas Express in 2000.

Police investigators say that the “women helping women” idea is very powerful. They also usually support the safety of investing in women’s businesses. Women think it is safe because they believe women don't hurt other women. Unfortunately, that is not always true.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is the purpose of groups like the Wise Women’s circle?

Why do women join these groups?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE PROBLEM OF SPORTS DOPING

Sports doping is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. Although there are many different drug tests, each year even more different kinds of drugs are available. In addition, more athletes are taking drugs to help their performance. And it's not just professional athletes. Even some teenagers take drugs to help their high school team win “the big game”.

Athletes use drugs in a number of different ways. Some take drugs to make themselves stronger and faster. They also use drugs to mask pain, help them relax, or increase their confidence. But they all take drugs for the same reason - to win. For some, winning is more than just a gold medal. A star athlete can earn a lot of money. For others, winning just means bragging rights - they can talk big for a while. So, although athletes know that working hard is the way to win, they also know that drugs can give them a special advantage. Some of them also believe that not taking drugs is a disadvantage.

Most of the drugs in the chart are banned in Olympic competitions; they are not allowed at all. However, some, such as cortisone, are only restricted in Olympic competition because they are sometimes necessary.

Using banned drugs can have many bad consequences. If an athlete is caught, he or she will not be allowed to compete. However, even if an athlete is not caught, these drugs are dangerous. For example, if athletes use drugs that mask pain, they may seriously injure themselves. Other banned drugs have even more serious consequences. Some drugs can cause heart attacks, strokes, and even cancer. Furthermore, injections that are not given by a doctor are always risky. Unclean conditions can lead to serious diseases such as HIV-AIDS and hepatitis. Unfortunately, more and more competitors are willing to take all of these risks in order to win.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why do athletes take drugs according to the author?

Why is winning important to athletes?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE REAL DANGER OF SPORTS DOPING

Some people ask, "What's wrong with athletes using drugs to help them compete better?" They say, "Even if drugs are dangerous, the athletes choose to take the risk." In other words, athletes should have complete control over their own bodies. They have the right to use any drug they want.

There are several problems with this argument. However, the most important one is that doping creates an unfair environment. Imagine that you and I are runners. I take drugs to help me run faster and I win. You think that you must also take drugs to have a fair chance.

One can easily see how doping would soon get out of control. If you start doping, I have to find another way to keep my advantage. Perhaps, I will decide to take more drugs. Maybe I will look for different, stronger drugs to give me a better chance. If I do this, you must follow me or lose. Both of us would continue taking greater and greater risks.

Multiply this situation by thousands. Expand it from professional athletes to amateurs, including children. You may be thinking, "Children? Who lets their children take drugs?" We all know parents who want their children to win at all costs. For them, there is no coach that is too expensive; no amount of practice that is too much; no sacrifice that is too great. These parents let their children take drugs to improve their chances. After all, they might win a professional career, a college scholarship, or at least bragging rights for their proud parents.

In the end, of course, the real problem is not the doping. It is the win-at-all-costs attitude. The importance of winning in sports is more important than ever before. With the high value on winning, doping is unavoidable. We can ban drugs. We can test athletes. We can even stop them from competing, but we will never solve the problem until we change our attitudes.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Why do some people think that sports doping isn't a problem?

How can sports doping get out of control?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHAT IS WHITE-COLLAR CRIME?

Sociologist Edwin Sutherland was the first person to use the term white-collar crime. Sutherland used the phrase white-collar because most of the criminals that he studied were white-collar workers - people with occupations that don't require manual labor. These included business people, government workers, doctors, and lawyers. He compared white-collar crime with street crime. In one basic way these criminals are the same - people commit these crimes for money. However, they are different in another important way. Street crime is often physically violent. White-collar criminals usually hurt people's finances, but they don't often hit them.

Before Sutherland, sociologists believed that poverty was the cause of most crime; they thought that people committed crimes because they were poor. Sutherland argued that wealthy people were often criminals, too. They weren't poor.

They were just greedy. They were people who had a lot, but wanted more. Sutherland also believed that white-collar crime was more dangerous than street crime, even though it was nonviolent. Why? Because it made people distrust important social institutions such as government and business organizations.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) says that white-collar crime costs the United States more than \$300 billion every year. The punishment for white-collar crimes include fines, home detention, community confinement, costs of prosecution, forfeitures, restitution, supervised release, and imprisonment. However, it can be very difficult to catch white-collar criminals. They often cover their crimes in complex financial arrangements that are difficult to understand. For this reason, there is a new profession called forensic accounting. Forensic accountants look for evidence of crime in a company's finances.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What kind of people commit white-collar crimes?

Which department of the US government investigates white-collar crimes?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHY AN AWFUL LOT SOMETIMES JUST ISN'T ENOUGH

Martha Stewart was incredibly successful. She was the head of her own corporation and one of the richest women in the United States. In 2004, she went to jail for insider trading. Stewart used inside information to avoid losing \$50,000. That's a lot of money to most people, but Stewart was a billionaire. So, why did she do it?

Laura Nash teaches business at Harvard University. She says that Stewart had one problem - she was greedy. "The definition of success today is to go for the maximum. That gets people in trouble." Nash said Stewart and many other business executives are addicted to making money. They don't know when to stop.

Dennis Kozlowski is another great example of a greedy millionaire. He was the head of Tyco International, and his salary was more than \$100 million a year. Apparently it wasn't enough, so he borrowed millions of dollars more from the company. Then he used this money to buy antiques, art, and furniture for his New York apartment. The company also lent him \$19 million to pay for a home in Florida. In 2002, Tyco paid for half of the cost of his wife's birthday party in Italy. (It cost \$2.1 million.) The problem with the loans was that the company forgave them - they didn't ask him to repay the money. Then they forgot to tell the company's stockholders about these gifts. In 2004, the police arrested Kozlowski for stealing about \$135 million from the company.

According to Nash, people like Stewart and Kozlowski are business superstars. They are as famous as rock stars and even richer. They often get drunk on success. People like this can be very selfish and self-centered. Most importantly, they don't think that they have to play by the rules. Nash believes that business leaders who are not so famous do better. They often have lasting success over a lifetime. They know

how to deal with disappointment and limitations. In general, they also care more about others and share their wealth.

Many business superstars believe they can have it all. “Martha Stewart thought she could be the happiest, most caring, wealthiest person around,” Nash said. “Nobody can be all of those things.” Stewart's fall is a valuable lesson for managers, she said. “To have real success, you must stay true to your values. You have to be able to say, ‘This is enough.’”

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are some of the characteristics of business superstars?

What advice does Nash have for business people?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

PRETTY BABIES

Tina Crosby looked confused. This was her first beauty contest and she was nervous. The judge asked her, “How do you relax?” She bravely tried to smile, but she couldn't answer the question. “Ummrn. I don't know,” was all that she could say.

That's not surprising. Tina is only five years old. She was not well spoken but she was cute enough to win. A smiling Tina (and her proud mother) went home with a trophy and a “diamond” crown.

Beauty contests for very young children are common today. However, many people are asking, “Are they good for children?” Megan Palmer runs children's beauty pageants. She knows that there can be problems. She says that some parents push their children too hard. She once saw a woman hit her child. The mother was angry because the girl did not walk gracefully enough. And she says that some mothers put too much makeup on their daughter's faces. “The girls look 30 years old. I tell the mothers to calm down. Then I give them soap and a washcloth and tell them to wash it off,” she says.

Palmer also does not like professional coaches. Some parents pay thousands of dollars for lessons. They want their daughters to learn to walk, turn, and wave to the audience correctly. In addition, the coaches tell the girls how to answer questions as Palmer explains. “For example, a judge asks, ‘What would you like to be when you grow up?’ the five-year old then answers, ‘I want to be a history teacher and president of the United States.’ That wasn't the child's answer. It was the coach's answer.”

