



Pre Advanced – TP 9

READING COMPREHENSION

A) You are going to read an article in which four journalists give their opinions about the race to Mars. For each question 1–4, choose from the journalists A–D. The journalists may be chosen more than once.

Which journalist(s):

- 1- has a different view from Bradshaw on the financial implications of a manned mission to Mars? ____
- 2- has a similar opinion to Strong regarding the role of curiosity in exploration? ____
- 3- shares the same views as Snowden on space exploration in the future? ____
- 4- expresses a similar opinion to Snowden about recent Mars exploration? ____



Why are people racing to get to Mars?

A William Snowden

In my opinion, it's not easy to define our reasons for wanting to go to Mars, other than that there's some instinctive urge to discover the unknown. It was this which led the first people to leave their homes and, in a relatively short space of time, spread out to every corner of the globe. Now, however, we've reached a point in our evolution where we no longer need to tie ourselves to the planet we live on. Space missions, such as the Mars Rover, have given us a taste of what's out there, but it's little better than looking at it through a telescope. In the spirit of all exploration, we'll only be happy when we've set foot on the Red Planet ourselves. Of course, this won't be enough. We'll always want to know what the next planet is like, but it'll be an important first step.

B Seth Bradshaw

The romantic view is that our sense of curiosity is the reason we explore. Throughout history, we have been encouraged to think of explorers as courageous travellers risking danger and death in order to expand our knowledge of the world. Of course, this is far from the truth of the matter. In reality, most of them have been motivated by more selfish considerations – usually the promise of power and riches. Although it may not be fashionable to say so, space exploration is no different. With an estimated cost of around \$4 billion for a mission to Mars, the funding has to come from somewhere. While entrepreneurs may not find their fortune on Mars, they are likely to make a fortune through space tourism. In the same way that people are prepared to pay good money for a trip to Antarctica or Mount Everest, they are already queuing up for trips to Mars. The first entrepreneur to provide that service will become very wealthy indeed.

C Liza Strong

There are many reasons for wanting to colonise Mars. One obvious reason is that there are potential economic benefits. However, some reasons are more emotional, such as the persistent need to satisfy our natural curiosity. This is a desire which has driven us since the beginning of time. The dream of getting to the Red Planet is not a new one, but for decades we've been told we can't afford it. Nevertheless, despite disapproval and shrinking budgets, a small group of individuals has worked tirelessly to land people on Mars. Despite the fact that this requires a huge investment, with no promise of returns, they have managed to convince entrepreneurs and governments that it's in the interest of all humanity. Thanks to their continued work, we are likely to see the first Mars landing in the next 30 years.

D Belinda Southall

It's not easy to understand why we're so desperate to get to Mars. By all accounts, it's an inhospitable planet which doesn't seem to offer anything to humans. We've been using probes to investigate the planet for years, but we haven't found anything remarkable. The only thing of interest is a rock that looks a bit like a human face. Optimists will say that it doesn't matter what we find, and that the most important thing is the quest for knowledge. Capitalists will say that it's a business opportunity like any other, in the hope that they'll find red gold. However, the real reason governments have been prepared to spend a small fortune is that it is a strategic move. Whoever is first to get to Mars will have an advantage over everyone else because Mars is just a stepping stone to the rest of the solar system and beyond.

WRITING (GRAMMAR)

B) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1- Heather vowed _____ (not / speak) to Andrew again after that terrible argument they had.
- 2- It doesn't matter how hard you try, you'll never convince _____ (me / do) a parachute jump.
- 3- We'd better hurry up. We risk _____ (not / be allowed) into the meeting if we're late.
- 4- I knew he was going to do something daring, but I didn't envisage _____ (him / climb) to the top of that tree.
- 5- As we passed through border control, we were obliged _____ (show) our passports.
- 6- My mum caught _____ (me / wrap up) her present. I hope she didn't see what was inside.
- 7- Our parents had forbidden _____ (us / go) into the woods alone.
- 8- We regret _____ (inform / you) that your application for this position has been declined.

C) Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1- The waiter encouraged us *try / to try / trying* the fish curry as it was the chef's special.
- 2- My laptop broke the other day, but I persuaded my brother *lend / to lend / lending* me his.
- 3- The manufacturer recommends *charge / to charge / charging* your phone for eight hours before using it for the first time.
- 4- Our neighbours came round this morning and apologised for *make / to make / making* so much noise last night.
- 5- My friends suggested *hang out / to hang out / hanging out* at the beach this weekend.
- 6- They were stopped by the police and instructed *empty / to empty / emptying* their pockets.
- 7- The guide advised us against *stand / to stand / standing* too close to the edge of the mountain path.

WRITING (VOCABULARY)

D) Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- 1- In the UK, _____ areas are established to protect places of historic or architectural interest.
- 2- The _____ layer protects the Earth from the harmful effects of the sun's ultraviolet rays.
- 3- Having no taste or smell, _____ monoxide is a very hard gas to detect.
- 4- One advantage of recycling is that it reduces the amount of waste disposed of in _____ sites.
- 5- It's essential that we reduce the amount of _____ fuels that we burn and move towards renewable forms of energy.
- 6- Governments use emissions _____ schemes to control the amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere.
- 7- Some large companies organise a green _____ to find out the impact of their actions on the environment.
- 8- Carbon _____ allows countries and organisations to buy and sell permits for the emission of carbon dioxide.
- 9- Several countries have announced measures to reduce carbon emissions in an effort to reduce the _____ effect.
- 10 There's a wonderful nature _____ on the edge of my city, which is completely unspoilt by human activity.
- 11- One aspect of _____ development is using limited resources more responsibly.
- 12- _____ rain can destroy minerals and nutrients in the soil, which is a problem for trees.
- 13- The hot, humid conditions of a rain _____ make it the perfect home to an abundance of animal and plant life.