

READING

Task 1

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (1–5).
There are three choices you do not need to use.

1 Local Job Fair

Discover Your Next Career Opportunity at Our Local Job Fair!
Meet with top employers from various industries and explore exciting job openings. Don't miss out on networking opportunities and career advice.
Location: City Convention Center, Main Hall, Downtown.
Entry Fee: free.
For more details, call (308) 763-7841.

2 Seasonal Home Decor Sale

Transform your home with our seasonal decor sale. Enjoy discounts on autumn-themed decorations, including wreaths, candles, and table centerpieces.
Sale Dates: October 1st — October 31st.
Location: Riverside Park, Dowdorthy.
Details: (885) 304-50-78.

- 3** Find the perfect fit for your company with Top of the Top's expertise. We connect you with qualified and experienced professionals across various industries.
We handle the entire recruitment process, from initial screening to interview scheduling.
Focus on what you do best while we find your dream candidates.
www.toptopdoyourjob.org

The Rustic Tavern

Step into The Rustic Tavern, where hearty meals and a welcoming atmosphere await. Our menu features classic comfort foods with a twist, from juicy burgers to savory pies, all made with fresh, local ingredients. Grab a seat by the fireplace and enjoy a pint from our extensive craft beer selection.
Discover the power of taste.
Happy hours: 10 AM – 3 PM. Any burger — only £1.00.



5 Purely Natural

Treat your skin to the luxury of Purely Natural's handmade soaps. Crafted with organic ingredients and essential oils, our soaps are gentle on your skin and good for the environment.
Special offer: Buy any 4 soaps and receive a free bath bomb!
Shop online at www.lynnatural.com
Call (563) 34-90-112 for special requests.

Which advertisement is about _____?

- A** a charity organization
- B** handmade organic skincare products
- C** a spot serving filling dishes, handcrafted drinks, and a comfortable setting
- D** a free event to explore job opportunities and network with employers
- E** a company that helps businesses find qualified professionals for various roles
- F** a swimming pool
- G** special savings on decorative home pieces for the fall season
- H** a theatrical performance

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Task 2

Read the texts below. For questions (6–10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

New York City

New York City is famous for its stunning skyline and diverse culture. The city's skyscrapers, such as the Empire State Building, are so immense that they have their own zip codes. To ensure that these towering structures wouldn't block sunlight from reaching the streets below, the 1916 Zoning Resolution was introduced. This regulation set guidelines for architects, which has helped keep New York's streets bright and welcoming.

Beyond its architecture, New York City is a true melting pot of cultures, with speakers of around 800 different languages calling it home. Nearly half of NYC households speak a language other than English, and more than a third of New Yorkers are foreign-born. This rich diversity makes it an excellent place to learn or practice a new language. A stroll through three of the city's five boroughs can be an exciting linguistic journey, offering chances to pick up new phrases and experience different cultures firsthand.

New York's history is as fascinating as its present. The city was not always the vibrant metropolis it is today. Dutch settlers bought Manhattan Island in 1626 and named it "New Amsterdam," using it as a fur trading post. When the English took over in 1664, they renamed it New York. To learn more about this history, consider taking a walking tour of lower Manhattan, where you can see historic sites, admire famous architecture, and enjoy a slice of classic New York-style pizza.

One of the city's most famous nicknames, "the Big Apple," has a colorful origin. This term began in the 1920s when New York was seen as the heart of opportunity and excitement in the U.S. The "big apple" symbolized the city's vibrant, bustling nature and the countless opportunities it offered. Journalist John J. Fitzgerald popularized the phrase in horse racing commentary, referring to New York as the ultimate prize or "big apple" to be won. This nickname has endured over the years, reflecting New York's status as a major global hub of culture, finance, and commerce.