Palmer tries to make sure that the children are enjoying themselves. “Beauty contests,” she says, “should be fun. They also should help children become more self-confident - being in a beauty contest is the same as playing on a soccer team. It's not about winning.”

Many experts do not agree. Some child psychologists say that the contests have many more disadvantages than advantages. They think that they teach girls that beauty is very important. Others worry that these children grow up too fast and that can cause psychological problems later on.

Unfortunately for the girls, baby beauty contests are big business. Ted Cohen publishes the International Directory of Pageants. He says there are probably about

5,000 beauty pageants in the United States every year. About 25 percent are for children. And the business is growing. There are more and more contests every year.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Are beauty contests for young children good?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of beauty contests for young children?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

MALE BEAUTY

Beauty contests for women are very common. However, most men do not usually have opportunities to win prizes for being handsome. That is because most cultures don't consider a man's appearance as important as a woman's. Men don't have to be handsome, but women are supposed to be beautiful. However, there is one exception - bodybuilding.

In bodybuilding contests, men compete for cash prizes and titles such as Mr. Universe and Mr. America. The contestants stand in front of the judges and the audience. In order to show their muscles, they pose, or stand, in certain ways. There are competitions for separate parts of the body. One man might have the best back. Another might have the best chest or arms. However, there is also a prize for the best body overall. This man becomes Mr. Universe or Mr. America.

In a few other cultures there are also competitions for physical beauty for men. One interesting contest takes place in the Wodaabe culture. The Wodaabe live on the edge of the Sahara Desert in Africa. For the Wodaabe men, strength is not as important as beauty.

“It is our tradition. Even our ancestors are handsome. Our women are very beautiful, and the babies they make are the most beautiful,” says DerreChafou. He is a past winner. His father was also famous for his beauty. “If I am the man who is the prettiest, lots of women will want to marry me,” Chafou explains.

The competition starts early in life. Mothers and sisters stretch the arms and legs of baby boys to make them long and thin. They squeeze their noses to make them pointed. Competitors' families may spend a year making their costumes. The young men sometimes travel for days to find the right clay to make their red-and-yellow face paint. And a competitor must be more than just beautiful to win. He must have togu-personal magnetism.

Magic also plays a big part in the competition. “Men try for ten years to get the right magic,” Chafou explains. “Here all the men are beautiful. It's the power of magic that makes the difference.”

In the end, there is no money, no crown, no trophy, no title. The most beautiful men win the right to marry the most beautiful women in the tribe so that they can make beautiful babies.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What is important in a Wodaabe beauty contest?

What do the Wodaabe men win?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

COCAINE: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY MIRACLE DRUG

Long ago, Incas in South America discovered coca. Coca is a plant that contains a very powerful chemical - a drug. The Incas chewed coca leaves for energy. The Spanish conquistadors learned about coca, too. They took coca plants to Europe. There, in 1859, a German scientist learned how to take the drug out of the leaves. He called the drug cocaine.

Cocaine immediately became very popular. People thought it was a wonder drug. You could buy products with cocaine everywhere. Until 1914, you could buy it at department stores in the United States. There were cocaine medicines and even chocolate cocaine tablets. One popular drink was Vin Coca-coca wine. It contained 7.2 mg of cocaine per ounce of wine. In the 1880s, the psychiatrist Sigmund Freud said that cocaine was useful. He believed it cured depression and alcoholism.

One hundred years ago, cocaine was also an ingredient in the world's most famous soft drink - Coca Cola. At that time, it was a medicinal drink. It was named for its two main ingredients - coca leaves and kola nuts. People believed that Coca-Cola was beneficial; it made them feel better and more awake. That's not surprising. It contained cocaine from coca leaves and caffeine from kola nuts. Coca-Cola hasn't been made with cocaine for over 75 years.

Despite its benefits, cocaine wasn't popular for very long. People soon discovered that it wasn't really wonderful. Doctors saw that people quickly became dependent on the drug; they couldn't live without it. It also made some people a little crazy. Still others died from cocaine poisoning - they took too much of it. By the beginning of the twentieth century, companies were taking cocaine out of their products. Soon governments around the world made it illegal. Today cocaine is considered one of the most dangerous drugs.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

How did cocaine make people feel?

What are the bad effects of cocaine?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LEGAL DRUGS AND TEENAGERS

A drug is any substance that changes the way the mind and body work. Some drugs-such as alcohol - are legal, while others - such as heroin, ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, and LSD - are illegal. Still others - such as inhalants - have both legal and illegal uses.

Tobacco

Tobacco is the most common and dangerous legal drug. Long-term use causes serious diseases such as emphysema, heart disease, and lung cancer. In most places in the United States, you must be 18 to buy tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco. However, studies show that almost 25 percent of young teenagers smoke regularly. In addition, 85 percent of teenagers who smoke become addicted.

Alcohol

Alcohol is a depressant that can affect people in many different ways. Some people are relaxed by the drug. Others lose their inhibitions completely so they do stupid, and sometimes dangerous, things. Some people become alcoholics. Alcoholics are people who are addicted to alcohol. Alcohol addiction destroys the lives of millions of people every year. Even though alcohol is legal for adults, it is illegal for teenagers. However, teenagers are drinking more than ever. Studies show that a third of American teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 drink at least once a week. Many of them drink alcoholic fruit drinks. These sweet drinks often have more alcohol than beer or wine.

Inhalants

Inhalants are drugs that you can inhale or breathe in and get high. Inhaling, or sniffing, is very popular with very young teenagers because the products are easy to find. They are also inexpensive. Common household products such as glues, nail polish remover, lighter fluid, spray paints, deodorant, hair sprays, and cleaning fluids are sniffable. Most sniffers give up inhalants and start using alcohol or other drugs when they have more money. Inhalants can cause brain damage and even death.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What drugs are illegal?

What can inhalants cause?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE STORY OF BIKINI

After World War II, the American government wanted to test nuclear bombs. However, they had a problem. Testing nuclear bombs was dangerous; the bombs were very powerful. Furthermore, the radiation from the bombs could kill people years after the testing. Therefore, these bombs couldn't be tested near a lot of people. The government needed to find a place far away from civilization. They chose the tiny island of Bikini in the Pacific Ocean. Bikini seemed perfect. It was far from sea and air routes, and the U.S. government controlled it. After World War II, Bikini and the other Marshall Islands became a U.S. protectorate. Sadly, Bikini didn't get much protection.

In order to get permission to bomb, the American governor of Bikini went to talk to the people who lived on Bikini. There were only 167. He explained that the tests were for 'the good of mankind and could end all world wars'. He also said that the islanders could return after the tests were finished. In the end, the Bikinians agreed.

Unfortunately, nuclear scientists were wrong about the strength of the bomb. They expected it to be a five-megaton explosion, but it was a fifteen-megaton explosion. The bomb was 1,000 times stronger than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. It caused much more dangerous radiation than they expected. Now, more than 50 years after the nuclear test, the Bikinians are still living in exile.

The nuclear testing did more than make a hole a mile wide in beautiful Bikini. It destroyed a way of life. Bikini native Emso Leviticus says that before the Americans came, "We took care of each other. No one starved." Life on Bikini was easy. Men and teenage boys went fishing every day. Then they shared the fish with everyone on the island. In the same way, when a family needed help fixing their house, everyone helped. Meanwhile, the owners of the house cooked food for the workers. Bikinian Miriam Jamodre agrees with Leviticus, "It was a pleasant life on Bikini. We all made decisions as a community of people. We made food together. It was very harmonious."

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why are nuclear bombs more dangerous than other bombs?

How did the US government persuade the Bikinians to agree to the testing?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE THREE NAURUS

The Pacific island nation of Nauru is one of the loneliest and saddest countries in the world. It used to be a beautiful place. Then, for a short while, it was a very rich place. Now it is an ecological nightmare. Nauru's heartbreaking story could have one good consequence - other countries might learn from its mistakes.

