

650+ Lesson 27 – Reading part 7

I.

Treasure Surprise

No one ever likes weeding, but in 2019, Jamie Clark, a retired bank teller, got a nice surprise when he accidentally found a bottle full of 14th-century coins while removing the weeds in his garden. Fifty-six gold coins and five silver coins were uncovered in the garden in Sunrise City, Eagle State. There are six coins specially having the initial letters in Great Henry's name on it, which made the coins more valuable. ---[1]---

It is undoubted that in the 14th century, these coins were a huge amount of money. Indeed, it had the value of \$30, which is approximately equal to \$16,000 today. ---[2]---

There have been some speculations about who buried the coins. The most convincing explanation is that a merchant, who just migrated from England, might have hidden it for emergency fund. ---[3]---

Now the coins belong to the massive collection of the Eagle State's Museum of History. ---[4]---

1. What is the purpose of the article?

- (A) To compliment a good citizen
- (B) To advertise a coin collection
- (C) To describe antique coins
- (D) To announce an unexpected discovery

2. What is suggested about Mr. Clark?

- (A) He often removes weeds in his garden.
- (B) He is a professional gardener.
- (C) He used to work for a bank.
- (D) He owns a big collection of coins.

3. What is stated about the coins?

- (A) They include gold and silver coins.
- (B) They belonged to a king.
- (C) They are sold for a lot of money.
- (D) They were stolen from a merchant.

4. In which position marked [1], [2], [3] and [4] does the following sentence best belong?

"And now they are considered priceless relics."

- (A) [1]
- (B) [2]
- (C) [3]
- (D) [4]

II.

Flamingo Accessories has its logo changed

Swiss-based Flamingo Accessories was forced to change its logo on handbags and backpacks due to concerns raised by its target market, Chinese customers. The logo featured four red dots, a design that carries negative connotations in Chinese culture. ---[1]--- The firm management was surprised by the huge volume of disapprovals they received from customers. The logo's author, Alice Stellar, was particularly shocked. She said the four dots mean the goals of the corporation: innovation, reliability, responsibility, and integrity. ---[2]--- The dots are put in the shape of a square, indicating the fulfilment and circulation in life.

Alice and her team are working on the new logo. Another red dot will be added to the center of the square. Hopefully the number of customers, especially those from China, will jump as in Chinese, 'five' sounds like 'wu', the five elements of the Earth.

---[3]--- Some customers are uncertain about whether the four-dot logo could potentially bring bad luck. ---[4]--- According to a loyal customer named Daniel Xi, superstitions seem a bit outdated in this day and age, with no clear logical basis behind them. She shared, "There is no logic behind them." However, she did admit that she shared the concerns of other customers and was happier that the updated logo has an extra dot. A new line of backpacks is going to be launched on July 2 with the new logo on them.

1. What does the article discuss?

- (A) An announcement of the new prices
- (B) A marketing campaign to promote a brand
- (C) A change made to a brand symbol
- (D) A potential market for fast fashion industry

2. Who was disappointed the most about the incident?

- (A) The shop assistants
- (B) The logo designer
- (C) The factory workers
- (D) The store managers

3. How did customers react to this change?

- (A) They were pleased.
- (B) They were still dissatisfied.
- (C) They found this totally unnecessary.
- (D) They were not certain about it.

4. In which position marked [1], [2], [3] and [4] does the following sentence best belong?

"It is believed that four red balls in combination represent bad luck or worse, death."

- (A) [1]
- (B) [2]
- (C) [3]
- (D) [4]

III.

Questions 9-13 refer to the following article.

Bering Developments Get the Go-Ahead

Re-zoning application approved despite concerns

— BILL GERARD, HALIFAX GAZETTE, NOVA SCOTIA

The re-zoning application submitted nearly two years ago by Bering Developments was finally approved by the city's planning committee on Wednesday night, despite opposition from local residents. ---[1]--- The plan to convert the Southgate Hotel in Haringsford into a 120-bed long-term care facility looks set to go ahead.

The development has been a source of controversy and delays for years. It was moved to Haringsford after original plans for the development to be placed in Queens at the site of the former Hope Hospital fell through. The reason for rejection at the time was concerns among local residents that the 8-story assisted living building would negatively impact on the character of the area. ---[2]--- The project's architect, Luke Benedict, said a number of modifications had been made to the design, and insisted it was in keeping with the new location. He also brushed aside worries about flooding, saying improved drainage at the site would minimize any impact.

Residents in Haringsford say they are not satisfied that their concerns have been addressed. ---[3]--- However, project supervisor for developers PTY Construction Peter Smith insisted "We have been asked to complete the project by December of next year. We can only do this by working up until 8:00 P.M. and on Saturdays also". Permission was denied for an appeal to be lodged by the Residents Action Committee. Organizer Pat Johnson said, "We don't know how the city council has been persuaded by Bering Developments to withdraw its opposition to the plan, but we intend to find out. This is not the end of the battle." ---[4]---

1. What is the article mainly about?

- (A) The construction of a nursing home
- (B) The completion of a new development
- (C) The selection of a planning committee
- (D) The rejection of a housing application

2. Why are residents in Haringsford unhappy?

- (A) They do not like the modified design.
- (B) They would prefer a hospital to be built.
- (C) They do not feel that they have been listened to.
- (D) They are worried about the impact on wildlife.