6. **What was the purpose of the 1916 Zoning Resolution in New York City?**
 - ☐ A To limit the height of buildings to preserve city views.
 - ☐ B To prevent skyscrapers casting shadows over the streets below.
 - ☐ C To regulate the number of new buildings in the city.
 - ☐ D To create new parks and green spaces.
7. **What does the term "melting pot" refer to in the context of New York City?**
 - ☐ A A place where various cultures and languages mix.
 - ☐ B A cooking utensil used in many city restaurants.
 - ☐ C A traditional dish served at New York's famous eateries.
 - ☐ D A type of architectural style seen in the city's buildings.
8. **According to the text, why might New York City be an excellent place to practice a new language?**
 - ☐ A Because it has many language schools.
 - ☐ B Due to the variety of languages spoken by its residents.
 - ☐ C Because of its language exchange programs.
 - ☐ D Due to the large number of international tourists.
9. **What historical change occurred in New York City in 1664?**
 - ☐ A The Dutch settlers returned to Europe.
 - ☐ B The city got its present name.
 - ☐ C The city was officially established as a major trading post.
 - ☐ D New Amsterdam was merged with other Dutch colonies.
10. **What is the significance of the nickname "the Big Apple" for New York City?**
 - ☐ A It represents the city's transformation from a small town to a large metropolis.
 - ☐ B It reflects the city's numerous cultural festivals and events.
 - ☐ C It symbolizes New York's role as the hub of potential and enthusiasm.
 - ☐ D It denotes the city's large apple orchards in the past.

Task 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (11–16).

There are two choices you do not need to use.

- 11 Many little kids dream of having ponies, but for those in urban or suburban areas, it's often impractical. When Mia Monzidelis asked her parents for a pony at age five, they told her it wasn't possible in their suburban Bellmore, Long Island home. Undeterred, Mia got creative and invented the Power Pony — a mechanical pony or unicorn with a furry surface and interactive features controlled by an iOS app. With her father's support, Mia perfected the design of the four-legged toy despite challenges. Her company now employs 15 people and 12 volunteers, selling 5,000 units during the 2021 holiday season. In addition, Mia's company donated \$5,000 to the Family & Children's Association. "I have always helped kids and families in need, and with Power Pony, I can support many more," she says.
- 12 When Kamaria Warren was seven, she and her mom, graphic designer Shaunice Sasser, searched for birthday invitations but found none that represented Brown and Black girls. This need sparked an idea, leading to the creation of Brown Girls Stationery. Warren now designs party supplies, stationery, vegan purses, and accessories featuring cheerful illustrations of Black and Brown girls, and also sells dolls. Warren, who runs the business with five employees and five volunteers, sells her products on Shopify, Faire Marketplace, wholesale, and at local events. Each year, she sells around 10,000 notebooks, 2,500 notepads, and 1,500 backpacks. Warren's motto is: "Dear Brown girl, you have the ability to change the world."
- 13 If finding the perfect bowtie is a challenge, look no further than Mo'iah Bridges. At just nine years old, this Memphis native couldn't find a bowtie that met his standards, so he started Mo's Bows. He learned to sew and created colorful bowties using fabric scraps from his grandmother's sewing projects. As the business grew, Bridges hired tailors and focused on creativity and management. Bridges, who has appeared on TV, has sold over \$700,000 worth of handmade ties and accessories. His custom "Obama Blue" tie was gifted to President Obama, and his products are featured at Cole Haan, Bloomingdale's, and Neiman Marcus. In 2012, he launched the Go Mo Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, sending over 50 Memphis children to camp.
- 14 At age eight, Lily Born noticed her grandfather, who had Parkinson's disease, often spilled his drinks, leaving her grandmother to clean up. Determined to solve this, Born invented the Kangaroo cup — a three-legged cup designed not to tip — and founded Imagiroom LLC. To perfect her design, Born and her dad traveled to JingDeZhen, China, the ceramics capital. There, they refined the model, found a manufacturer, and prepared for production. They also secured funding through Kickstarter and Indiegogo. Today, Born has sold tens of thousands of Kangaroo cups worldwide. Her innovation inspires people to focus on solutions rather than problems.
- 15 At 14, Doherty started making jams using his grandmother's recipes and sold them door-to-door in Edinburgh, Scotland. He soon set up a stand at a local farmer's market and delivered orders by bike. As demand grew, he left school and rented a factory to keep up. In 2007, the U.K. supermarket Waitrose noticed Doherty's SuperJam, which is made from 100 % fruit, leading to its placement in stores across the U.K. and Europe. By 2012, he expanded to Korea and Japan, selling £1 million worth of jam in an hour on a Korean shopping network. Queen Elizabeth II awarded him an MBE for his business achievements. By 2019, Doherty had
- 16 Vinusha MK's initial attempt at baking a cake for her mother's birthday didn't go as planned, but this only fueled her passion. Although she had vowed never to bake again, her cakes improved with practice, leading to the creation of Four Seasons Pastry in September 2019. The name reflects the seasonal colors and flavors used in her cupcakes. Vinusha aims to establish a culinary institute in India for low-income individuals in the future. Meanwhile, she sells her signature cupcakes and a baking kit designed to help kids bake cakes without needing the internet or a smartphone. She also interns with renowned chefs and offers

sold his five-millionth jar and runs free tea parties for older people and community beekeeping projects.

pastries, cakes, chocolates, and sandwiches online through her business.