Pleasant Island

For thousands of years, Polynesian people lived on the remote island of Nauru, far from western civilization. The first European to arrive was John Fearn in 1798. He was the British captain of the *Hunter*, a whaling ship. He described the island as very attractive. Everywhere there were small houses that belonged to the twelve clans or family groups of the island. He called the island Pleasant Island.

However, because it was very remote, Nauru had little communication with Europeans at first. Then whaling ships and other traders began to visit. They brought guns and alcohol. These elements destroyed the social balance of the twelve tribes. A ten-year civil war started. It reduced the population from 1,400 to 900. Finally, in 1888, Germany took Nauru as a protectorate.

Fantasy Island

Nauru's real troubles began in 1899. In that year, a British mining company discovered phosphate on the island. In fact, it found that the island of Nauru was nearly all phosphate. Phosphate is a very important fertilizer and farming was an important industry. The company began mining the phosphate. A phosphate mine is not a hole in the ground; it is a strip mine. When a company strip-mines, it removes the top layer of soil. Then it takes away the material it wants. Strip-mining totally destroys the land. Gradually, the lovely island of Nauru started to look like the moon. In 1968, Nauru received its independence. It became the smallest republic in the world. It was also one of the richest. Every year the government received millions and millions of dollars for its phosphate.

Desert Island

Unfortunately, the government did not use this money well. The leaders invested unwisely and lost millions of dollars. In addition, they used millions more dollars for personal expenses. Soon people realized that they had a terrible problem. Their phosphate was running out. Ninety percent of their island was destroyed and they had nothing. By 2000, Nauru was almost bankrupt. Experts say that it would take approximately \$433,600,000 and more than 20 years to repair the island. This will probably never happen. The only people who want to do it are the Naurans and they have nothing.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What is Nauru and where is it?

What did people discover on Nauru?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

A GUIDE TO REALITY TV

Reality television programs are growing in popularity. There are many different types, but all of them have one thing in common—they make ordinary people famous, if only for a few days. Here is a sample of some of the most popular shows.

Big Brother

This popular program originated in the Netherlands. Many different countries have adapted the program. On *Big Brother*, ten people live in a house together. The housemates cannot contact the outside world. There is no TV, radio, telephone, the Internet, newspapers, or any other forms of media. The contestants have to share the housework. In addition, “Big Brother” gives them a special job or task every week. These tasks test their ability to work as a team. In most countries, the audience votes to eliminate one of the competitors each week. In the United States, however, the contestants vote, but the public doesn't.

Fear Factor

On this program, contestants “face their fears” to win money. In order to win, they have to do many things to test their courage. For example, they often have to eat live worms and other small animals such as insects. In addition, their bodies may be covered with bees or they may be asked to get inside a box full of snakes. There are many different types of *Fear Factor* teams. Some of the teams consist of female competitors; other teams are made up of siblings. There have even been parent and child teams. The producers of *Fear Factor* say that all the stunts have been tested. Indeed, no one has been injured yet.

Survivor

One very popular reality show is *Survivor*. On this program, 16 people compete for \$1,000,000. They must live outside and cook their own food. They often have to catch it as well. In addition, the competitors must perform different kinds of physical tests. Every week the competitors vote out one member of their group.

The producers say that the competition depends on the competitors' ability to survive in the wilderness. However, understanding politics is actually the most important skill. Successful players must be able to make agreements with other

players. If they cannot do this, the other competitors will eliminate them. When *only* two people are left, the previously eliminated contestants vote to give one of the finalists \$1,000,000.

Temptation Island

Temptation Island takes four couples to a tropical island. The couples are not married, but they have serious relationships. On the island, the couples are separated. The four women stay with 13 handsome bachelors. The four men stay with a group of beautiful single women. The single men and women are supposed to tempt the members of each couple to leave their mates. If a single person can convince a man or woman to leave his or her mate, he or she wins. Many religious organizations are upset about this show. They say that it is immoral because it is about sex, not relationships. A television executive defends the show. He says that it helps couples learn about themselves.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Which program began in the Netherlands?

Why did the writer choose to talk about these programs?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT REALITY TV?

Even if you do not watch reality television, you can probably name some of the programs. Your friends and co-workers talk about them. You read about the shows in the newspapers, see pictures in magazines, and even see contestants on the news.

Why are these shows so popular? Some people say that people watch the programs to be part of the "in" crowd. Other people think that only people who are unintelligent watch reality television.

Steven Reiss and James Wiltz are psychologists at Ohio State University. They wanted to find out what kind of people watch reality programs and why, so they conducted a scientific study. The results were surprising. First of all, they discovered that reality television watchers are not less intelligent than non-watchers. They also found out that they are not more social than non-watchers, so they do not watch these programs just to talk about them with friends.

They did find that people who watch reality television were more competitive than people who don't watch it. However, that was not the biggest difference. The attitude that separated watchers from non-watchers was the importance of social status. People who enjoy reality television generally agreed with statements such as "Prestige is important to me" and "I am impressed with designer clothes". The desire for status is a way to get attention. When you get more attention, you feel more important. Through reality TV people can dream about becoming famous. Ordinary people watch other ordinary people become celebrities. The message of reality television is that ordinary people can become so important that millions will watch them. And the secret dream of many of those viewers is that they might be the next celebrities.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What are two reasons why people think that reality TV is popular?

What kind of people enjoys reality TV?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

PSYCHOLOGISTS STUDY THE CAUSES OF MOB VIOLENCE

What is the connection between violence and sports? Psychologists say that there are many reasons for violence at sports events. One is alcohol. Many fans drink a lot at games. When people drink, they are more likely to do abnormal things. Psychologist Dennis Brock says, "Quiet people become loud. Normally nonviolent people become destructive."

David Sampson, a sports sociologist, agrees. "These are often celebratory riots—a large number of very happy people mixed in with large amounts of alcohol. They don't often seem dangerous in the beginning, but things get violent quickly."

Another reason for violence at sports events is the crowd itself. When individuals are in a large group of people, they can lose their sense of personal responsibility. Edward Hirt, a social psychologist, says that research shows that people do things in crowds that they would never do alone. People in crowds feel anonymous—no one knows who they are. Crowds also make people feel powerful. They stop making personal decisions. They just follow the crowd. Social psychologists call this a "mob mentality."

Dave Zarifis, head of public safety at Northern Iowa University says, "Some people don't even come to celebrate. They want to drink hard and make trouble. Someone does something stupid, and it grows from there. You get a mob mentality. People think it's OK to do almost anything. They think, 'There are so many of us and not enough of them'."

Social psychologist Dr. Sharon Kennedy says that there are a few things officials can do to prevent violence. Making sure that an area is not overcrowded is very important. Officials should also think of games as "big parties." Then they will prepare differently. Kennedy says that in Great Britain they are controlling the problem with cameras in all the stadiums. "When you know someone is watching, you are much less likely to behave badly."

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What are the two main causes of mob violence?

How can officials stop violence at sports events?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Buy Cover Girl makeup. (You will be beautiful.) Wear Nike sneakers. (You will be strong.) Drive a Lexus. (You will be successful.) Drink Budweiser. (You will be popular.) Advertising's promises can seem harmless, but a group of critics, scholars, and journalists argue that they aren't. They have formed a group called the Media and

Democracy Congress. This group wants to teach Americans how influential advertising can be. In order to do this, they give advertisers awards for bad ads. The name of these awards, the Schmios, rhyme with the Clios-the Oscars of the advertising industry. Every advertising agency would like to win a Clio. No one wants a Schmio.

