PASSAGE 73

A language never **stands** still. It is always changing and developing. These changes are rapid in primitive societies, but slow in advanced ones, because the invention of printing and the spread of education have fixed the traditional usage. The only important change that English has undergone since the early 16th century up to now is a large increase in its vocabulary. It is interesting to trace different ways in which new words are invented. Let us take just two English words and see how they were made: “sandwich” and “television”.

“Sandwich”, which is now no longer an entirely English word, but also international, comes from the Earl of Sandwich (died in 1792), who invented the particular form of a quick meal so that he could go on gambling all through the night without stopping for dinner. Many names of things are in fact taken from the name of the first inventors, for example, the electrical term Watt and Volt.

“Television” is one of many new scientific words which are invented from old Greek and Latin words. “Tele” is Greek, meaning “far”, while “vision” comes from the Latin verb, meaning “to see”.

Question 1: How long has English undergone an important change in its vocabulary?

A. For four centuries B. For five centuries

C. For six centuries D. For three centuries

Question 2: According to the passage, Volt was probably _____.

A. an electrician B. an Earl C. a scientist D. a TV presenter

Question 3: The word "**stands**" in the first sentence means _____.

A. does not sit B. rises to the feet

C. is in a certain condition D. remains without change

Question 4: Why can’t language develop rapidly in advanced societies?

A. Because both education and printing have developed.

B. Because societies have stopped changing.

C. Because education has forced people to use the same language.

D. Because printing has fixed education.

Question 5: The invention of sandwich has something to do with _____.

A. gambling B. work C. study D. journey

LIVEWORKSHEETS