Which teen entrepreneur _____?

- A started the business after a promise never to do it
- B designed an innovative product focusing on solving a practical problem for a relative
- C contributed to a charity while running a successful toy company
- D has had the products featured in major retail stores and given to celebrities
- E teaches financial literacy to kids in his community
- F empowers young girls to shape the world with their courage and creativity
- G started a tasty business home-to-home and expanded internationally
- H sold the bicycle to start a business

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
14	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (17–22).

There are two choices you do not need to use.

Tolkien's Wartime Experiences and The Lord of the Rings

In 1968 author JRR Tolkien shared how his experiences during World War I deeply influenced his famous novel, *The Lord of the Rings*. He explained that the story is mainly about death (17) _____.

Tolkien's novel, (18) _____, has captivated readers with its detailed (19) _____. It became a bestseller and a key work in the fantasy genre. (20) _____, Tolkien read from an article by Simone de Beauvoir, saying, "All men must die: but for every man, his death is an accident." He added, "These words are the heart of *The Lord of the Rings*."

Tolkien's own life was marked by loss. Born in 1892, he moved to England with his mother and brother after his father died. The English countryside later (21) _____.

During World War I, Tolkien served (22) _____ of the war. While some see the book as an allegory for war, Tolkien himself said it was not meant to symbolize any specific event but rather explore themes of death, friendship, and the effects of war.

- A and how it affects us all
- B inspired the settings in his book
- C first published approximately 70 years ago
- D as a soldier and witnessed the horrors
- E deeply personal themes
- F world of elves
- G the harsh realities
- H to illustrate his point about death

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
17	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
21	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
22	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (23–27) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Postcrossing

Launched in 2005 by Paulo Magalhães, Postcrossing began as a personal project. Initially a hobby, the platform quickly (23) _____ international fame and became more popular than (24) _____. Magalhães loved receiving mail and wanted to connect with others who shared this interest. Today, Postcrossing (25) _____ over 800,000 members from 206 countries and has facilitated more than 66 million postcards.

To get started, simply sign up, request an address, and start sending postcards. For every postcard you send, you will receive one in (26) _____. Your limit of traveling postcards increases with activity, up to a maximum of 100 at once. The platform offers a (27) _____ way to connect with people worldwide, receive personal notes, and learn about different cultures.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 23 ☐ A gained | 24 ☐ A anticipated | 25 ☐ A suggests | 26 ☐ A reality | 27 ☐ A usual |
| ☐ B recognized | ☐ B delayed | ☐ B describes | ☐ B addition | ☐ B unique |
| ☐ C expanded | ☐ C described | ☐ C boasts | ☐ C sequence | ☐ C traditional |
| ☐ D accepted | ☐ D canceled | ☐ D refers | ☐ D return | ☐ D common |

Task 6

Read the text below. For questions (28–32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Forty years ago, a computer scientist combined a colon, a minus sign, and a bracket to create the first emoticon, signaling that a message (28) _____ funny. Today, it's hard to imagine digital conversations without these symbols and their modern upgrade: emojis.

Emojis (29) _____ essential in our digital chats, acting as a substitute (30) _____ facial expressions and body language. They help us convey tone and emotions, especially (31) _____ the social distancing of the coronavirus pandemic, making them almost necessary.

Initially, the idea of using simple punctuation to express feelings was groundbreaking. Since September 19, 1984, when the smiley face emoticon was first used, these symbols have evolved into a rich array of mini icons (32) _____ everything from emotions to everyday objects and weather.

- | |
|---|
| 28 ☐ A was meant to be |
| ☐ B meant as |
| ☐ C was meaning to be |
| ☐ D meant to be |
| 29 ☐ A had become |
| ☐ B become |
| ☐ C have become |
| ☐ D were becoming |
| 30 ☐ A on |
| ☐ B for |
| ☐ C of |
| ☐ D by |
| 31 ☐ A before |
| ☐ B through |
| ☐ C after |
| ☐ D since |
| 32 ☐ A include |
| ☐ B includes |
| ☐ C included |
| ☐ D including |