Comprehension

Money

Money is one of the most important inventions in human history. It helps people who do not know or trust each other to trade. If you have enough money, you can go into a store and walk out with a candy bar. The store owner does not need to know or trust you. They only need to count your money. This is a pretty big deal if you think about it.

Before money, most exchange was based on credit and debt. Imagine that you were part of an ancient tribe and had an extra pair of shoes. If your tribe mate Joshua needed shoes, you might give him your extra ones. Joshua would then be in debt to you. He would owe you one. Later, your family might be starving in the depths of winter. You might have no success hunting, and Joshua might share some of his food with you.

The credit and debt system served humans well for much of time. Our minds are good at remembering favours and who owes whom. The problem with this system is that it requires trust. I need to know the reputation of the person to whom I am lending. I need to trust that he or she will repay me. Otherwise, we cannot trade. It's easy to trust our tribe mate Joshua. We know him. We are familiar with his reputation. But what about those from the tribe across The sea? Do we trust them? Probably not. At least not enough to give them our shoes on credit. After all, we don't even know them.

A society that does not have money cannot grow very large. It's hard to maintain relationships with more than 150 or 200 people. Reputational systems of exchange fail as groups grow larger. The need for money develops.

Imagine that you were a soldier living in a Roman army camp in the 1st century. Thousands of men and women live alongside you. Many are soldiers. Some are nurses or physicians. Others are merchants, farmers, or cooks. Let's say that you needed a blacksmith to repair your armour. The blacksmith doesn't know you. Even if he or she did, you might die in the next battle. The blacksmith cannot trust you to repay your debts. But the blacksmith does not need to trust you. You are paid in gold and silver coins. You can trade coins with strangers for whatever goods or services you desire.

Today, the monetary system once again relies on credits and debts. But now, banks and lenders can keep track of everyone's reputation. They use computers and government issued identities. They know our credit histories. They know our spending habits. They use algorithms to rank our credit worthiness. They know us well enough to issue credit to us, even though they don't actually know us. What a world!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Which main point about money is the author trying to make in this text?

a) Money unfairly flows to the richest people in the world.
b) Money allows people who don't know or trust each other to trade.
c) Money is the root of all evil.
d) Money can purchase many things but it cannot buy happiness.

2. According to the text, how did people mainly transact before the invention of money?

a) They used the barter system and traded physical goods.
b) They used seashells and beads as currency.
c) They lent and borrowed from each other.
d) Everything was free and everyone shared freely.

3. Why would the author lend to Joshua but not the tribe across the sea?

a) Joshua is the wealthiest person in town.
b) Joshua is a person who is known and trusted.
c) Joshua is a feared Roman soldier.
d) Joshua is the fastest person in the tribe.

4. What is the author's main purpose in writing the THIRD paragraph?

a) He is trying to convince us to forgo modern life and to live in tribes.
b) He is informing readers of the history of credit and debt systems.
c) He is explaining why tribal life is unproductive and wasteful.
d) He is describing the weaknesses of the credit and debt system.

5. Why did Roman army camps need to use money to facilitate trade?

a) Most people did not know each other.
b) Most people did not trust each other.
c) People often died in battle.
d) All of these reasons.

6. Which technologies enable modern societies to use credit systems?

a) Computers and government identification
b) Airplanes and phone networks
c) Radio waves and license plates
d) Steam power and waterways

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Which is TRUE based on information from the text?

a) Roman army camps were much smaller than ancient tribes.
b) Roman army camps were about the same size as ancient tribes.
c) Roman army camps were much larger than ancient tribes.
d) Nobody knows the actual size of Roman army camps.

8. With which statement would the author most likely AGREE?

a) Money allows civilizations to grow very large.
b) Credit and debt systems are primitive and only were only used in ancient times.
c) Money ruins civilizations by making everyone greedy.
d) Credit and debt systems cannot function in the modern world.

9. Which event happened LAST in history?

a) Thousands of people lived in Roman Army camps.
b) Credit and debt systems became widespread again due to technology.
c) Money was invented.
d) Ancient tribes used mainly credit and debt systems for exchange.

10. With which statement would the author most likely DISAGREE?

a) If someone has a good reputation, it is easier to trust him or her.
b) Reputations are important for lenders and borrowers.
c) Money makes trading easier for people who do not know each other.
d) People can easily maintain good relationships with thousands of other people.