Schmios are given for false advertising and for some ads that are just in bad taste. For example, TV star Jenny McCarthy won a Schmio a few years ago for an ad that pictures her sitting on the toilet and reading the *wall Street Journal*. The National Rifle Association also won an award for its Eddie Eagle ads. Eddie is cute and cuddly and loves to teach kids about guns. He tells children, "If you see a gun, STOP! Don't touch. Leave the area. Tell an adult." But critics think the NRA is sending another message. "We gave Eddie Eagle a special award for the most effective contribution to our culture of violence," said Bianca Jagger, a Schmio presenter.

Shoe company Nike was given a "Lifetime Achievement" award. Charles Kernaghan, executive director of the National Labor Committee, presented the award to the company that spends about \$640 million a year on advertising around the world. He pointed out that many of Nike's ads show the empowerment of women. However, critics argue that Nike doesn't empower its workers-particularly women. In fact, it treats them very badly. Their salaries are low and their working conditions are terrible.

Peter Zapf, an advertising expert and a member of the Clio board, defends the Clios. "We honor advertising excellence," but not even he can completely defend his industry. "Most advertising is bad," admits Zapf. "Very few advertising companies respect the customers' intelligence."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are Schmios given for?

Is advertising harmful according to the author?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DESIGNED TO FIT IN

Go to the mall and look at the young teenagers. Many of them are wearing the same clothes. As an adult, you might think, "Why do they want to look identical?"

"Wearing the *right* clothes is very important for young teenagers, especially girls," says Kathleen Jackson from Delmar Hunt School in Lincoln, Nebraska. "Looking right means fitting in."

"It's a sign of normal child development," Mrs. Jackson says. "Young teenagers are starting to separate from their parents, and they want to fit in with their friends. Dressing alike is one way to do that."

Dr. Adam Robb, a psychiatrist at Emory University, calls this *peer group identity*. Before forming their own identity, teenagers become part of a group to feel accepted and secure. He says, "Teenagers judge each other all the time. In many schools, one of the ways you fit in is to look like everyone else-you wear the *right* skirt or pants or carry the *right* back pack."

Fashion can be a lot of fun, but it has another side, too. Sometimes the pressure of dressing in a certain way creates problems, especially in families with no money for expensive clothes. Some schools have found a solution to this problem. They have a dress code or make students wear uniforms. “Students were laughed at if they didn't have the right clothes. That's not a good atmosphere for learning, so we started a dress code. That ended the fashion race,” Mrs. Jackson says. “It really stopped the teasing and conflicts.”

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Does dressing alike make teenagers feel secure?

What are the two sides of fashion?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

NEW EXHIBIT ON MEN'S SKIRTS OPENS AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

Throughout Western history, women have borrowed men's clothing. Women wear pants, ties, and even men's suits. However, men have rarely worn women's clothing. One of the strongest taboos is against men wearing skirts. Skirts are considered inappropriate for men. A new exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art called “Brave hearts: Men in Skirts” looks at this question.

David Thorndike, sociologist at the Modern Social Research Institute, says, “Men think if they wear a skirt, they will look feminine. That is absurd. Roman gladiators were very masculine and they wore skirts.” He continues, “At one time, only men wore pants. However, today pants are unisex clothes. They are appropriate for both men and women. Women wear them all the time. If a man wants to wear masculine clothing, he should put on a real Scottish kilt.”

The exhibit has examples of men's skirts in history. In addition, there are a number of skirts from well-known clothing designers. There is even a photograph of movie star Brad Pitt in a skirt. One male visitor said, “That skirt looks really comfortable. If Brad Pitt can wear it, why can't I?”

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Are pants unisex clothes nowadays?

What's the main idea of this exhibition?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

CABBIES UPSET WITH DRESS CODE

EDINBURGH – Taxicab drivers in Edinburgh, Scotland, are upset about a strict new dress code that says they must wear flannel trousers, a shirt, and shoes.

Cabbies say the code is too restrictive. Furthermore, they complain that it takes away freedom to wear the national dress-including the Scottish kilt. Cabbie Jim Taylor, of the Edinburgh Street Taxi Association, says that cabbies will go to court if they are forced to follow the dress code.

Taylor remarks, “Most drivers already dress appropriately so there is absolutely no need for such a restrictive dress code. What if a driver wants to wear a kilt? According to this new dress code, he can't. After all, we are self-employed drivers. We are not city employees. It is unreasonable for the government to nuke us follow a dress code like this. No judge can tell us how to dress.”

However, Phil Attridge, a member of the city council, disagreed. “We do not think the dress code is strict. Most drivers already follow it. We don't want drivers to wear jeans or shorts. Dress is important because drivers often go into hotels to pick up passengers - they should be well-dressed.”

On the issue of kilts and national dress, Attridge added, “If a driver wants to wear some kind of national dress that is not in the code, he or she can ask permission.”

He said a survey showed that 76 percent of cabbies and taxi owners wanted the dress code. According to sources, police officers are already enforcing the dress code, and one driver has already paid a fine for wearing corduroy trousers instead of flannel.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Is cabbie dress code restrictive?

Is cabbie dress code reasonable?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

FIRST THE HIJAB, THEN THE TURBAN?

After the ban on the Hijab, will Sikhs be able to wear turbans?

In 2004 the French government decided to ban all obvious religious symbols from public schools. As a result, Muslim girls could no longer wear the *hijab*, or the head scarf. Jews were not allowed to wear *yarmulkes*, or skullcaps. Even large Christian crosses were not permitted.

A special commission researched the question and made the recommendation to ban the religious clothing. Former government minister Bernard Stasi headed the group. He said that the members of the group consulted many different people - including teachers, religious leaders, sociologists, and politicians-before they made their decision.

The commission felt that conspicuous religious symbols set people apart and stop them from feeling truly *French*. By instituting this ban, the commission hopes that immigrants will become a more integral part of French society if they do not wear such clothing. Traditionally, newcomers from Africa and the Middle East have often been poorly integrated into French society.

However, this decision has upset other ethnic groups. For example, there are about 5,000 Sikhs in France. Being mostly lower middle class and thus having little access to mainstream French media, they did not know about the government commission. The commission was not aware of their concerns either. As a result, Sikhs never had the opportunity to testify in the hearings.

Several thousand Sikhs held a rally in Paris last week. They wanted to know if they have to take off their turbans. Or should they, as Luc Ferry, the education minister said, wear “see-through turbans”. Sikh spokesmen argue that the turban is not a symbol of their religion. They wear turbans to cover their hair, which they never cut. Therefore, if they cannot wear turbans, their hair, which is the real symbol, will be uncovered.

“We feel undressed if we don't wear our turbans,” said Simranjit Singh, a Sikh member of the Indian parliament who came to France-along with hundreds of people from all over Europe and America-for Saturday's rally. “It is humiliating to the core if we are made to take off our turbans.”

The government has not yet made a decision on the legality of the turban.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why did the commission make the hijab illegal in schools?

Why do the Sikhs wear turbans?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE INTERNET POLICE

You're using the computer at work. After a while, you decide to take a break and go shopping on the Internet. But when you click on your favorite shopping Web site, there's a big red hand on the screen. At the bottom of the screen, you see a warning from your company about unauthorized Web surfing.

So, who put it there? People like Ida Smith. Ms. Smith is a content specialist for a Web-filtering company. She spends her days surfing the Web. She is looking for sites that employers do not want their employees to visit. Her specific task is to find shopping, travel, and gambling sites. These sites are some of the places where employees may waste time at work. (Other content specialists look for sites on sex, drugs, and violence. There are 39 categories in all.) She also scans *white lists-approved* sites for children - to make sure that they have no links to naughty sites.

Special *spidering* programs actually do most of the work. These programs can search millions of pages in just a few minutes. But people like Ms. Smith provide a human review to make sure that pages are not blacklisted or white-listed by mistake.

Ms. Smith enjoys the work. “I love spending time on the Internet. I feel like I'm in touch with what people think and what they're doing” she says. However, she admits often taking a couple of aspirin when she gets home. “All that surfing gives me a headache,” she explains.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Who are the Internet police?

