

Lesson 81

Test in reading

- I. Read the text and choose the correct answer.

A Contemporary Genius

Elon Musk is the man of the future. He is the creator of many companies that have changed the world, from Paypal and Tesla Motors to SpaceX. He promised the environmentally friendly cars to humanity and the opportunity to fly into space as simple as a vacation on the coast. Money transfers have become so simple that there will be no need for bills in near 20 years. Robotic medicine will save millions of lives, as no mistakes will be made by doctors. The world will be under the control of the artificial brain.

The future inventor and businessman was born on June 28, 1971, in South Africa, but he has Canadian, American and German roots. When Elon was ten years old, he was presented with his first computer. The young genius quickly mastered programming, and at the age of twelve wrote his first program, a computer game that he sold for \$500. At school, he was mercilessly bullied by classmates. Elon was often beaten, and one day he even had to go to hospital after being pushed out of the stairs.

In his student years, he and his friend rented a hostel, a part of which the enterprising students arranged into an illegal nightclub, where computer hack devices were sold. The club income allowed students to pay rent. After moving from South Africa to Canada, the future billionaire had a difficult time. He spent the nights at his family's house and ate the cheapest street food.

Now Elon Musk is one of the richest people on the planet. In 2018, his fortune exceeded \$22 billion. He had five children from his first marriage. The twins and triplets are all sons. He enjoys all unusual kinds of sport, except for snorkelling. Also, he has appeared in the TV series «The Big Bang Theory» as well as in the movie «Iron Man». All his spare time Musk prefers to spend with his spouse and boys visiting various remote countries and continents.

Elon Musk has a phenomenal memory. He easily remembers a totally enormous amount of information. It takes him 5 minutes to read a whole magazine and recall the names of people he recently read about. He has as many as three passports – American, Canadian and South African and speaks four languages. However, Elon finds it difficult to choose the right fork or to check a grocery list. Nevertheless, all these make him a unique influencer of the future.

1 According to Elon Musk, in the future:
A. human brain will run the world.
B. money will not exist.
C. we will travel to the sea by a spaceship.
D. medical care will benefit from the growing influence of artificial intelligence.

2 What did he do during his school years?
A. He created a new computer.
B. He earned \$500 per week.
C. He lived in three foreign countries.
D. He suffered mistreatment from his classmates.

3 What is NOT true about Elon Musk as a student?
A. He rented a nightclub to live in.
B. He managed a party business.
C. He had financial difficulties after leaving his home country.
D. He sold illegal electronic equipment.

4 How does Musk spend his free time?
A. He directs science-fiction movies.
B. He dives and snorkels with his sons.
C. He travels with his family to far-off destinations.
D. He creates new kinds of sports.

5 What is said about Musk's mental abilities in the last paragraph?
A. He never forgets names and places.
B. He easily learns by heart large ranges of numbers and poems.
C. He speaks three foreign languages.
D. He can have problems with simple routine tasks.

II. Read the text and match choices.

What a Tradition! What a Symbol!

6 Talented students at this American university are renowned for their ingenuity. One interesting tradition there is the engraving ring. In 1929, the students made a ring with a unique design, depicting the North American beaver as a symbol of the hard work and practicality of the university graduates. The beaver eventually looked more like a rodent and the ring was called a bronze rat.

7 To celebrate the Ascension, Lincoln College students gather at the tower of the building and drop coins from there to the children waiting at the bottom of the square. This tradition goes far back to the past, but it was not fun then. The coins were thrown hot, and it was thought that those who would get burned would learn the lesson of greed.

8 Another tradition goes back as far as 1851, when students decided to plant ivy vines on campus as a symbol of a lifelong connection with the university. Freshmen's responsibility is to water all planted ivies on the campus and take care of them. On the graduation day, every brotherhood and sisterhood plants a new plant to continue the tradition.

9 Students at this university have been studying the impressive chain of underground tunnels and pipes since their creation in 1881. Neither the insects, nor the rats, nor the illegal entry into the territory have stopped generations of students from the research. They are trying to find a secret entrance to the university library as it is believed that the one who finally does it will become the best student of all time.

10 The unofficial mascot of Emory University is Dooley's laboratory skeleton. He appeared in 1899, when students wrote letters to a university newspaper on his behalf. On campus, Dooley is represented by one of the students in a black cape, a black top hat, and white gloves, who appears at various events without warning during the academic year.

11 This college is considered to be the most prestigious of all Oxford schools. But this does not prevent noble students from continuing a bizarre old tradition. Every 100 years, college members with burning torches arrange a procession in which a wooden duck is the core element. According to legend, in 1437 a huge duck flew out of the basement of the university. The next ceremony is scheduled for 2101.

Which tradition _____?

- A relates to wearing designer jewellery
- B has a connection to underground explorations
- C has a ritual which takes place once a century
- D has a small animal as its symbol
- E relates to an attitude towards money
- F was established to give coins to children
- G involves a spooky creature that shows up unexpectedly
- H is connected to gardening

III. Read the text, fill the gaps.

- A to achieve relatively good image quality with small video footage
- B that will have become profitable in a few years
- C getting a picture of high-end quality and clear videos
- D which works today
- E downloading videos from YouTube
- F to provide the company with the registration details
- G provided with special HTML markup
- H copyrighted materials are regularly uploaded to the service

Your TV

In free translation, YouTube means «yourTV». This is a free service that allows you to host videos on your website. The project came to light in 2005. Its founders are three former PayPal employees. Flash Video technology was used to create the YouTube service. It has helped **12** _____. The project immediately established itself as a great means of entertainment and quickly formed its community.

In November 2006, the project was purchased by Google for \$1.65 billion. Many people remember that before Google bought YouTube, it had its own Google Video service, **13**_____.

The service works as follows: anyone can upload videos on the official YouTube website. The service automatically converts video to Flash Video, and then the video becomes available for watching online. Outside the service, any video is **14**____, so that it can be embedded in other resources. YouTube is very popular with bloggers and social network users, as well as many media resources.

There are a number of third-party services available for **15**____, such as SaveTube, and browser extensions and VideoDownloader for Firefox. Since January 2009, YouTube has provided its users with the ability to download some videos directly from the site, and their storage is possible without the assistance of third-party services.

The service is prohibited from uploading videos that are banned by U.S. copyright law. Quite often a service employee has to «pull out» such materials, first removing the sound and then completely removing the material from the server. But human capabilities are unlimited and impossible to follow. As a result, **16**_____.

Removing them is only possible after the copyright holder complains to YouTube employees. For example, in the summer of 2006, someone Robert Tour filed a lawsuit against a service that accused YouTube of a copyright infringement. On March 13, 2007, Viacom filed a lawsuit against Google. The lawsuit included allegations against YouTube of the regular copyright infringements and a requirement **17** ____of all users of the service. Interestingly, the Federal Court of New York granted the claimant's claim, even though it did not comply with US law.