

Unit 14 Reading

Quickly read the texts in exercise 3 and answer questions 1–4

1 Text A: What ages are Ellie and Jacob?

2 Text B: What is the minimum age at which people can get married?

3 Text C: What has Phil probably asked Bob?

4 Text D: Why is the author surprised?

Text A

Hi Lena,

Thanks for a great party last weekend!

I'm planning to have driving lessons next month when I'm seventeen, so could you send me a link to that website with second-hand cars? I want to buy one. Imagine – I'll pass my test soon hopefully, but I won't have a car to drive. That would be silly!

Thanks!

Ellie

Hi Danny!

As you know, tomorrow is my sixteenth birthday and, for a present, my parents are paying for my first driving lesson. I've met my driving instructor and she's really friendly. Wish me luck! I'll tell you about it at my party on Saturday night. Are you coming in your new car?

Jacob

Text B

The minimum legal age for getting married in most countries is sixteen, but this does not mean that lots of young people do so at that age. Military service, education and careers are all the reasons why people delay marriage until they are in their twenties or older, even though the law says they can do so at a much younger age.

Text C

Hi Phil,

1 Let me know if you need any more information.

2 You also have to have a licence, but you don't need to take a test.

3 To answer your question: you can ride a motorbike at sixteen but there are some restrictions.

4 First of all, the engine must be no bigger than 50cc.

Bob

Text D

These rights and duties make no sense. For example, how can someone be old enough to get married at sixteen, but not allowed to drive a car? It's crazy join the army, but you can't have a tattoo or vote? Either you're an adult or you're a child. What does everyone else think?

Text A

1. Both texts are about
 - A. buying a car.
 - B. learning to drive.
 - C. organising a party

Text B

2. The writer says that people often marry
 - A. as soon as the law allows them to.
 - B. before they have major responsibilities in life.
 - C. when they are a lot older than the minimum age.

Text C

3. The correct order of the sentences in the message is
 - A. 4-2-1-3
 - B. 3-4-2-1
 - C. 3-1-4-2

Text D

4. This text is
 - A. someone's opinion on a forum.
 - B. part of an advertisement for a car.
 - C. a notice on a noticeboard.

Find words in the texts which mean the same as these words and phrases.

1. not new (Text A) _____
2. lowest possible (Text B) _____
3. jobs and work (Text B) _____
4. an official document (Text C) _____
5. not a child (Text D) _____

Read the rules below. Which of them, in your opinion, are real laws that people need to obey?

- 1 In Arizona, it is illegal for a donkey to sleep in a bath.
- 2 In Delaware, it is illegal to sell the hair of your dog or cat.
- 3 In Montana, it is illegal to give a rat as a present.
- 4 In Indiana, it is illegal to ride a horse at a speed above 16 kph.
- 5 In Massachusetts, it is illegal to allow your dog to run after a deer.
- 6 In Virginia, it is illegal to keep a skunk as a pet.

Read the text below quickly. Which of the laws from exercise 1 are mentioned in the text?

ORDER! ORDER!

(DO WE REALLY NEED ALL THE LAWS?)

We all agree that every society needs rules which tell people how to behave. If there was no law and no punishment, we would probably live in chaos – some people might burgle other people's houses and cars, or bully and terrorise those who are weaker. However, when reading about some laws in different states in the USA, you can't stop thinking: why do they exist?

You might read that in Nevada it is illegal to sit or lie down on a pavement, and in Arizona you can't spit on the streets. That kind of makes sense – they just want to keep order. They must also believe in keeping order in Hawaii, where billboards are illegal (so that you can enjoy the views). In Iowa, you can't sell cars on Sundays (probably to get some rest), which also sounds quite logical.

On the other hand, why is it illegal to keep a skunk as a pet in Virginia (would anyone want to?) or give someone a rat as a present (Montana)? In Indiana, you can't ride a horse faster than 16 kph. Seriously? Would anyone measure that? Finally, do people in Arizona really need a law which does not allow donkeys to sleep in a bath? And why was it passed in the first place? Would anyone like to guess?

Odpowiedz krótko na pytania zgodnie z treścią tekstu

1. Why would people commit crimes if there was no law?
Because if there was no law, there would also be _____
2. What can't you do in Nevada?
In Nevada, you can't sit or _____
3. What animal cannot be given as a present in Montana?
In Montana, you cannot _____
4. Why does the author make fun of some laws?
Because he thinks they _____