LISTENING AND READING PRACTICE

PART 1. LISTENING

Topic : Asking and Responding to a Favor (Daily Life Conversation)

Video Reference : English in Comfort Podcast
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EtXW3nnfPI

Activity 1: Literal Comprehension (Percakapan 1)

Dengarkan bagian awal video (Audio Percakapan Sarah & Tom) dan pilihlah jawaban yang paling tepat!

1. What is Sarah's main problem in the first conversation?

A. She lost her mobile phone on her way to school.

B. Her phone's battery died completely and she needs to make a call.

C. She forgot her mother's phone number.

D. She is going to be late for an appointment with Tom.

E. Tom refuses to help her because he is busy.

2. Why does Sarah need to call her mother urgently?

A. To ask her mother to buy a new car.

B. To inform her mother that she has arrived safely.

C. To tell her mother that she will be late since her mother is waiting for her.

D. To ask her mother to pick her up immediately.

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E. To check if her mother's phone is working.

3. What expression does Sarah use to ask Tom for his phone politely?

A. "Give me your phone right now, Tom."

B. "I was wondering if you could buy me a phone."

C. "Could you possibly bring my phone here?"

D. "Tom, would it be possible for me to use your phone for a quick call?"

E. "Do you mind calling my mom for me?"

4. How does Tom respond to Sarah's request?

A. He says he cannot give it because he is waiting for a call.

B. He answers warmly, "Yeah, sure, no problem."

C. He tells her to use a public phone instead.

D. He ignores her request because he is joking.

E. He says, "Unfortunately, I am not able to."

5. What does Sarah mean when she says to Tom, "You're a lifesaver"?

A. Tom literally saved her from a dangerous, life-threatening accident.

B. Tom works as a professional lifeguard at a swimming pool.

C. Tom helped her out in a very difficult or stressful situation.

D. Tom promised to fix her broken phone battery.

E. Tom bought her a brand new car.

Activity 2: Language Focus (Expressions of Favors)

Simak penjelasan dari narator video mengenai ragam ekspresi, lalu pilihlah jawaban yang tepat berdasarkan konteks penggunaannya!

6. Why does the video suggest using phrases like *"would it be possible..."* or *"could you possibly..."*?

A. Because it puts heavy pressure on the other person to say yes.

B. Because it is a very formal written business language.

C. Because it is a "soft" and gentle question that gives the other person an easy chance to say yes or no.

D. Because it shows that we are ordering them to do something nice.

E. Because it makes the speaker sound superior to the listener.

7. What does the expression *"I could really use an extra hand"* mean in everyday English?

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A. The speaker needs a medical operation on their hand.

B. The speaker needs help from another person because they cannot do it alone.

C. The speaker wants to cut off someone else's hand for work.

D. The speaker is offering to help someone carry heavy bags.

E. The speaker is trying to buy a manual book.

8. In the second conversation, why does Tom decline Sarah's request to help move a heavy bookcase?

A. He doesn't want to do heavy physical work.

B. He has to work late at the office tomorrow morning.

C. He has a dentist appointment at that exact time.

D. He needs to attend a best friend's wedding ceremony.

E. His car is currently in the repair shop.

9. How do you decline a favor politely based on Tom's example in the video?

A. By saying "No, I can't" directly without any reasons.

B. By ignoring the question and changing the topic.

C. By starting with an apology and using a phrase like "I'd love to, but..." followed by a short reason.

D. By telling a long, complicated lie to make them feel bad.

E. By suggesting that they should do it themselves.

Activity 3: Advanced Listening (Negotiating a Favor)

Simak bagian akhir video tentang bertukar shift kerja antara Tom dan Sarah, lalu jawablah pertanyaan berikut!

10. How do Sarah and Tom make a deal (negotiate) about covering the work shift?

A. Sarah agrees to cover Tom's shift tomorrow if Tom covers her shift on Friday.

B. Tom pays Sarah an extra amount of money to take his shift.

C. Sarah covers Tom's shift because Tom promises to help her clean the kitchen.

D. Tom agrees to borrow Sarah's jacket if Sarah lends him a sweater.

E. Sarah rejects Tom's request because it is super short notice.

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Part 2 . Reading Comprehension

Humans are uniquely smart among all the other species on the planet. We are capable of outstanding feats of technology and engineering. Then why are we so prone to making mistakes? And why do we tend to make the same ones time and time again? When Primate Psychologist Laurie Santos from the Comparative Cognition Lab at Yale University **posed** this question to her team, they were thinking in particular of the errors of judgement which led to the recent collapse of the financial markets. Santos came to two possible answers to this question. Either humans have designed environments which are too complex for us to fully understand, or we are biologically prone to making bad decisions.

