LOTS SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

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UPPER INTERMEDIATE - ASSSIGNMENT 3.

NAME: ----------

1.READING COMPREHENSION. A) Read the article about news reporting. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence.

The changing face of the news

News reporting has changed considerably in recent years. In the past, news stories from around the world were reported by official correspondents based in different countries or sent to places when newsworthy events happened. (1) ..... We regularly see reporters on television reporting live from earthquake zones, war-torn towns, sites of bad accidents and so on. They put their own lives at risk in order to bring us the stories of others whose voices might not otherwise be heard. However, in addition to these brave souls, there is a whole army of amateurs or semi-professionals who are used by the news networks worldwide to send in their own coverage of experiences and scenes occurring on their doorsteps.

(2) ..... The BBC in the UK started a monitoring service a long time ago, in 1939, when 50 'monitors' listened to foreign news broadcasts to pick up useful information. That number rose to over 500 within three years and today it also employs people in other countries to track and translate TV and radio reports from 150 countries in over 100 languages. Many of these overseas monitors are members of the general public who report regularly on what is happening in their particular regions through listening to the local news coverage. (3) ..... This continued right up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and events happening in the 'Arab Spring' of 2011. In addition to these semi-professional reporters, many photos that appear on our screens are also from reports sent in from bystanders who happen to be in a certain place at a certain time and who record what they witness on mobile phones.

(4) ..... Pictures can be taken on a mobile phone and then reproduced on TV screens the world over within minutes or even seconds. People with news to pass on frequently use sites like Twitter®. (5) ..... The first picture that the world saw of the event was from the phone of this tweeter. And this is not the only example. There is now an almost insatiable demand for pictures that have been taken as close as possible to the news event.

However, not everyone believes that this immediacy of news is always a good thing. What of the stories where there is no camera present? Will our desire to feel as if we are part of the event mean that some stories never get told any more simply because there aren't any eyewitness photos? And there is another, perhaps more serious, issue. Some feel that there is potential for misleading the audience. (6) ..... But this takes time, and unfortunately the appetite for continued dramatic coverage of events is not easily satisfied.

A We have learned immediate information from them over the years about historical events such as the Second World War, the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.
B Photos can be altered, staged or misinterpreted and if news networks accept information and images from unofficial sources, the reliability must be checked.
C But it is also very fast-moving because what is today's top story will be history tomorrow.
D A famous 'tweet' was sent when a plane crashed into the Hudson River in New York from a passenger on the ferry that was on its way to rescue passengers in the water.
E Compiling facts for news reports from around the world is a complex process.
F And to a certain extent this is still the case.
G Such immediacy of images and information from around the world is only made possible by the advanced technology that has given the world social networking sites and websites like YouTube™.

B) Read the article again and choose the best answers A, B or C.

1 Amateur and semi-professional news reporters
A are replacing traditional journalists.
B complement the work of traditional journalists.
C know more than traditional journalists.

2 Obtaining details of stories in other countries
A can only be done locally.
B is impossible in some situations.
C requires a variety of methods.

3 The advantage of using local reporters to cover a story is their
A speed.
B cost.
C knowledge of languages.

4 Many photos that we now see in TV news reports are
A not genuine.
B taken by people involved in the story.
C taken by people who were there by chance.

5 A famous tweet about a plane crash was sent
A by the pilot.
B from a boat.
C from a passenger on the plane.

2-SITUATION. You are talking to a friend about the statement below. Use some of the phrases from the box in the discussion.

STATEMENT: **Young people today rely too much on technology.**

Use some of these phrases:
- Do you see what I mean? / Are you following me?
- What I meant/mean is/was ...
- Yes, that's exactly what I mean/meant.
- No, that's not quite what I mean/meant.
- Are you saying that ...? / If I understand correctly, ...
- What do you mean when you say ...?
- Sorry, I'm not with you. / I don't understand what you're getting at.

You:
Your friend:
You:
Your friend:
You:
Your friend:
You:
Your friend:

3- WRITING TASK: Write a report (100-130 words)

A group of English students is coming to your college. Your English teacher has asked you to write a report on one local tourist attraction. In your report you should:

- describe the attraction and how one can reach it
- say what you can do there
- explain which sort of people usually visit it and why
- specify why you think students would enjoy visiting it

4-REWRITING. Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words.

1- Mark forgot to charge his phone and now he can't use it. **(HAD)**
If Mark ..... his phone, he could use it now.
2- I played volleyball until I went to university. **(STOPPED)**
I ..... I went to university.
3- The restaurant that we used to have dinner in has been demolished. **(WHERE)**
The restaurant ..... dinner has been demolished.
4- I ran to the cinema because the film was going to start at that moment. **(ABOUT)**
The film ..... I ran to the cinema.
5- One of my teachers used to give me good study tips, but she's left now. **(ALWAYS)**
The teacher ..... good study tips has left now.
6- 'What has been happening', I asked. **(COULD)**
I wonder ..... tell us what has been happening.

5-Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) to complete the text.

An interesting science programme (1) ..... on Channel 3 last night. It was about the improvements that have been made in tsunami warnings since the devastating tsunami of 2004. It appears that precise predictions of the height and timing of a tsunami can now (2) ..... to areas in danger within minutes of an earthquake happening at sea. The money that has been put into developing the technology to enable scientists to do this has been considerable and (3) ..... estimated that thousands of lives have been saved in recent years because of this. Having said that, the scientists on the programme insist that there is still a lot of work
(4) ..... in this field and that it is hoped further financial support will help them (5) ..... the necessary technology even further.

1	**A** showed	**B** is shown	**C** was shown	**D** shows
2	**A** send	**B** is sent	**C** sending	**D** be sent
3	**A** they were	**B** it is	**C** is	**D** is being
4	**A** to be done	**B** is doing	**C** doing	**D** can be done
5	**A** developing	**B** to develop	**C** developed	**D** to be developed

6-VOCABULARY. A) Complete the text with the correct form of these words.

destroy • erupt • land • survive • volcano

Following the unexpected 1..... of the Pacific island volcano last Tuesday, more people living close by have been forced to move because of 2..... that are threatening to cut off several local towns and villages. Hundreds of 3..... of the original disaster are still living in temporary shelters and it is expected to be some time before experts will be able to properly assess the 4..... in the area. Meanwhile, flights are being diverted because of a cloud of 5..... ash that is making it difficult for pilots to navigate in the region.

B) Choose the correct alternatives to complete the email.

Hi Tom,
Sorry I haven't been in touch, but I had terrible problems with my computer last week. I was using that file-sharing website you told me about when the screen suddenly (1) *froze/went off/ran out* and then the whole thing just crashed. Luckily, I had remembered to (2) *select/back up/set up* my files, so I didn't lose too much data but it took ages to (3) *plug in/ recharge/install* everything again. I was really worried about my assignment, but fortunately I'd emailed a first draft to my tutor last week so he (4) *swiped/printed/inserted* it out for me and I've just spent the afternoon typing it all up again. In a way, it was a good thing because I could see what was wrong with the first draft so I (5) *pinched/inserted/deleted* a lot of it and I think it's a much better piece of writing now. Let's hope my tutor thinks so, too!
Anyway, let's meet up soon. Hope you're well.
Andy

7-ANSWER.

a- What device do you use the most? What for?

_____

b- What do you like doing on rainy days?

_____

c- What is usually eaten for breakfast in your country? Have eating habits changed lately?

_____