3. Which of these people does NOT support the development?

- (A) Peter Smith
- (B) Luke Benedict
- (C) Bill Gerard
- (D) Pat Johnson

4. In which position marked [1], [2], [3] and [4] does the following sentence best belong? "They also want the hours of construction to be restricted to between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., on weekdays only."

- (A) [1]
- (B) [2]
- (C) [3]
- (D) [4]

5. What is suggested about some of the residents in Haringsford?

- (A) They have decided to appeal.
- (B) They will obstruct building work.
- (C) They now support the plan.
- (D) They will continue to protest.

IV.

To: Quynh La Tran <tqla@tevanto.vn>

From: Customercare@shoppedesjeans.fr

Date: September 22

Re: Order #93887

Dear Ms. Tran:

Thank you for contacting Shoppe des Jeans Customer Care about order #93887. I am sorry you are not happy with your purchase. — [1] —. The product you ordered, Women's Stretch Jeans size 36 in midnight blue, is one of our best-selling women's styles. In order to get the dark blue color that makes these jeans such a standout, the fabric is dyed twice to deepen the color of the denim. — [2] —. The item's label clearly states that some dye may rub off on light-colored fabric or upholstery until the product has been washed several times. — [3] —. It also suggests washing the jeans with dark colors only, as the dye may run in the wash.

It is unfortunate that you did not see these warnings and that your sofa has become discolored as a result. — [4] —. Our goal at Shoppe des Jeans is 100% customer satisfaction with every purchase. This kind of situation, however, is not covered under our customer service guarantee, since the issue with the dye is addressed on the product's label. I suggest you try treating the sofa with baking soda, followed by upholstery cleaner.

Regards,

Bertine Olivier
Customer Care Representative, Shoppe des Jeans

161. Why did Ms. Tran contact Shoppe des Jeans Customer Care?
- (A) She received jeans that were the wrong color.
 - (B) Her jeans ruined her light-colored clothing.
 - (C) She was unhappy with the style of her jeans.
 - (D) Her jeans stained an item of furniture.

162. How does Ms. Olivier help Ms. Tran?
- (A) By sending a new pair of jeans
 - (B) By offering a full refund
 - (C) By offering a discount on future orders
 - (D) By suggesting a way to fix a problem

163. In which of the positions marked [1], [2], [3], and [4] does the following sentence best belong?

"Each pair of jeans comes with a large label displaying the care instructions."

- (A) [1]
- (B) [2]
- (C) [3]
- (D) [4]

V.

Kiame Tire Factory Productivity Report

Preparer: Wilma Najjar, Systems Engineer

Date of review: April 10

Reason for review: Quarterly inspection

Summary: I have completed my inspection of all equipment and machinery at the plant. — [1] —. The main components of the production line are running as expected. These components include mixers, rollers, and the textile production system. — [2] —. The rotating drums for assembling the tires that were added last quarter have also been functioning as expected. Finally, the molds for the tire treads are beginning to show some signs of wear. Employees have flagged these molds, and the molds will be removed from the production line.

Recommendations: Purchasing new replacement molds is the top priority. See the report in the section dedicated to tire molds for details. — [3] —. Finally, as the Kiame plant increases its production, adding more mixers will be crucial to making more tires. The company must decide at that point whether to purchase newer mixer models or to upgrade those that we are currently using. — [4] —. However, replacing the older mixers will speed up production, which will likely outweigh any additional cost.

172. Why did Ms. Najjar most likely prepare the report?
- (A) To explain why the mixing equipment is not working properly
 - (B) To document findings of a factory inspection
 - (C) To explain why productivity has recently decreased
 - (D) To justify the purchase of new rotating drums

173. What is true about the tire molds?

- (A) There is a separate section about them in the report.
- (B) They have all been replaced recently.
- (C) They are not produced within the factory.
- (D) More tires can now be produced with fewer molds.

174. What is indicated about the Kiame Tire Factory?

- (A) Most of its equipment is old.
- (B) It is less expensive to maintain than anticipated.
- (C) It is likely to grow in the future.
- (D) It has recently lost several employees.

175. In which of the positions marked [1], [2], [3], and [4] does the following sentence best belong?

"Of course, replacing existing models would be more costly."

- (A) [1]
- (B) [2]
- (C) [3]
- (D) [4]

VI.

