English Test: Reading Comprehension

School in Kenya

Since 2003, Kenya has had free primary schools for all children aged 6 to 13. Now more children go to school, but still not all children. Poorer families find it difficult to pay for uniforms and textbooks. Children from the countryside often don't go to school.

A bigger problem happens at 14, when almost 50% of children stop going to school. Now teachers hope to make learning more fun and interesting using tablets, to help children learn more quickly so they will want to keep coming to school.

BRCK, an African company, has invented a tablet that isn't expensive, is easy to use and can be charged wirelessly in a box. Forty tablets can be charged in the box and each tablet can be used for eight hours.

The 'Kio' tablet was developed by software developers, engineers and technologists. Kio is designed to work in the hot, dusty conditions in Kenya. It is also water resistant. The software is made for Kenyan schools and the content is made by four Kenyan companies and one international company. New content can be added from the micro cloud.

Students can watch videos and animations and do quizzes on the tablet. One headmaster in Nairobi said that the tablets helped the children's learning improve. The average marks in science went from 58 to 73 in a single term.

BRCK hopes to have Kio tablets for all 410 million African schoolchildren under 14 by 2020. This number is expected to increase to 800 million schoolchildren by 2050.

5 Match the words in the box to the definitions (1–10).

company | expensive | free | headteacher improve | international | a million | single software | uniform

1 You don't have to pay for it. _____
2 This is the opposite of 'cheap'. _____
3 An important person at school. _____
4 A business. _____
5 1,000,000 _____
6 A set of clothes that you wear at school. _____
7 To get better at something. _____
8 Only one. _____
9 From more than one country. _____
10 Programs used by computers to do some types of jobs. _____

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6 **Read the article about a school in Kenya. For each question, choose the correct answer.**

1 What is too expensive for some parents of schoolchildren in Kenya?

A lessons at primary schools

B books and clothes

C transport from the countryside

2 What happens to nearly half of Kenyan teenagers at 14 years old?

A They stop enjoying school lessons.

B They can't learn as fast as before.

C They don't go to school any more.

3 Why is BRCK's new tablet good for schools?

A It has a special box to protect it.

B It doesn't cost a lot of money.

C It only takes a few hours to charge it.

4 How has the Kio tablet helped some students?

A They have got better at science.

B They go to school more often.

C They help each other to learn.

5 What will happen in the future in Africa?

A There will not be enough tablets in schools.

B Each schoolchild will have two tablets.

C There will be many more children at school.

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7- Decide if the following sentences are True or False. Write T for true and F for false sentences.

a- More children from cities than the countryside go to school. _____

b- Teachers want to use tablets so that students continue coming to school. _____

c- School teachers developed the Kio tablet. _____

d- The use of tablets helped the students have better marks in science. _____.

e- By 2050 BRCK wants to have computers for double the number of students than 2020. _____

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