Error Correction

Every year, students in my school (1)took part in Sports Day. It is a one day event. It is usually held the first Friday of June every year. Sports Day is usually held in a stadium. On (2)these day, selected students compete with one another. There are many field (3)event. They include the 100-metre run, 400-metre run, relay, long jump (4)or high jump. These students represent their house teams. Before the field events begin, (5)that students gather on the field, then march across it. Students (6)which do not take part in the events stand among the spectators. They cheer for (7)our favourite teams. After the events are successfully completed, the school principal (8)awarded prizes to the winners of the field events. Students who (9)did not win are given certificates of (10)participants. After the price giving ceremony is over, the principal delivers a closing speech. Then, all the students and teachers go home.	(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

endangered	install	equipped	scarce	convenient
extinction	breeding	stressed	necessary	facilities
purchase	welfare	communication	amazing	surf

1. Many people in this digital age _____ the internet on a daily basis for day-to-day chores, besides doing it for research and entertainment.
2. During a famine, food becomes _____; therefore it is priced more expensively than usual.
3. Water pollution accelerates the _____ of some marine species.
4. Mum has just helped me _____ an application in my phone to keep tab of my expenditure.
5. Many parents prefer expensive private schools to public schools because there are better _____.
6. You are _____ with all the traits of a good teacher. I believe you'll be a great educator one day.
7. It is _____ to wear a proper swimsuit to swim in a public pool?
8. _____ skills involve not only the ability to express oneself but also to listen to others actively.
9. You can be fined if you are caught _____ mosquitoes in the surrounding of your house.
10. Please let me know if it is _____ to call you at 8pm.
11. As a pet owner, you are responsible for its _____.
12. Species become _____ for two main reasons: loss of habitat and loss of genetic variation.
13. James has been feeling _____ because he hasn't done the revision for his exams.
14. The new actress gave an _____ performance in her first movie.
15. The shrinking ringgit means we get to _____ less with the same amount of money.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rewrite these in the passive voice.

1. The immigration officers check the tourists' passports carefully.

_____

2. The maids of honour did not open the door for the groom.

_____

3. Uncle Tan won't feed the dog with chocolate.

_____

4. Does Janet write songs?

_____

5. Victoria and her sisters don't do washing.

_____

6. Aunt Fanny fetches me home from school every day.

_____

7. Mr Lai will not buy flowers for his girlfriend.

_____

8. Did the thief steal the family's heirloom which belonged to Madam Foong?

_____

9. Are the paramedics attending to the injured victim now?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10. Was the vet giving the cat an injection at that time?

_____

11. Will Leonard drive the old car to the mechanic's tomorrow morning?

_____

12. Miss Yong retyped the minutes of the meeting because it was full of mistakes.

_____

13. The coach reprimanded the team of players for their laziness.

_____

14. The housekeepers change the bedsheets every day.

_____

15. Do Paula and his wife own that bungalow across the street?

_____

If Conditions

1. No one will trust him again even if he _____ (turn) over a new leaf.
2. If everyone _____ (disagree), we shall not carry on with the project.
3. Samuel _____ (stay) overnight in the office if he could not finish his work.
4. All the pupils _____ (feel) sad if Miss Tay transfers.
5. Dr. Sim would check on his patients if he _____ (be) here.
6. If the guests come late, we _____ (not wait) for them.
7. The teacher _____ (hit) the roof if we told her about it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8. The dentist _____ (extract) the decayed tooth if he found one.
9. All the girls _____ (support) Zi Sen if he wants to be the monitor.
10. I _____ (order) from Food Panda if my mum isn't at home.
11. The burgers _____ (taste) good if you add in some ketchup.
12. No one _____ (discover) where she was if the hounds didn't find her.
13. Stella would take part if I _____ (take) part in the talentime.
14. Neil _____ (find) the treasures if he has a map.
15. The little girl would lie if she _____ (need) money.

Tenses.

1. No one _____ (believe) me if I don't show them the proof.
2. Journalists _____ (lead) a very hectic life.
3. The author _____ (write) more than 30 books the year before.
4. _____ river otters _____ (build) dams?
5. As Linda is searching for her missing ring, her mates _____ (give) her a helping hand.
6. If everyone is invited, we _____ (not have) enough seats.
7. I _____ (take) a nap when the thunderous noise woke me up.
8. I would be angry if he _____ (not tell) me the truth.
9. _____ the students _____ (come) on time this morning?
10. Miss Rong _____ (not return) to office for work next month.
11. Edward _____ (will) his properties to his wife last year after he had been diagnosed with cancer.
12. _____ Greg _____ (not clean) his car when the delivery man came?
13. The students _____ (focus) on their exam as the clock ticked.
14. If I _____ (be) blind, I would have to learn Braille.
15. Tom always _____ (behave) coldly in front of me.
16. Either the students or their teacher _____ (be) responsible for the notice boards.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

17. 70% of the pupils in my class _____ (own) laptops.
18. A number of thefts _____ (occur) in my housing estate.
19. The president, as well as his wife, usually _____ (speak) to the people amiably.
20. Vandalism _____ (be) prevalent in most secondary schools.

LIVEWORKSHEETS