



Thinking Skills

82. Edward Kennedy Ellington—known as “Duke”—was perhaps the best-known and loved jazz musician of all time. By the time of his death in 1974 he had written nearly 2,000 pieces of music. Many of them have become the classics of jazz. His famous Ellington Orchestra had its beginnings in Washington in 1922 and performed for almost 50 years. In spite of his fame, however, Ellington did not look for special attention for himself. His private life was not so important to him. Music was really his first love. He never let

- music get in the way of his personal relationships.
- personal relationships get in the way of his music making.
- himself get too involved in his music.
- too many people know about his music.

83. The Celts were never an empire or a nation, just groups of tribes. They came out of central Europe in about 1,000 B.C. By 300 B.C., they had spread over all of Europe, from Turkey, to Spain, to the British Isles. They were conquered in the end by the Romans and by various Germanic tribes. However, many Celtic legends are still alive today. The best known of these is about King Arthur of the Round Table. There is some evidence that Arthur may really have been a Celtic leader in the early sixth century. Even if he never lived, however, his story involves

- many typically British elements.
- some typically Roman elements.
- some traditionally European elements.
- many typically Celtic elements.

84. For the Japanese, a bath is not just a way to get clean. It is also a way to relax and recover from a stressful day. In Japan, in fact, people like to take very long, hot baths. While they are in the bathtub, they like to listen to music or read books. For this reason, a Japanese company has begun selling special “bath” books. These books

- are made entirely of paper.
- have plastic pages.
- do not break when they fall.
- are printed in English.

85. Tourism continues to be a growing industry. Every year more and more people take trips to another part of the world for pleasure. This growth does not seem to be affected by the fact that local conflicts continue in many areas. The tourist industry also does not seem to suffer during periods of economic difficulty. People may spend less money on other things in these periods, but they continue to spend money on travel. In recent years, in fact,

- tourism has declined by an average of 16%.
- people have spent 16% more money on English courses.
- tourism has grown by about 16%.
- people have preferred to stay home.



86. Every year, rich countries become richer and poor countries become poorer. In 1750, the richest country was about five times richer than the poorest country. Today, the richest country (Switzerland) is about 400 times richer than the poorest country (Mozambique). This greater difference is due largely to the growth of technology. The poorer countries are not able to keep up with the changing technology of the industrialized countries. With every new technological development, poor countries are likely to

- make more progress.
- be even poorer than they are today.
- catch up with the rich countries.
- become more like Switzerland.

87. Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, is much admired today for its wonderful views of the Virginia countryside. It is located on the top of a high hill—"monticello" means "little mountain" in Italian. In Jefferson's time, however, people thought he was a little crazy to build a house on a hilltop. In those days, people did not care so much about views. They cared more about comfort, so they usually built their houses

- on top of mountains.
- at the seaside.
- out of brick.
- on sheltered lowlands.

88. After the "desktop," the "laptop," and the "notebook" computers, what will come next? The answer, according to the experts, is the "personal communicator." This is a little machine that serves many purposes. It can make "cellular" (wireless) telephone calls and send messages by fax or modem. It can also work with data, do word processing or play games, like other computers. For the traveling businessman, the personal communicator could replace

- both the telephone and the computer.
- the office secretary.
- most of his work.
- the typewriter and the car.

89. Anthropologists used to believe that romantic love was invented by Europeans in the Middle Ages. By romantic love, they mean an intense attraction and longing to be with the loved person. Some anthropologists believed that this kind of love spread from the west to other cultures only recently. Others thought that it may have existed in some other cultures, but only among the rich and privileged. Now, however, most anthropologists agree that romantic love has probably always existed among humans. It is not surprising, then, that stories of romance, like Romeo and Juliet,

- exist only in the West.
- exist only in Italy.
- are unusual outside of the West.
- are found in many cultures around the world.

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90. Almost every language has a topic that is especially rich in vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. For example, the Eskimos have many different words to describe snow. The Irish, on the other hand, have many different ways to describe a green landscape. The English have many special words to talk about the flavors of different teas. The French and Italian languages are rich in vocabulary to describe wines. We can conclude that the development of a language is

- influenced by the weather.
- influenced by the environment and the culture.
- not influenced by anything.
- independent of cultural factors.

91. What is the world's largest living creature? It may be a fungus that scientists have discovered in the state of Wisconsin. This fungus is huge—it spreads over about 37 acres and is still growing. This may seem like a science fiction nightmare. However, in fact, the fungus lives underground in the woods and does not disturb its environment. It also grows very slowly, having taken 1,500 years to reach its present size. The scientists used to think that this fungus was made up of many different fungi. Now, with DNA testing, they have definite proof that it is really

- just one individual fungus.
- separate fungi living close together.
- dead material.
- a science fiction nightmare.

