

Reading for the Real World Intro Final Test (Units 7-12)

A. Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

partially	irrelevant	legend	novice	shortly
offspring	utilize	pronounce	interfere	non-existent

1. When he died at age 40, John Lennon of the Beatles was already a musical legend.
2. Don't have a snack now—we'll be having dinner shortly.
3. Countries that don't give women equal opportunities only utilize half of their human talent.
4. Some people work so much that their jobs begin to interfere with their family lives.
5. The building is only partially finished; it won't be complete for another month.
6. There are few plants in the area, and trees are completely non-existent.
7. Before an astronaut can go into space, doctors have to pronounce him or her fit and healthy.
8. The novice level of this video game is so easy, even my parents can play it!
9. The meeting went on too long because people kept bringing up irrelevant topics.
10. Chimpanzee mothers teach their young offspring how to find food and which foods to avoid.

B. Match each word with its definition.

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|-------------------|----------|---|
| 1. dynamic | <u>i</u> | a. the best or most effective |
| 2. trivial | <u>e</u> | b. at the same time |
| 3. dominance | <u>g</u> | c. to cause someone to want to do something |
| 4. simultaneously | <u>b</u> | d. something known without being learned |
| 5. replicate | <u>j</u> | e. of little worth or importance |

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|--|
| 6. vague | <u>h</u> | f. a teacher and adviser |
| 7. instinct | <u>d</u> | g. the state of being the most important |
| 8. optimal | <u>a</u> | h. not clearly defined or understood |
| 9. tempt | <u>c</u> | i. having a lot of energy |
| 10. mentor | <u>f</u> | j. to repeat or copy exactly |

C. Read the excerpt from “The Architecture of Wright.” Then answer the questions.

Wright’s masterpiece is a house called Fallingwater, built on a waterfall near Bear Run, Pennsylvania. In accordance with his organic philosophy of architecture, Wright planned this house to be in harmony with its environment. For example, the structure is built from sandstone found in the nearby area. “Study nature; love nature; stay close to nature. It will never fail you,” Wright once said.

Wright was very proud of Fallingwater. He expressed its unity with nature by saying that rocks, forest, and water are combined so perfectly with his building that “You listen not to any noise whatsoever although the music of the stream is there. But you listen to Fallingwater the way you listen to the quiet of the country.” In other words, the building seems to merge with the surrounding environment.

Wright designed about a thousand buildings in his life, though fewer than five hundred were built. Among his best-known works, the Guggenheim Museum in New York City is notable. The principle of “form follows function” is easy to see in the Guggenheim’s round structure. Visitors first take an elevator to the top of the building, and then they view the art without interruption as they descend the spiral ramp.

Construction of the Guggenheim Museum was delayed several times. Though Wright accepted the job in 1943, the building was not finished until October 1959. Unfortunately, Wright never got to see the completed project. In April 1959, he had surgery and died a few days later.

1. Wright was mainly proud of Fallingwater because it was _____.
 a. built near a waterfall
 b. in a quiet country environment
 c. made from natural materials
☒ d. in harmony with its surroundings

2. Circle T for true or F for false.

A large number of Wright's designs were never built.

☒ T F

3. Which is NOT true about the Guggenheim Museum, according to the passage?

- a. It is one of Wright's most famous buildings.
- ☒ b. It differs in philosophy from Wright's other buildings.
- c. It offers visitors a unique way of viewing art.
- d. It was finished several months after Wright's death.

D. Read the excerpt from "Sons or Daughters?". Then answer the questions.

People tend to think that boys are preferred in more traditional cultures with developing economies, such as India and China. Research seems to support this generalization. An important reason that parents want sons is that they have more earning power. In developing countries, it is less common for women to have successful careers. Thus, sons will be better able to support their families and care for their parents in old age. Not only that, but having a daughter may cause difficulty for the family. In India, having a girl can be expensive because families often must pay a dowry to their son-in-law's family when their daughter gets married.

Economic factors do not always explain a preference for boys, however. In the US, women can and often do earn as much as men, and dowries do not exist. Yet a 2011 questionnaire found that more Americans would rather have a son (forty percent) than a daughter (twenty-eight percent) if they could only have one child. The rest of the respondents had no preference. A preference for boys was more common among male respondents than females, although the reasons for this are unclear.

People in a few countries view baby girls more positively. According to one survey, parents in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Portugal would prefer to have daughters. The researchers said that these modernizing societies do not have the same economic reasons to prefer sons that exist in other countries. Instead, families in these countries want daughters for emotional reasons. Many mothers think they will have a better relationship with a daughter than with a son, for example. In addition, they think daughters will take better care of them when they are old.

1. The custom of paying dowries is one reason that many Indians prefer daughters.

T ☒ F

2. What is a little surprising about Americans?

- ☒ a. They prefer sons even though women can earn as much as men.
- b. Most prefer sons for economic reasons even though the US is rich.
- c. The women prefer sons and the men prefer daughters.
- d. They are the only nation with no preference for daughters or sons.

3. Which of the following is NOT true, according to the passage?

- a. People in some countries have emotional reasons for wanting daughters.
- ☒ b. People in some countries think having a daughter is an economic advantage.
- c. Mothers in some modernizing countries expect to have a better relationship with a girl.
- d. Mothers in some modernizing countries expect daughters to take better care of them.

E. Read the excerpt from "The Freelance Economy." Then answer the questions.

Freelance work is one of the most dynamic sectors of the global economy. The US leads the world in such jobs, at least for now. By 2020, people who earn a living at least partially from freelance work will make up forty percent of the American workforce. That's expected to be about 160 million people. India's freelance economy is in second place and growing fast, with 15 million workers. And freelancers have become the fastest-growing group in the European Union labor market. Between 2004 and 2013, their numbers increased by forty-five percent. In Southeast Asia, the number of freelancers nearly doubled between 2013 and 2014 alone.

Besides the rise of the Internet, there are other reasons for the increase in independent, project-based work. One is the financial crisis of 2008. It led laid-off workers to seek sources of income while they looked for a new job. It also forced companies to find ways to cut costs. Using a freelancer is usually cheaper than hiring and training a full-time employee. But perhaps more importantly, freelancing appeals to those who dream of being their own boss. Freelancers can set their own schedule and select the projects that interest them most. Moreover, their careers are not limited to any one geographical area. A graphic designer who lives in London, Leon Nikoosimaitak, enjoys the international flavor of this new way of working. Some of his freelance work even involves travel—paid for by the company. He told the online magazine *Brand Republic*, "Flying abroad to do jobs and meeting new and inspiring people, I sometimes feel like the James Bond of the design world."

Of course, freelancing has negative aspects. There is the lack of a guaranteed, steady income. Many people would rather have a job with a definite monthly paycheck than constantly look for new projects to **take on**. Further, the freelance world is highly competitive.

1. What is the main topic of paragraph 1?

- a. The growth of freelancing in the US
- b. Reasons that freelancing is becoming popular
- ☒ c. The worldwide rise in freelancing
- d. Reasons that certain countries have more freelancers

2. Hiring a freelancer is usually expensive for a company.

T

F

3. The phrase **take on** in the last paragraph means _____.

- a. to begin to deal with
- b. to pay attention to
- c. to learn about
- d. to fight with