What do special spidering programs do?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ONLINE DATING GOES MAINSTREAM

Patricia Costello, 33, e-mailed 120 men in her first four months of Internet dating. She talked to 20 of them on the telephone at least once and met **11** in person. Of these, she dated four several times and then realized she had not found *the one*.

One of the first lessons that subscribers to Internet dating sites learn is that life partners are difficult to find. But Ms. Costello isn't ready to give up. She is convinced that she has a better chance to find her life partner in cyberspace than in the real world.

Online dating is rapidly becoming a normal part of single life for adults of all ages in the United States. More than 45 million Americans visited online dating sites last month, according to comScore Media Metrix, a Web tracking service. Although the Internet has a reputation as a meeting place for people interested in casual sex, a majority of subscribers now say that they are looking for a serious relationship.

There are still many stories about liars. Many online daters are married and don't admit it. In fact, people are almost expected to lie a little or exaggerate their good qualities. Nonetheless, singles say that the Internet is still better than singles bars, dates set up by friends, or church groups for meeting other singles.

"My brother told me to take a dance class," said David Collins, 28, who met his fiancée, Sharon West, 27, on Match.com. "I tried it and met some nice people, but no one that I wanted to go out with."

"The traditional ways for getting people together are not working as well as they did before," said Linda Frankel, a sociology professor at the University of Southern Idaho. "There's a need for something new, and the Internet is filling that need."

"Twenty or thirty years ago, most American couples met in high school or college," Professor Frankel explained. "But people now marry at an older age, and there have not been any social institutions to replace the traditional ones-local communities, families, and schools. The Internet may be the answer."

Daniel Weston, author of the article "Find the Mate You Want Now," agrees. "The Internet not only allows you to meet people, but it allows you to choose from thousands of them. If you work hard enough, you can find the exact kind of person you are looking for."

Of course, Internet dating isn't perfect. Online daters often complain that it is difficult to judge physical chemistry through computer communication. "Certain things look really good on paper," said Regina Coughlin, a computer consultant in Manhattan. "Then, in real life, it's a completely different story."

After a few disappointing meetings, many online daters just quit. Those who find partners say they often think that they might find someone better - if they just looked through a few hundred more profiles.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of online dating?

Why don't people meet in the same ways that they used to?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ANGER AROUND THE WORLD

Attitudes about expressing anger vary from culture to culture. In some cultures, almost any sign of anger is inappropriate. In others, people use anger as a way of extending relationships. The differences in attitudes about anger can cause a lot of cross-cultural miscommunication. For example, anthropologist Jean Briggs spent 17 months as the adopted daughter of an Utku Eskimo family. During this time, she discovered if she expressed anger in a way that was appropriate in the United States, the Eskimos thought that she was childish. As a result, she learned not to show her anger.

The Utku are just one example of a culture that dislikes signs of anger. Finnish people also believe that expressions of anger show a lack of selfcontrol. This attitude can make them seem very peaceful. For example, road rage is a problem in many countries, but not in Finland. There, experts say, a car accident doesn't make people angry. The drivers politely exchange information and then go on. And no one complains when a bus breaks down. The passengers simply get off and wait for the next one.

Such behavior would not happen in the United States where expressing anger is accepted-even expected. The problem occurs when people from cultures where anger is acceptable visit countries where it is not. For example, if an American visiting England complained in a tone of voice that would be effective at home, no one would pay attention. They would see him as just another impolite American. This is because the English usually avoid showing anger unless the situation is extremely serious.

Avoidance of public anger is also common in China and Japan. In both of these cultures, the expression of anger is unacceptable and destructive. This attitude is very different from the one in the United States, where many people believe that not expressing anger can lead to depression, alcoholism, drug addiction, or even violence. In countries that don't express anger, most people would think this idea was ridiculous or even dangerous.

However, in some other cultures, anger is more lightly received and forgotten than in the United States. Americans traveling in the Middle East or some Mediterranean countries are often surprised by the amount of anger they see and hear. They do not realize that people in these countries express their anger and then forget it. Even the people who are on the receiving end of the anger usually do not remember it for long. In fact, in these cultures, fierce arguments and confrontation can be positive signs of friendliness and engagement. Here, again, is a good deal of opportunity for misunderstanding and resentment between cultures.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What are the names of the cultures where expressions of anger are appropriate?

What are the names of the cultures where expressions of anger are inappropriate?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

SKEPTICS DEFEAT PSYCHICS

TORONTO, CANADA - A Toronto-area skeptics society recently challenged local psychics to prove their abilities. The OSSCI (Ontario Skeptics Society for Critical Inquiry) offered \$1,000 to anyone who could identify three common items in sealed boxes. The \$1,000 Psychic Challenge was held on November 2, 2002. Many local people say that they have psychic powers, so it seemed likely that at least one of them would win the money. So how did the crazies do? When the boxes were opened, there were no correct answers. No one was able to identify the three items. In fact, none of the supposed psychics could identify even *one* item.

The cardboard boxes were displayed on a table behind a rope. A guard watched to make sure that no one touched them. People had to look at the boxes from six feet away. They only knew that the objects were common items that most adults or adolescents would recognize. When they believed they knew what the items were, they wrote their answers on a form.

The boxes were opened in front of a small crowd-some hopeful, some skeptical. The items were a tangerine, a glow, and a roll of toilet paper. OSSCI is now working on a more extensive Psychic Challenge with a larger cash award - \$10,000. They hope that more powerful psychics will take the test. However, after the results of the first test, Toronto-area skeptics are confident their money will be safe.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What did the skeptics offer the psychics?

What are the skeptics going to do next?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHY APPEARANCE IS IMPORTANT

We are all more concerned with our appearance. For most of us, this concern is not simply vanity. *Vanity* means having too much pride in one's appearance. On the other hand, concern about appearance is quite understandable because attractive people have many advantages in our society. According to the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford, England, studies show that

1. attractive children are more popular;
2. teachers give attractive children better grades;
3. attractive job applicants have a better chance of getting hired. They also get higher salaries;
4. people generally believe that physically attractive people have other desirable characteristics such as intelligence, competence, confidence, and morality. (The good princess is always beautiful; the wicked stepmother is always ugly.)

Therefore, it is not surprising that physical attraction is of great importance to us. This concern with appearance did not begin with modern Western culture. Every period of history has had standards of beauty. For example, one hundred years ago in China, people thought that women should have very small feet. To achieve this ideal, girls had their feet bound to stop their natural growth. However, even though

appearance has been important in every age and every culture, it has not always been as important as it is today. Western societies today are obsessed with physical appearance. Some people believe that science and the media have caused this obsession.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What are the examples of advantages that attractive people have in our society?

Is concern for appearance a modern idea?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

ARE WOMEN STILL THE FAIR SEX?

Studies find that men are worrying about their appearance too.

When women are called the *fair sex*, the word is used in its old meaning of *pretty* not today's common meaning of *open-minded*. Traditionally, women worried about their appearance. Men were more concerned with being strong and powerful. But men are becoming more and more concerned with the way that they look. Research from the Canadian Psychological Association shows that 75 percent of men today don't like how they look. And they're trying to fix their appearance. Men with gray hair are dyeing it. Men who are losing their hair are paying thousands of dollars to grow it back. Men are also using plastic surgery to fix their noses and remove fat. And just as women increase the size of their breasts with implants, men are now getting bicep implants to make their muscles look larger.

Why are they doing this? No one is certain. On the Canadian Psychological Association survey, men gave three reasons for wanting to be more attractive:

1. to get a better job
2. to be more athletic
3. to allure women

Mike Lyons, a gym manager in Chicago, doesn't believe these reasons. He says that men, like women, are unhappy with their appearance because they see *ideal* men in movies, in advertisements, and on television and music videos. "They come into the gym and say, 'Have you seen this *guy*? He looks amazing.'"