In order to test these theories, the team selected a group of Brown Capuchin monkeys. Monkeys were selected for the test because, as distant relatives of humans, they are intelligent and have the capacity to learn. However, they are not influenced by any of the technological or cultural environments which affect human decision-making. The team wanted to test whether the capuchin monkeys, when put into similar situations as humans, would make the same mistakes.

Of particular interest to the scientists was whether monkeys would make the same mistakes when making financial decisions. In order to find out, they had to introduce the monkeys to money. The team distributed metal discs to the monkeys, and taught them that the discs could be exchanged with teammembers for food. The monkeys soon **cottoned on,** and as well as learning simple exchange techniques, were soon able to distinguish 'bargains' – If one team-member offered two grapes in exchange for a metal disc and another team-member offered one grape, the monkeys chose the two-grape option. Interestingly, when the data about the monkey's purchasing strategies was compared with economist's data on human behaviour, there was a perfect match.

So, after establishing that the monkey market was operating effectively, the team decided to introduce some problems which humans generally get wrong. One of these issues is risk-taking. Imagine that someone gave you $1000. In addition to this $1000, you can receive either A) an additional $500 or B) someone tosses a coin and if it lands 'heads' you receive an additional $1000, but if it lands 'tails' you receive no more money. Of these options, most people tend to choose option A. They prefer guaranteed earnings, rather than running the risk of receiving nothing. Now imagine a second situation in which you are given $2000. Now, you can choose to either A) lose $500, leaving you with a total of $1500, or B) toss a coin; if it lands 'heads' you lose nothing, but if it lands 'tails' you lose $1000, leaving you with only $1000. Interestingly, when we stand to lose money, we tend to choose the riskier choice, option B. And as we know from the experience of finansial investors and gamblers, it is unwise to take risks when we are on a losing streak.

So, would the monkeys make the same basic error of judgement? The team put them to the test by giving them similar options. In the first test, monkeys had the option of exchanging their disc for one grape and receiving one bonus grape, or exchanging the disc for one grape and sometimes receiving two bonus grapes and sometimes receiving no bonus. It turned out that monkeys, like humans, chose the less risky option in times of plenty. Then the experiment was reversed. Monkeys were offered three grapes, but in option A were only actually given two grapes. In option B, they had a fifty-fifty chance of receiving all three grapes or one grape only. The results were that monkeys, like humans, take more risks in times of loss.

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The implications of this experiment are that because monkeys make the same irrational judgements that humans do, maybe human error is not a result of the complexity of our financial institutions, but is **imbedded** in our evolutionary history. If this is the case, our errors of judgement will be very difficult to overcome. On a more optimistic note, however, humans are fully capable of overcoming limitations once we have identified them. By recognising them, we can design technologies which will help us to make better choices in future.

1. What is the main topic of the passage?
   a. An experiment on whether monkeys could earn money
   b. An example of how it is better to take risks in times of loss
   c. An experiment looking for where human mistakes come from
   d. An example of why a monkey makes mistakes
2. What can be inferred from paragraph 2?
   a. Santos's team picked monkeys as the random subject for the experiment
   b. Humans are influenced by the cultural environment around them
   c. Monkeys are the only animal with the same cultural sphere as humans
   d. Human decision-making is not influenced by any technological sphere
3. The word "posed" in first paragraph is closest in meaning to...
   a. Propose
   b. Attitude
   c. Stance
   d. Mannerism
4. Which of the following statements is **TRUE** according to paragraph 3?
   a. Which of the following statements is TRUE according to paragraph 3?
   b. Money is the only tool needed in the experiment
   c. Monkeys can understand money even before the experiment
   d. Making mistakes in financial decisions is the focus of the experiment
5. The phrase "cottoned on" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to...
   a. fond of
   b. detested
   c. completed
   d. understood
6. According to the passage, the monkeys tend to...
   a. use strategies to buy something
   b. choose grapes than bananas
   c. choose the riskier choice
   d. keep their money rather than use it
7. Why does the passage mention 'heads' and 'tails'?
   a. To illustrate the two sides of a coin
   b. To explain how certain monkeys are ahead of their peers
   c. To give a background story for the readers
   d. To inform readers of the anatomy of monkeys
8. The word "imbedded" in line 53 is closest in meaning to...
   a. Ascend
   b. Brief
   c. Planted
   d. Provisional
9. According to the last paragraph, the author believes that...

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a. Error of judgment happens to humans only
b. Overcoming limitations is one step to understanding animals
c. Monkey and human are related thus it is expected to have the same tendency
d. The experiment is not valid until the next design technology is created

10. The word “them” in line 56 refers to...
a. Limitations
b. Humans
c. optimistic note
d. monkeys

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