PET READING

Part 3

Steve Cummins talks about starting his own business

I'd worked for the company for almost ten years. They were good employers and the money wasn't that bad. They trusted in my ability and always left me to get on with my work. And I shared an office and met some lovely people, so I certainly wasn't unhappy there. But I just couldn't stop wondering how better my life would be if I had my own business and could make my own decisions. And so one year ago this week I left my job.

We don't have a spare room at home, so the kitchen table has been my office. It was difficult to begin with, but I soon got used to working in this way. I started by visiting small businesses in the area to see if I could interest them in my services. My proudest moment was making my first sale, a website for a local cake shop. Soon after, I started getting calls from other people asking for help with websites of their own and I found myself getting quite busy.

Of course, there have been challenges. I'm not earning quite as much as before but ifs enough. I don't have to pay for transport to work anymore so that means I'm not spending quite so much. My biggest problem has been managing my time. There's no boss to tell me what to do and I'm sometimes a little lazy. I have this rule that work stops on a Friday afternoon so I can spend time with the family at weekends, so I need to pay more attention to this.

So, I wouldn't say ifs been easy, but I don't regret my decision at all. I've enjoyed being my own boss and I'm quite hopeful about the future. During the next 12 months I plan to rent some office space as I'd like to be able to separate work from my home life. I'm going to need to earn more money to pay for it but I think it will help me to focus on my work.

1 Why did Steve leave his job?

A He didn't like attending meetings.
B He wanted more control of his work.
C He had a great idea for a product.
D He wanted to earn more money.

2 Steve's greatest pleasure so far has been

A getting his first customer.
B not having to drive to work.
C having his own office.
D not having to answer the telephone.

3 What does Steve say is the most difficult about working for himself?

A working hard enough
B not having a regular salary
C feeling lonely
D working at the weekend

4 In the next year, Steve thinks

A he will get an office job.
B he will earn less money.
C he might not need to work in his kitchen.
D there will be much more competition.

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5 What would be a good introduction to this article?

A
In this article, Steve Cummins explains the problems of starting your own business and dealing with difficult customers.

B
Thinking of starting your own business? Steve Cummins did just that and now wishes he had done it sooner.

C
Steve Cummins made a big decision last year to leave his job. Read on to find out about the ups and downs of being your own boss.

D
Steve Cummins explains below how he dealt with not enjoying his job by leaving his employer and starting his own business.

Part 4

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.
For each question, choose the correct answer.
There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Honey Bees

Honey bees are incredible insects and the worker bee perhaps the most interesting of all. You can be forgiven for not knowing about the lifestyle of these creatures while you enjoy your honey at breakfast. So here are some facts to consider the next time you buy a jar.

We all know that activity in the hive focuses on the queen. **1** _____ But it's the workers, who have much shorter lives during the summer period and may only survive for up to six weeks, who do all the work.

Worker bees are female and during the first few weeks of their lives, when they are referred to as 'house bees', they will take on many different duties. **2** _____ For example, they'll clean the cells where they were born and make sure bees that have died are removed. **3** _____ Finally, they'll make sure the needs of the queen bee are met.

Towards the second half of their lives, the focus of their duties changes. They'll begin by acting as guard to the hive. **4** _____ Then they'll move on to becoming 'field bees' when they'll leave the hive to collect nectar. However, this journey doesn't start until they have made sure they'll recognise the hive on their return.

They start by taking a short flight in front of the hive, flying backwards and forwards, up and down, getting a clear idea of where the hive is and what it looks like. **5** _____ This careful approach is probably very wise as their search for nectar will take them a long way from home.

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A They start by making sure the hive is kept clean and tidy.

B So most of the bees die during the summer.

C Then they'll act as nurse to new-born bees.

D They do this by controlling the temperature.

E Slowly they move further and further away from the hive.

F But you should always take care around worker bees.

G She can live for five years and lays eggs for future generations.

H They will make sure that only bees in the family enter.

Part 5

For each question, choose the correct answer

Fear of Flying

A fear of flying, also known as aerophobia, is said to affect almost 10% of the **(1)** ....., although some experts **(2)** ..... it is much higher than this. Those suffering from this will often avoid flying completely, which has a negative effect on their quality of life. Those who face their fears can end **(3)** ..... feeling seriously anxious before and during the flight. There are generally two different causes. Some people worry about whether they will **(4)** ..... silly in front of other passengers. The thought of being sick or losing control can be quite frightening. Some people fear the flight itself. The most **(5)** ..... things people worry about are bad weather conditions, the possibility that the plane will develop a problem or even that the pilot will become ill. The most worrying time of all is often when **(6)** ..... off and landing, points in the flight when most people will experience a little fear.

1	A population	B people	C crowd	D society
2	A choose	B make	C believe	D decide
3	A at	B in	C of	D up
4	A see	B work	C show	D look
5	A high	B common	C normal	D real
6	A taking	B going	C moving	D lifting

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Part 6

For each question, write the correct answer.

Write one word for each gap.

Carnival

Rio de Janeiro's Carnival is the biggest festival on the planet and I **(1)** ..... been enjoying it with millions of people from around the world. There are street parties all over the city organised **(2)** ..... local community groups called 'blocos'. They write the songs and organise the dances to provide the musicians. The main event takes place **(3)** ..... a special stadium called the Sambadrome. The audience sees samba schools from different parts of Rio present their samba, **(4)** ..... is performed by musicians and dancers and includes beautifully decorated floats. All these schools compete against other schools **(5)** ..... see which school can be judged the best. Schools prepare these performances for many months and the result is wonderful. **(6)** ..... you're planning to visit Carnival, you should think about it well in advance as hotels and tickets always sell out very quickly.

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