Experts say the self-improvement isn't bad. But a growing number of men are going to extremes, and researchers plan to reexamine treatments for men who are obsessed with their appearance.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why are women called the fair sex?

Why do men want to be attractive?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

BODY DISSATISFACTION? MAYBE THE MAASAI HAVE THE ANSWER

It is common knowledge that many Americans are unhappy with their appearance. However, do people in other cultures feel the same? Social researcher Robert Biswas-Diener wanted to find out, so he went to Kenya to study the Maasai people.

He conducted his study in a village that had no television, no magazines, or other forms of media. He asked the people questions such as, “How satisfied are you with your physical appearance?” Their answers were surprising. Everyone in the village was completely satisfied! They sometimes said that other people in the village were unattractive, but they had a high opinion of their own appearance.

Why do the Maasai have such a healthy outlook on physical beauty? According to Dr. Biswas-Diener, there are several reasons. One of the most important is that they focus on things they can control.

“Every single person I interviewed mentioned jewelry as [necessary] for attractiveness: the Maasai wisely focus on adornment rather than the body itself when trying to appear attractive.”

There is also a major difference in the way the Maasai look at their bodies. Out of 120 people that were interviewed, only one mentioned breast size when asked to describe a good-looking woman. Instead, the Maasai talked about cleanliness, white teeth, short hair, height (tall is good), and elongated ear lobes. (Maasai women lengthen their ear lobes by wearing heavy earrings.)

Americans, on the other hand, are obsessed about things over which they have limited control. Plastic surgery, diets, liposuction, face lifts, exercise programs, and breast implants are part of a culture that wants to control all aspects of physical appearance. Americans believe they have more control over their physical appearance than the Maasai do. And they are correct. Technology gives them more control. Ironically, this control makes them feel more dissatisfied.

Perhaps the greatest difference that the researcher found between American and Maasai cultures is the definition of attractiveness itself. In the Maasai language, the word for physical appearance can also be used to describe morality. In fact, the Maasai usually think about attractiveness in terms of both physical traits and moral character. When he asked the Maasai to describe a good-looking person, they often used adjectives such as friendly, *well-respected*, *disciplined* and *brave*.

So it seems according to the research that the Maasai are more satisfied with their physical appearance for three main reasons. They focus more on adornment than physical attributes. When they do think of bodily characteristics, they focus on those they can easily change. Finally, the Maasai consider behavior and character, as well as physical beauty, when they think about attractiveness.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What is surprising about the Maasai people?

How do the Maasai judge beauty?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

RESUMES: FACT OR FICTION?

Exaggeration Is Common, But Risky

People are sometimes “creative” when they are writing their resumes. That doesn't surprise Edward C. Andler. “Cheating on resumes is very common,” says Andler. He is a *resume detective* and the author of *The Complete Reference Checking Handbook*. “Many people are getting away with it, so more people are trying to do it.”

Andler's surveys show that about one-third of all resume writers exaggerate their background and accomplishments. Approximately 10 percent of job seekers “seriously misrepresent” their work histories. In some fields, such as sales, the numbers are even higher.

Typical lies include fictional degrees, false job titles, exaggerated responsibilities, and the changing of dates of previous employment to hide times of unemployment. Some resume lies, such as fake degrees, are easy to discover. Other lies, particularly exaggerations, are harder to check. “Most companies will only give you dates of employment, and that's it, no details,” Andler says.

However, Andler uses other techniques to discover lies on resumes. For example, when he checks references, he asks for the name of another work colleague. A call to that person helps him find untruths. “A person who gives a reference is supposed to say good things. They are prepared and they don't want to be negative. However, when you call another colleague, you often get more truthful answers.” Still, many applicants get away with their lies. And that is why so many people continue to do it. “Our message to people who cheat is just don't do it,” says Andler. “We may not catch you now, but sooner or later, somebody will.”

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

Is it bad to exaggerate on your resume?

What do typical resume lies include?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

NEED TO LIE? BETTER MAKE A PHONECALL

Whom can you trust? The answer is the e-mailer and not the telephone caller. Jeffrey Hancock of Cornell University asked 30 students to keep track of e-mails, calls, conversations, and instant messages for one week. He also asked them to admit how many lies they told during the week. The results? People admitted lying in

- four out of ten phone calls
- three out of ten face-to-face conversations
- two out of ten messaging series
- one out of seven e-mail strings, although experienced users were more likely to lie more often

These results have surprised psychologists. Some expected e-mailers to be the biggest liars. They thought that people would be more uncomfortable lying when face-to-face. Others expected people to lie more in face-to-face conversations because we have more experience with that kind of communication. But Hancock says it is also -important to note whether there is a record of the lie or not. He claims

that people are afraid to lie when they know their lies are being recorded. This is why fewer lies appear in e-mail than on the phone.

People are also more likely to lie when they don't have time to think of a response. That is why people lie more often on the telephone or in instant message conversations. He found many lies are automatic responses to an unexpected question, such as: "Do you like my dress?"

Hancock hopes his research will help companies work out the best ways for their employees to communicate. For instance, the phone might be the best for sales where employees are encouraged to stretch the truth.

But for work evaluations, where honesty is important, e-mail very well could be the best place to have a conversation.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Is it easier to lie on the phone than in other situations? Why (not)?

When are people more likely to lie?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

DON'T BE FOOLED AGAIN

There is no foolproof way of telling when someone is lying, but there are various signs to look for. For example, liars often touch their faces. A liar may stroke his chin or touch his nose. In fact, the fairy-tale Pinocchio is closer to reality than one might think. According to the Chicago Smell and Taste Treatment and Research Foundation, people's noses get bigger when they lie because more blood goes to the nose. This extra blood causes nasal tissue to itch. As a result, people often scratch their noses when they are lying. The researchers discovered this when they watched a tape of a person who was lying. When the person was telling the truth, he didn't touch his nose. When he was lying, he touched it once every four minutes.

You should also watch a person's eye movements. Most people think that we maintain *eye* contact when we tell the truth and look away when we lie. That's not true. Many people actually look right at you when they are lying. Liars consciously try to look at you because they want to appear sincere. However, there is an unconscious reason why people don't look at you when they are telling the truth. When people have to retrieve information from memory, their *eyes* move up. They do this unconsciously, but consistently.

The point here is not that any particular behavior means that a person is lying. The secret is to watch people closely and follow their mental processes. Look for their patterns and see when their behavior changes. Watch for an answer that breaks the rules-the odd one out will be the lie. Now, that you know how this works, go out and try it with friends and family. Challenge them to lie convincingly as you watch their eye movements and body language. The more you practice detecting lies, the better you'll get.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

How could an employer use the information?

Is it possible to tell when people are lying to you?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

LIVING WITH LIES

Social psychologists say we're all liars and that's OK

Many people believe that used car salesmen and politicians are more untrustworthy than the rest of us, but studies show that lying is very common in all professions and levels of society. Leonard Saxe, professor of psychology at Brandeis University, points out that most of us receive many different messages about lying. Although parents and teachers tell us that it's always better to tell the truth, society often rewards deception. For example, if you arrive late for a meeting, you'll probably be in a lot of trouble if *you* say that you overslept. However, if you lie and say there was a lot of traffic, everyone will understand. Furthermore, lying is actually necessary in many occupations. Reporters lie to get stories. Police officers lie to make people confess. And lawyers think up incredible stories to help their clients.

People also lie about their accomplishments. In recent years, a number of well-known people—from coaches and business executives to college professors and journalists—have admitted that they have lied about their pasts. Many research psychologists say that we should not quickly criticize such people because most of us lie in the same ways at times. “Each of us creates our own personal myth - our own story about ourselves,” Ford says. That story often exaggerates some facts while leaving out others.