92. After Columbus traveled to the Americas, the Europeans began to import many kinds of products from the New World. Some of the products are well known, such as coffee, cocoa, tobacco, tomatoes, corn, potatoes, pumpkins, beans, and strawberries. But some of the products are little known today. For two centuries, one of the most important New World exports was the cochineal. This small red insect was used for making red cloth. It is still used for this purpose today and some insects are still exported from the Americas. However, with the invention of chemical colorants, the demand for the cochineal has

- regained its commercial importance.
- become extinct.
- lost its commercial importance.
- lost its brilliant red coloring.

93. At Ashkelon, in Israel, archaeologists have found a very large dog cemetery. The cemetery dates from the fifth century B.C., when that area was part of the Persian Empire. So far, about 1,000 dog graves have been found in the cemetery. Archaeologists are not certain about the reason for so many graves. However, they believe that dogs must have been very important for the people there. In fact, all of the dogs died of natural causes and were buried very carefully. Perhaps, these people

- gave dogs special powers in their religion.
- ate dog meat.
- wanted to get rid of all their dogs.
- didn't like cats.



94. Robots are entering into all kinds of activities. They've even taken up hunting in some places. Most states of the United States have very strict laws to limit the hunting of deer (a large mammal). Some hunters, however, do not obey the laws and try to kill too many deer. So, the forest services have developed a robot that looks and acts just like a deer. This robot-deer is left in the woods near a road where people will see it. It looks and acts just like a real deer. But if a hunter tries to shoot it, the police come out from the woods and check his hunting license. The hunter may have wanted to get a deer, but, instead the

- police have gotten the deer.
- deer has gotten the hunter.
- hunter has gotten a large mammal.
- deer has gotten the police.

95. In many parts of England, hedges are an important part of the countryside. (A hedge is a kind of fence made of bushes or trees.) An English botanist, Max Hooper, studied the English hedges and found an interesting fact. The older the hedge, the more species of bushes and trees it contained. His conclusions became known as "Hooper's Rule." According to this rule, a hedge usually starts with one species and gains a species with each century. Using this rule, people have studied hedges in England and discovered that many of them are very old. Quite a few of them have more than ten species. This means that they

- may be 1,000 years old
- may be only 100 years old.
- will be made of bushes and trees.
- must be English.

96. As more women have careers and important jobs, a new kind of family problem is becoming more common. What happens when a woman is offered a better job in another city? If she accepts the offer, that means her husband has to leave his job, too. He may have trouble finding another job in the same city. Or, the job he finds may not be as good as his old one. In the past, women often had to face this problem when their husbands found new jobs. But now it is more and more common for men. Many men do not accept the situation easily. A man often feels uncomfortable

- getting a job that is better than his wife's job.
- looking for the same kind of job as his wife.
- following his wife to a new city and looking for a job.
- looking for a job for his wife.

97. Many people are afraid of going to the dentist. There are a number of reasons for this fear. One reason is that the patient cannot see what the dentist is doing. Another reason is that the patient (who is lying back) may feel very helpless. Social factors may also increase a person's fear. People may be influenced by the general belief that dentists are scary. And finally, many people

- like seeing the dentist's shiny instruments.
- do not like to brush their teeth very often.
- are afraid of going to the doctor as well.
- do not like the idea of instruments in their mouths.



98. Immigration in the United States has been increasing rapidly. Each year about 600,000 new legal immigrants settle in this country. If all the illegal immigrants were counted, that number would be even higher. Today's immigrants are different from the immigrants of the early 20th century, who were mostly white and European. The more recent immigrants are mostly black, Hispanic, or Asian. However, they do have one thing in common: a desire to work and do well in their new homeland. For this reason, many people feel that the government should not shut its doors to immigrants. The immigrants have helped the country in the past, they say. Now, the United States

- needs better laws to keep out immigrants.
- could benefit from them again.
- does not need people from other countries.
- could benefit only from the younger immigrants.

99. Texas is famous for its cattle farms, but another kind of farm is growing much faster: ostrich farms. Ten years ago, ostrich farms were rare, but there are now over 2,000 in the United States, many of them in Texas. It's easy to see why so many farmers are interested in ostriches these days. A pair of young adult ostriches are worth around \$40,000. An ostrich egg may be worth up to \$1,500. Since a female ostrich may lay up to 80 eggs a year,

- farmers may not be able to make much profit.
- ostrich farming is not a very profitable business.
- farmers may prefer to raise cattle.
- farmers can make a lot of profit quickly.

100. The use of electric automobiles in the future will help reduce air pollution. This was the conclusion of a recent study by experts of a large area in the northeastern United States. The area is highly urban and includes the cities of New York and Boston. At present, the air quality is often very poor. However, the increased use of electric cars could improve the situation. By the year 2015, there will be about 3.3 million electric cars on the road in the Northeast. According to the study, this will mean

- 20–50% less pollution.
- 20–50% more pollution.
- a gradual increase in the number of cars on the road.
- a gradual reduction of air quality in the northeast.