Westmouth Financial Services
1311 Paul Street
Exeter EX8 9YJ, United Kingdom

14 July

Dear Ms. Tartal,

I am writing to notify you of some upcoming changes regarding your retirement investment account at Westmouth Financial. — [1] —. Firstly, as you may already know, your primary financial services advisor, Felix Reardon, is retiring next month. — [2] —. I have over fifteen years of experience working in personal finance and have worked at Westmouth Financial for three of those years, helping over 25 clients meet their retirement goals through savvy financial planning. I am excited to help you continue this journey.

Secondly, I would like to schedule a time to meet or talk with you about your current portfolio. — [3] —. We could meet in person or just have a simple phone or video chat, but it would be good for us to touch base to plan your investment strategy for the next ten years as you are nearing your retirement. Along those lines, I specifically wanted to see if you were interested in shifting some of your funds into more stable assets like bonds and annuities. — [4] —. I usually recommend shifting into these safer options as you get closer to retirement. Please feel free to call me or send an e-mail so we can arrange a time to talk. Thanks, and I look forward to speaking more.

Sincerely,

Rita Hidayat

Rita Hidayat, Account Manager

173. What is indicated about Ms. Hidayat?
- (A) Personal finance is her second career.
 - (B) She has been in her current role for three years.
 - (C) She was Mr. Reardon's mentor.
 - (D) She retired fifteen years ago.
174. What is suggested about Ms. Tartal's financial portfolio?
- (A) It does not have a great deal of value.
 - (B) Mr. Reardon did not manage it well.
 - (C) Ms. Tartal expected it to perform better.
 - (D) It has several risky assets.

175. In which of the positions marked [1], [2], [3], and [4] does the following sentence best belong?

"Therefore, I will be taking over the management of your account."

- (A) [1]
- (B) [2]
- (C) [3]
- (D) [4]

VII.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Roberto Barboza
351 922 555 965

LISBON (18 June)—This year's International Candy Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, at the Vil de Maitros Convention Center near the Bibb Bubblegum factory. Thousands of candy industry specialists from around the world are expected to attend the event on 8–10 September. — [1] —.

Amanda Bibb, CEO of Bibb Bubblegum, takes the chewing gum industry very seriously. — [2] —. As the company's fourth-generation CEO, she proudly shares, "My family is excited to sponsor this event and thrilled to be the first chewing gum company ever to host the International Candy Conference!" Ms. Bibb is also especially pleased that the candy conference will be in Portugal this year. — [3] —. "Bibb Bubblegum started with a tiny shop near Lisbon. While our main factory is local, we now sell our gum in seven countries. We hope this event will bring attention and revenue to our community as well as to the international bubblegum market."

For more information about the International Candy Conference and for tours of the Bibb Bubblegum factory, contact Roberto Barboza at 351 922 555 965 or visit www.BibbBubblegum.com. — [4] —.

162. What is the main purpose of the press release?
- (A) To explain the history of the candy industry
 - (B) To announce the expansion of a gum company
 - (C) To introduce the CEO of a new business
 - (D) To promote a conference and its sponsor
163. What is indicated about the Bibb Bubblegum company?
- (A) It allows visitors to tour its facility.
 - (B) Its headquarters are in Lisbon.
 - (C) It is a new candy business in Portugal.
 - (D) It offers more flavors than other gum companies do.
164. Who most likely is Mr. Barboza?
- (A) A shop owner
 - (B) A company representative
 - (C) A newspaper writer
 - (D) A travel agent
165. In which of the positions marked [1], [2], [3], and [4] does the following sentence best belong?
- "That number now will likely include many gum manufacturers, as Bibb Bubblegum will host this year's event."
- (A) [1]
 - (B) [2]
 - (C) [3]
 - (D) [4]

VIII.

United Kingdom's Top-Selling Paint Just Got Better

More Choices for Jasmine Leaf Paint

Jasmine Leaf Paint has been the number one selling house paint for the last five years in a row. — [1] —. But being the best seller is not enough for us. — [2] —. That's why we are bringing you additional ways to make your home more beautiful!

Our specially blended Blendex Formula interior paint and primer are prized for their stain resistance, excellent coverage, low-odour formula, ease of cleanup, and lifetime guarantee. In addition, we are now offering our paints in cans of five different sizes. And you can now get our paints in five beautiful finishes: flat, eggshell, satin, semigloss, and high gloss. — [3] —.

If you want rich, long-lasting, beautiful walls and ceilings inside your home, ask for Jasmine Leaf Paint at a quality paint store near you. — [4] —.

161. For whom is the advertisement primarily intended?
- (A) Landscapers
 - (B) Paint store owners
 - (C) Art students
 - (D) Homeowners
162. What is new about Jasmine Leaf Paint?
- (A) It is now stain resistant.
 - (B) It now features a lifetime guarantee.
 - (C) It is now thicker.
 - (D) It is now available in more sizes.
163. In which of the positions marked [1], [2], [3], and [4] does the following sentence best belong?
- "This all means more convenient options for you."
- (A) [1]
 - (B) [2]
 - (C) [3]
 - (D) [4]