Dishonesty is also very common in romantic relationships. According to Dory Hollander, psychologist and author of *101 Lies Men Tell Women*, 85percent of the couples interviewed in a 1990 study of college students reported that one or both partners had lied to each other. Bella DePaulo, a psychologist at the University of Virginia, also found that dating couples lie to each other about 33 percent of the time - perhaps even more often than they lie to other people. Fortunately, husbands and wives are not as deceptive. Spouses lie to each other in about ten percent of their major conversations.

Researchers argue that in some cases telling lies actually helps us connect with other people. DePaulo argues that some lying is necessary in everyday life. “It would be a disaster if everybody were totally honest,” she says. She reported an experiment in which one of her students tried to avoid telling lies for several weeks. The task was so difficult that the student was unable to complete his research and had to apologize to a lot of people afterward.

Certain cultures may place special importance on *white lies*. (A *white lie* is a lie about a very unimportant matter or one that is meant to avoid hurting the listener's feelings.) A survey showed that only about half of Korean Americans believe that doctors should not tell patients the truth if they are dying. In contrast, nearly 90 percent of Americans of European or African descent felt that the patients should know the truth. It's also not surprising that research shows that we are more likely to tell white lies to people we are close to. This is especially true of women. Although the sexes lie with equal frequency, women are especially likely to lie in order to protect someone's feelings. Men, on the other hand, more often lie about themselves.

Everyone who believes that lies are always bad should think about what would happen if we always told the truth. It might seem like the world would be a better

place. On the other hand, all that honesty might destroy our ability to connect with others. Let's face it-lying often makes our social lives easier. Continual lying is clearly a problem, but would we really want to get rid of all of our lies?

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What two different messages do we get about lying?

What are "white lies"?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHAT'S BETTER: A DUNCE OR A GENIUS?

A *dunce*, which means a very stupid person, is an eponymous term—a word that comes from someone's name. In this case, the person was John Duns Scotus. He was a thirteenth-century philosopher. Duns was not really stupid, but he had some strange ideas. Although he was very respected in his time, other philosophers began to criticize him after he died. His followers, the *dunsmen*, were fanatical believers in his ideas. They refused to give them up and people began to laugh at them. And so, *dunce* came to mean *idiot*.

The dunce cap also came from John Duns. He believed that conical hats increased learning. His theory suggested that knowledge is centralized at the point of the cone and then funneled down into the brain of the wearer. People soon realized that this was an idiotic idea. So the *duns cap* became a symbol of stupidity.

However, being a dunce isn't all bad. There are a lot of famous people that seemed like dunces to their teachers.

- Albert Einstein couldn't read until he was seven.
- Isaac Newton did poorly in grade school.
- When Thomas Edison was a boy, his teachers told him he was too stupid to learn anything.
- Leo Tolstoy flunked out of college.
- Wernher von Braun (father of the U.S. space program) failed ninth-grade algebra.
- Louis Pasteur got a C in chemistry in college.

More recently, Bill Bradley, a former U.S. senator, got a very low score on his college entrance examination. He scored only 485 out of a possible 800, yet he became a Rhodes scholar and a well-known lawmaker. These men prove that children who are slow starters, students who get poor grades, and people who don't do well on tests may do very well in life.

On the other hand, there are geniuses who are absolute failures outside the classroom. For example, Theodore Kaczynski, better known as "The Unabomber," was no dunce at all. He skipped two years of high school, graduated from Harvard, and got a PhD in math. After graduating he was unable to cope with the outside world, and he went insane. He moved to Montana to live alone and started sending letter bombs to people he didn't know. I'd much rather live in a country run by *dunces* such as Albert Einstein and Bill Bradley than by geniuses like Theodore Kaczynski.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What does the word duncе mean?

What is a symbol of stupidity?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE LONELINESS OF BEING A GENIUS

Many people think that it must be great to be a child prodigy. You're smarter than everyone - even your teachers. All your friends are jealous because you don't have to work in school. Your parents are really proud of you and they never complain about your schoolwork.

Unfortunately, for most prodigies, the statements above are incorrect. Many child prodigies have lonely, friendless childhoods. Why? Because their intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and chronological ages are very different. Even a very young prodigy may have the intelligence of an adult, but he or she still has the social and emotional level of a young child.

Research on the development of children's friendships shows that friends think of themselves as similar to each other. This means two children who are friends like the same activities and they act and speak in similar ways. Many highly gifted children can find no one who is like them, so they end up lonely and isolated.

For example, Ian is six. His IQ is over 200, and he is passionate about dinosaurs. Many children of all ages also like dinosaurs. However, Ian rarely finds someone to talk to about his passion. Other six-year-olds know too little. Even older children don't know enough. And they don't find his knowledge interesting. In fact, they often don't like him because he keeps correcting them. Ian can only talk about dinosaurs to knowledgeable adults. The adults are kind, but he is not their social or emotional equal. He's still a child. Therefore, Ian never feels he has a true friend because no one really shares his interests at the same level.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Why do child prodigies have problems making friends?

What does the research on the development of children's friendship show?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

GRAFFITI: ART OR ANNOYANCE?

Jason Brando is an artist. His work is controversial-not because of its subject but because of where he does it. Jason's obsession is graffiti-a bold modern form of expression. His graffiti art annoys many people because it is very similar to ordinary graffiti that costs cities around the country \$7 billion annually in cleanup costs. The city of Harrison alone spends \$200,000 a year to rid its public spaces of graffiti. "One act of graffiti leads to more," said Linda Keller, executive director of *Keep Harrison Beautiful*, a civic group dedicated to keeping the city attractive and clean. "It eventually destroys the community."

Marking or painting someone else's property without permission is against the law. Do it and you have committed a crime. You may have to go to jail *and* pay a heavy fine. Brando understands this because he and friends have gotten into trouble with the police more than once. Now when he wants to paint, he goes to a *legal* concrete wall—a wall that has been designated by the city for use by graffiti artists. These walls are scarce in Harrison. Consequently, they are covered with art. Brando must first erase the pictures on the wall with a gallon of cheap paint. When he is finished, Brando starts painting. Some of his designs contain faces or objects, but most are complicated combinations of letters. They are shaded and colored to look three-dimensional and are quite large.

Brando, who signs his works “Jaser”, is considered one of Harrison's best graffiti artists. He works quickly, and he also works big. A typical design is 12-by-7-feet and takes him three hours.

If he's lucky, his works may last two or three days. “Graffiti is a temporary art form. Other people destroy it. Some throw house paint on it or write their names on it,” Brando said. “That's why when I'm finished I photograph it. In a few days the photograph is all I'll have.”

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

Where can graffiti writers paint?

How long do most graffiti paintings stay up?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

A PERSONAL HISTORY OF GRAFFITI

Twentieth-century graffiti began during World War II. Soldiers across Europe started finding the message “Kilroy was here” from a mysterious individual who wrote it on public spaces. Kilroy's *tag* became synonymous with the V (“victory”) symbol.

In the 1950s, street gangs began writing graffiti on bathroom walls to help identify themselves and to mark their territories.

Modern-day graffiti started in New York City in the late 1960s. It began with young kids writing their names throughout the city. Slowly it became a global movement that is an important part of the art world today.

When I was just a kid in the 1970s, one of our favorite activities was called *bombing*. (The word *bombing* simply means to cover an area with the writer's *tag* in either ink or paint.) We mostly bombed walls and benches in the parks. First, we used colored markers. Later we started making our own markers and added different inks. Black was the most popular color because blue and red faded. White and purple were also popular. Then we discovered spray paint, and graffiti took on a whole new form.

Soon we found that the park wasn't enough, so we moved into the subways. We wanted the whole city to know who we were. Graffiti writers expanded their creativity by using the subway cars as moving canvases. The simple tags of the early 1970s changed into much larger, more complex productions. Unfortunately, the city

of New York never saw graffiti as the official art form of the Big Apple. For years, the police fought a battle against graffiti and those who created it.

