Reading Tip: Finding word meaning using context

When you see a new word, look at the text around it to help you understand the meaning before you use a dictionary.

There may be examples, words with similar or opposite meanings or even an explanation in the sentence before or after. It can be helpful to decide if the word is a verb, a noun or an adjective before you look.

1.3.4 Activity 4

Read the following passages and choose the best answer.

Passage 1

Family Castle Read the article about a family castle and answer the questions below. My name is Will, and our family decided that we all wanted to live together, so we looked online. We eventually found a castle we could buy. There are 20 of us altogether, including my aunts, uncles and grandparents, and we all have a room each. The castle is huge - it takes about ten minutes to walk from one side to the other. It's really cold inside the castle, especially in winter. My gran wears a coat inside as it's so cold. We had no heating at first and only one toilet when we moved in either! When I lived in Manchester, the shops and the school were very near. Here at the castle, the nearest village is 10 minutes away, and it takes 30 minutes to get to the nearest town to do our weekly shopping. At first, I took the bus to school, but it took too long. Now my mum takes me there as she has just got a job at the school. The best thing about living in the castle is that there is a lot of space - I can ride my bicycle all day on our large ground. I don't play online games as much as I did. We now have heating and bathrooms along with a modern kitchen, so things are much better than they were. I love living in a castle with my whole family, and I hope to stay here for a long time.

Adapted from https://www.esleschool.com/a2

tìm lâu đài

1. Where did Will's family find the castle?
   A. on the internet
   B. in a newspaper
   C. in Manchester
   D. on the radio
2. What did the castle not have when they moved in?
   A. a toilet
   B. heating

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C. a kitchen

D. fridge

3. Where does Will's family go shopping?

A. The nearest town

B. Manchester

C. The nearest village

D. the nearest farm

4. How does Will get to school?

A. By car

B. By bus

C. On his bicycle

D. By train

5. What does Will like most about living in the castle?

A. Not playing online so much now.

B. The new modern bathroom and kitchen.

C. Riding his bike around the castle.

D. He loves shopping

Passage 2

How my life has changed

I used to work on cruise ships as a musician. I travelled a lot! I spent the month before the first lockdown in four continents! I used to get up really early, drive to the airport and fly to a port across the world and get on a ship just to get to work! Then I used to spend between three and fourteen days on the ship. The ships were great. The food was excellent, and the staff were brilliant. The ship stopped at fantastic places, and I often used to spend the afternoon at the beach drinking cocktails or sightseeing. But there were disadvantages too. I often didn't know anyone on the ship. But the passengers all knew me, and they used to talk to me every time I left my cabin. I didn't have any privacy. Of course, I had to chat to them politely even when I wasn't in the mood.

But now, everything has changed. The cruises aren't running now, and I don't know when they will run again, and I've been in my flat for a year. I never used to spend much time here, and I haven't spent a whole year in England for over twenty years! But I've enjoyed it. I bought a bike last year, and I've found some great beach cafes that I never

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used to know about. I also bought a campervan, and I drove around the coast. I always used to prefer beaches in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean to British beaches. The weather is much better for a start! But I found some beautiful places last year. I could park on the beach in some places and run straight into the sea! They were much less touristy and more peaceful than the places where the cruise ships go.

I'm spending a lot more time alone now. I didn't use to be alone much when I was working. But since the pandemic started, I have developed new relationships with people who I didn't use to know very well. I always used to prefer the company of entertainers and people who like to travel. I used to think that people with normal jobs were boring. But since last year, I've got to know some really interesting, strong, kind and caring people! So that's been really valuable.

Adapted from https://test-english.com/reading/a2

đã ko từng

1. Sarah didn't use to have to _____.
   A. travel long distances to work đi làm việc xa
   B. get up early
   C. manage staff on the ship quản lý nhân viên
   D. spend time on the ship

đã từng

2. Sarah used to _____ around the world.
   A. perform in concert halls
   B. take her bike
   C. relax on beaches
   D. have a lot of privacy sự riêng tư

thiếu

3. Sarah didn't use to like _____.
   A. the lack of privacy on beaches
   B. her colleagues on the ship đồng nghiệp
   C. talking politely to strangers người lạ
   D. knowing most of people on the ship

lịch sự

dành

4. Sarah is spending ____ at home than before.
   A. more time
   B. less time
   C. about the same amount of time
   D. little time

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5. Sarah went on bike rides and found some nice _____.

