

TEST 1

LISTENING

6 [108] Listen to the description of the life of a famous artist. Complete the notes with one word or number in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

About the artist's life

Name of artist: Alberto _____ (0)

Year of birth: (1) _____

Place of birth: Borgonovo, (2) _____

Father's profession: (3) _____

Places where he studied: Geneva and (4) _____

About the artist's sculptures

Subject: figures of humans and (5) _____

Material they are made from: (6) _____

Appearance: strange – long, (7) _____ figures with flat heads

About the artist's death

Year of death: (8) _____

Cause of death: (9) _____ disease

Place where he is buried: in his home town close to his _____ (10)

____ / 10

READING

Read the article about three tech companies. Match the questions to the paragraph (A, B or C) which answers the question. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 Which company or service has a name which can't be used as a verb?

1 Where is the company or service based today?

2 How did programmers think of a name for their company or service?

3 Which company or service was first developed by people who hadn't worked on any previous computer programming projects?

4 Which company or service was developed by people from different countries?

5 Which company provides significant sporting facilities for workers?

- 6 How many people use this company or service nowadays?
- 7 Which company or service has been bought by another company?
- 8 Which company or service is popular because of its cost?
- 9 Out of what type of building was the company or service first operated?
- 10 In what year did the company or service start making money?

___ / 10

Tech companies

A

Everybody knows Google. It's the most visited website in the world, and its name has become a verb meaning 'to search the internet'. But how long has there been a Google, and who started the company in the first place?

Google was founded in January 1996 as a research project by two students at Stanford University in California. Their names were Larry Page and Sergey Brin, and today they are two of the richest people in the world. Larry and Sergey wanted to design a different sort of search engine – one that improved the searches people made on the internet. At first, their new search engine company was based in the garage of a friend. Today, it's housed in enormous buildings in New York and California. The Googleplex, the company's headquarters near San Jose, is 190,000 m², and has eighteen cafeterias, two swimming pools and a number of volleyball courts to help employees relax.

B

Skype was started in 2003 by two technology entrepreneurs from Scandinavia. Niklas Zennström was born in Sweden, and Janus Friis is from Denmark, and together they had set up a number of online companies before they had the idea for Skype – an online text message and video chat service. A lot of the Skype software was created by a team of Estonian programmers named Ahti Heinla, Priit Kasesalu and Jaan Tallinn.

Skype was so successful that it was sold in 2011 for over \$8 billion to Microsoft Corporation, making its founders billionaires. Skyping is particularly popular with people making international calls, partly because you can talk face to face using the video option, but mostly because call charges are so cheap. In 2014, 40% of all international calls were made on Skype.

C

In 2010, three computer programmers based in San Francisco were working on a project called Burbn when they decided to change to a different idea – their new idea was an internet-based application for sharing photos. They put together two words – instant camera and telegram – and came up with a name for their application: Instagram.

At first, when Instagram was launched in 2010, it only worked on one operating system. By 2012, however, it had been designed as an app for all the major operating systems and, as a result, it was then that it became extremely popular and profitable. Instagram had 100 million users by 2013, and today has as many as 700 million users.