Pre-Reading

1 Do you have any important information stored on your computer? What kind?

2 What helps keep your computer safe?

3 What do you think is the biggest danger to your computer?

Vocabulary-Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. specialist; knowledgeable person	d. safety from harm or attack
b. have confidence in	e. abilities
c. offered suggestions to	f. pretended to be

1. _____ It's important to have good computer security.

2. _____ I trust her. She would never do anything bad to me.

3. _____ The robber posed as a police officer.

4. _____ James is an expert in computers.

5. _____ He uses his skills to help people.

6. _____ My father advised me about what university I should go to.

Don't trust me!

Companies these days spend thousands of dollars on their computer security. They buy the best firewalls and computer programs. However, Kevin Mitnick thinks the biggest danger these days is not a weakness in technology. In the 1990s, Kevin Mitnick was an infamous hacker.
He hacked into government and corporate computer systems. After being sent to prison, Mitnick decided to use his skills in a different way. He started his own computer security firm. He now advises people on how to keep their computers safe.

According to Mitnick, the biggest danger to security is people. However, by this he doesn't mean hackers. In fact, he means the people using the programs. "If an attacker can get one trusting person to give his or her information, the attacker gets in. All that money spent is basically wasted." A hacker can get around everything with just one person within the company. Unfortunately, people are still too trusting. In a recent test of the US tax office (the IRS), security experts called 100 managers. They posed as IRS computer technicians. The experts were able to fool of the managers. They gave both their passwords and IDs. In the hands of real hackers, this would have been a disaster!

1. **What is the main idea of this reading?**

a. Managers need to be more careful about who they talk to.
b. Hackers can help us make our computers safe.
c. Technology is not helpful if people aren't careful.
d. It's important to get the newest technology.

2. **What is true about Kevin Mitnick?**

a He now works for the US government.
b. He thinks security technology is too expensive
c. He used to be a criminal.
d. He teaches people how to hack computers.

3. **What happened at the IRS?**

a. Hackers stole important information.
b. Employees gave information to the wrong people.
c. The security technology had a problem.
d. Managers tested the computer system.

4. **What is Kevin Mitnick's advice to us?**

a. Don't give information to strangers.
b. Buy the newest firewalls.
c. Test your computer systems often.
d. Don't store important information on computers.

5. **What does the word "they" refer to in line 22?**

a. Experts
b. Technicians
c. Managers
d. Hackers