   A. cafes

   B. beaches

   C. parks

   D. stores

6. Sarah disliked British beaches because ___ beaches in other countries.

   A. there are more people than on

   B. the weather is worse than on

   C. they are not as beautiful as

   D. there are not many

mối quan hệ

7. Talking about relationships, Sarah ___ now than in the past.

sâu sắc hơn

   A. has deeper relationships

đánh giá cao

   B. appreciates normal people more

   C. is kinder and more caring

   D. does not care more

Passage 3

2 thế hệ

The nuclear family, consisting of a mother, father, and their children, may be more an American ideal than an American reality. Of course, the so-called traditional American family was always more varied than we had been led to believe, reflecting the very different racial, ethnic, class, and religious customs among different American groups.

The most recent government statistics reveal that only about one third of all **current** American families fit the traditional mold and another third consists of married couples who either have no children or have none still living at home. Of the final one third, about 20 percent of the total number of American households are single people, usually women over sixty –five years of age. A small percentage, about 3 percent of the total, consists of unmarried people who choose to live together; and the rest, about 7 percent are single, usually divorced parents, with at least one child. Today, these varied family types are typical, and therefore, normal. Apparently, many Americans are achieving supportive relationships in family forms other than the traditional one.

Adapted from https://tuyensinh247.com

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chủ yếu đề cập

1. With what topic is the passage mainly concerned?

   A. The traditional American family

   B. The nuclear family

   C. The current American family

   D. The ideal family lý tưởng

ngụ ý

2. The writer implies that _____.

   A. there have always been a wide variety of family arrangement in the U.S

   bảo tồn

   B. racial, ethnic, and religious have preserved the traditional family structure

   C. the ideal American family is the best structure

   ít hơn

   D. fewer married couples are having children

3. The word "**current**" in paragraph 2 could best be replaced by which of the following?

   thay thế

   A. typical điển hình

   B. present h tại

   C. perfect hoàn hảo

   D. traditional

tượng trưng cho

4. Married couples whose children have grown or who have no children represent ____.

   %

   A. 1/3 percent of households hộ gia đình

   B. 20 percent of households

   C. 7 percent of households

   D. 3 percent of households

tạo thành

5. Who generally constitutes a one- person household?

   A. A single man in his twenties

   B. An elderly man

   C. A single woman in her late sixties

   D. A divorced woman

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Passage 4

Divorce is bad for the environment. This is the conclusion of a research study carried out by ecologists at Michigan State University in the USA and published in the journal **'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'**. Researchers found that divorce has different kinds of negative impacts on the planet, including a higher demand for resources and a lower rate of efficiency in the use of household resources. The research team analyzed data on married couples and their use of resources in 12 countries, including the USA, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Mexico and South Africa. Lead researchers Eunice Yu and Jianguo Liu discovered that divorce led to smaller average household sizes, which resulted in a larger number of total households and thus a greater demand for energy, water, and land.

In many countries around the world divorce rates have been rising. "A married household actually uses resources more efficiently," said Mr Liu. He added that people seemed surprised by his findings at first, and then after thinking about it, decided it was simple. He said: "People have been talking about how to protect the environment and combat climate change, but divorce is an **overlooked** factor that needs to be considered." His report states that in America in 2005, divorcees could have saved more than 73 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and 627 billion gallons of water if they had stayed married. In percentage terms, divorcees used 42-61 percent more resources per person compared with a married person. To help save natural resources, Yu and Liu recommended that **governments consider the environmental impact of divorce and separation.**

Adapted from https://breakingnewsenglish.com

1. "**Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**" in paragraph 1 is _____.
   A. a magazine
   B. a university
   C. an organization tổ chức
   D. a research nghiên cứu
2. Which is **NOT** the impact of divorce? sự ảnh hưởng của ly dị
   A. using more natural resources tài nguyên thiên nhiên
   B. wasting ~~house~~ household resources lãng phí
   C. influencing the surroundings những thứ xung quanh
   D. protecting the environment bảo vệ mt

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3. The word "**overlooked**" in paragraph 2 means _____.

   A. not realized how important it is ko nhận ra

   B. looked at something carefully

   C. saw something clearly

   D. examine something with care kiểm tra cẩn thận

4. Why does the author mention "**governments consider the environmental impact of divorce and separation**" in paragraph 2?

   đề nghị giải pháp giảm

   A. to suggest good solutions to reduce the number of divorces

   cách

   B. to ask the government to have measures to reduce the number of divorces

   C. to demand the government to take the environment protection into consideration quan tâm bảo vệ mt

   D. to make people aware of the environment problems. có ý thức

5. According to the passage, which one is NOT true about the research?

   A. the researchers are ecologists. nhà sinh thái học

   kết quả

   B. the results of the study are not convincing. có tính thuyết phục

   C. the data are from many countries

   D. the research was carried out at a university in the USA

   được tiến hành

   study = research: (v, n) nghiên cứu/ bài nghiên cứu.

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