

## Reading Explorer 5 Unit 5 Lesson B

**A. Read the passage “Plugging into the Sun” (pages 107-109). Choose the best answer for each question.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What does the phrase *canals of light* refer to in paragraph B?
- canals filled with shining water
  - moonlight glowing on curved pipes
  - rows of mirrors reflecting the sun
  - bright lights from Las Vegas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of these is the final step in the process of power production at Nevada Solar One?
- The heat powers a turbine and dynamo.
  - Electricity enters the power grid.
  - Pipes absorb heat from the sun.
  - Oil in the pipes becomes extremely hot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What is the purpose of paragraph E?
- to demonstrate that solar power is more than adequate for human needs
  - to point out that geothermal and wind power have inadequate capacity
  - to emphasize Germany's pioneering role in solar energy
  - to argue for installing solar collectors at sea as well as on land
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Why is electricity from Nevada Solar One competitive in price?
- The installation received a federal tax benefit.
  - The plant met a deadline for renewable power.
  - The Nevada state legislature pays for it.
  - Gas and other fossil fuels have become too expensive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What is the main idea in paragraphs I and J?
- Solar was not popular in the 1980s.
  - Photovoltaic panels can provide energy for the whole country.
  - The use of solar mirrors is decreasing.
  - There are two main methods of harnessing solar energy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Which of the following sentences is true?
- Solar thermal energy (STE) technology uses semiconductors such as silicon.
  - Photovoltaic (PV) panels are the most widely-used technology in the solar power industry.
  - Photovoltaic (PV) panels use mirrors to produce thermal energy.
  - Solar thermal energy (STE) technology converts sunlight directly into electricity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The following sentence would be best placed at the end of which paragraph?
- Investors believe that as fossil fuels become scarcer and hence more expensive, PV solar panels will become more economical.*
- Paragraph H
  - Paragraph K
  - Paragraph N
  - Paragraph P
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If you visited Morbach, Germany, what would you see all over the town?

- a. high wind turbines
- b. the Black Forest
- c. photovoltaic panels on roofs
- d. gas-fired power plants

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. In paragraph R, what does *the bigger ones* refer to?
- a. Spanish technology parks
  - b. German power plants
  - c. photovoltaic installations
  - d. air force bases
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which of the following is true for both Germany and the United States?
- a. It is one of the top producers of photovoltaic power in the world.
  - b. Anybody who installs a PV system is guaranteed above-market rates for 20 years.
  - c. Less than 10% of the country's electricity is generated from solar energy every year.
  - d. Regulations require utility companies to pay all PV producers a premium.

**B. Complete the sentences using the words in the box.**

appliances	audit	commonplace	commutes	compact
incentive	mode	obstacle	threshold	utility

11. At the turn of the 21st century, cellphones became \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Physicists think that experiments from the Large Hadron Collider are on the \_\_\_\_\_ of discovering how particles really work.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ bills include gas, electric, water, and telephone bills.
14. The company does a monthly \_\_\_\_\_ to keep track of its finances.
15. Typical household \_\_\_\_\_ include washing machines and refrigerators.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ cars are gaining popularity because of their size.
17. When you are watching a movie in the cinema, make sure your cellphone is on silent \_\_\_\_\_.
18. He \_\_\_\_\_ to work by train.
19. He trained jumping hurdles in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ course.
20. The government is offering additional tax rebates for working parents as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to have children.

**DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences. Choose the correct word.**

- a. circulate
- b. deadline
- c. ingenious
- d. offset
- e. panel
- f. premium
- g. renewable
- h. subsidy
- i. subtract
- j. yielded

- \_\_\_ 21. It helps to keep the room cool if you use a fan to \_\_\_ the air around.
- \_\_\_ 22. Environmentalists favor \_\_\_ sources of energy such as wind, water, and solar.
- \_\_\_ 23. If you want to enter the contest, you have to submit your entry before the \_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ 24. Our electric car was expensive, but the purchase price was \_\_\_ by savings in fuel.
- \_\_\_ 25. The solar \_\_\_ on the roof helps to heat the old farmhouse and its water supply.
- \_\_\_ 26. To promote higher education, the government provides a(n) \_\_\_ for undergraduate housing.
- \_\_\_ 27. Although it costs more, this car gets better mileage from \_\_\_-grade gasoline.
- \_\_\_ 28. His farm \_\_\_ enough crops this year to make a huge profit.
- \_\_\_ 29. When you compare your new job offer in the city to your existing salary, don't forget to \_\_\_ the cost of commuting from your pay.
- \_\_\_ 30. The new design for the hotel is \_\_\_ because it uses special glass to control the temperature all year round.