Consequently, bombing became a much more dangerous activity, but graffiti artists didn't stop. They took greater and greater risks. They risked arrest, electrocution, dismemberment, and even death. This was the *real* graffiti. Then in the 1980s New York learned how to clean the subway cars permanently. This eventually destroyed NYC subway graffiti forever.

You are probably wondering, "What was the point of writing your name or tag all over the place? Wasn't this a form of vandalism? Wasn't this an illegal activity? How can one claim this destructive act was a form of art?" Art can be visually created, such as with a painting or a piece of sculpture. Art can also be a novel, a piece of music, a film, a play, or poetry. Art does not have to be beautiful to its audience. In other words, it doesn't have to be considered good or valuable. Artists use their creations to communicate ideas, attitudes, and beliefs.

For me, graffiti was a way of expressing my existence. Just like companies have logos and nations have flags, graffiti was my way of saying, "Hey, look world. Here I am!" In addition, just like other art, graffiti sends a message. Writers used the subway canvases to express their thoughts on family, religion, and politics.

Today, graffiti has spread around the world. It is also an accepted art form. Today, we see graffiti imagery on book covers, video games, and in cyberspace.

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

When did modern-day graffiti start?

Why does the author say that people write graffiti?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOR WORLDWIDE

Children in developing countries work for a variety of reasons. The most common reason is poverty. Children work so that they and their families can survive. Though these children are not well paid, their families are so poor that they still serve as major contributors to family income. For example, children in poor families in Paraguay contribute almost 25 percent to the total household income. In developing countries, rural-to-urban migration is another cause of the increasing rate of child labor. In the last 40 years, more and more people have migrated from the country to the city. In 1950, just 17 percent of the population of the developing world lived in urban areas. This figure increased to 32 percent in 1988. By the year 2000, it had risen to 40 percent, and it will probably reach 57 percent by the year 2025. Poor families who move to the cities usually do not find enough employment. Moving to the city forces families into poverty, and poverty forces parents to send children to work.

Tradition is another reason why some children work. Traditional roles can be particularly difficult for girls. In some countries, people believe that women won't fit into traditional roles if they become educated. In these places, it's not uncommon for parents to force young girls to leave school in order for the girls to take over

household duties or to work outside the home. By working, the girls assist in paying for their brothers' school fees.

Often parents in developing countries assign different roles to their children. This role assignment is called *child specialization*, and it also contributes to child labor. With child specialization, some children in the family go to school while others work. Many times roles are determined by the birth order. Often the oldest boy attends school while younger brothers and sisters work to support him.

Social class separation also contributes to child labor. For example, people of India's lower social class are usually manual laborers. Everyone expects lower class children to have jobs that do not require an education. Therefore, no one worries when they do not attend school. After all, they don't really need education for their role in society.

Studies show that the roles of children differ in developed and developing countries. While children in developing countries make an important contribution to family income, children in developed countries consume more than they produce. The child labor situation changes as the economic status of a country improves. For example, after World War II, the United States experienced great economic development. Many mothers started working outside the home. For the first time in the United States, children used more resources than they produced. Evidence also suggests that the use of child labor may only be one stage in the development of a country. For example, 150 years ago, England had about the same percentage of child workers as Peru and Paraguay have today. It seems likely that as these countries develop, the amount of child labor will decrease.

Отвeтьте на вопросы.

What are the three factors that contribute to child labour?

What is child specialization?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

THE HOWS AND WHYS OF CHEATING

Why do men and women cheat on their partners? Experts say that the reasons fall into two main categories. In the first category, the cheaters are unhappy because there's something wrong with their relationship. In the second category, the cheaters want the excitement of having an affair.

How Men and Women Differ

In general, experts say, men are more likely to cheat for the excitement. Unfaithful women, however, are usually unhappy in their marriage. They usually don't look for someone new unless there is serious trouble in their relationship. But things are changing, notes expert Dr. Nancy Glass, "The traditional male affair that was primarily motivated by sex is changing. More men are having affairs with emotional ties. Meanwhile, women are having more affairs for the sexual excitement."

With more men and women working side-by-side, there's more opportunity for strong emotional connections that didn't exist before. "You always had the boss who

ran off with his secretary, but now I see many men who are in good marriages... who nonetheless form these deep friendships with their co-workers," she says.

Cheating before Marriage

Of course most people think about cheating in the context of marriage, but you can cheat on a boyfriend or girlfriend, too. According to experts, many unmarried couples don't discuss fidelity. This is much more problematic than it was in the past. Twenty years ago, couples waited longer before having sex. When they did start a sexual relationship, both people considered the relationship exclusive. Now, couples start having sex much sooner. And they don't talk about whether the relationship is exclusive or not. The problem usually occurs when one person believes that the relationship is exclusive and the other doesn't.

Is There Hope after an Affair?

"It depends," say our experts. Most marriages survive an affair and many end up stronger afterwards. "I've seen many relationships that were much better after the affair because, up until then, the couple wasn't dealing with their real issues. Dealing with the affair helped them communicate on a much deeper level," says Lonnie Barbach, PhD, author of *Going the Distance: Finding and Keeping Lifelong Love*. However, an affair in a dating relationship is also more likely to be the beginning of the end. "Some people cheat as a way of leaving a relationship," says Glass. "They want it to be over, but they can't end it, so they cheat and let their partner get angry and break up with them."

Отвѣтьте на вопросы.

What are the reasons why men and women cheat on their partners?

How are things changing now? Why?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

WHY GOOD MARRIAGES GO BAD

The psychotherapist Shirley Glass, whom the *New York Times* called "the godmother of infidelity," has written a new book *NOT "Just Friends"*. In her book Glass says that many men and women in committed relationships unconsciously start cheating on their partners when their friendships slowly turn into love affairs.

By *committed relationships*, Glass is referring to long-term relationships both between husbands and wives as well as boyfriends and girlfriends. By *love affairs* she means emotional as well as sexual relationships. Glass says that the easy availability of friends and possible partners is creating a "new crisis in infidelity." Opportunity is everywhere, she warns.

"We meet desirable, interesting, bright people at work, at class reunions, in restaurants, and on the Internet. ...It doesn't matter whether we are happily married. In the moment of attraction, we are open to the possibility of infidelity." Why are some people unfaithful when others are not? The answer, she says, depends on a combination of opportunity, weakness, commitment, and values.

Her book discusses her research that emphasizes the possibilities of romantic liaisons at work. Fifty-five percent of husbands and 50 percent of wives who have

affairs with work colleagues have never had an extramarital affair before. Also, a study of 55 single women who have had affairs with married men shows that in 30 percent of the affairs, the men had been the women's supervisors.

“One of the reasons I wrote the book,” Glass says, “is because I was seeing so many people in good marriages get involved in an affair that began as a friendship.” Is she saying that married men and women shouldn't have friends of the opposite sex? Isn't it possible that some people who socialize or eat lunch together really are *just friends*?

“I think that men and women can be friends, but they really need to be honest about the attractions they feel,” explains Glass. “A good friendship with the opposite sex has all the ingredients necessary for romance. You like each other, you share a history, and you are good at discussing your feelings.”

The boundary between a friendship and an emotional affair is secrecy, says Glass. “It's not infidelity if there's no secrecy.... If the relationship is an open book, *it* is probably a friendship. When people start trying to hide things, the friendship is becoming something else.”

Also, Glass says it's important not to discuss your marital problems with anyone who you are attracted to. If you need to talk to someone about problems with your spouse or about issues in your marriage, talk only to someone who is “a friend of the marriage.” Conversely, if you have a friend of the opposite sex who needs support or wants to talk about personal problems, let your partner be involved, too.

Ответьте на вопросы.

How does the author define a love affair?

When does friendship turn into fidelity?

Расскажите, о чём говорится в тексте.

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