Choose the word or phrase that most appropriately completes the sentence.

87 Richard's remark was completely true; he really hit the _____ with what he said.
A. bottom line
B. brass tacks
C. bull's-eye
D. nuts and bolts

88 The original _____ of Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist* is a priceless treasure.
A. manuscript
B. handwriting
C. transcript
D. portfolio

89 Although the media go out of their way to _____ the political contender, their actions have not caused a decline in his popularity.
A. retaliate
B. revenge
C. revile
D. redeem

90 The business executive greatly increased his net worth thanks to a _____ investment.
A. shrewd
B. shrill
C. conducive
D. gratuitous

91 Some scholars have been _____ in their vocal support for educational reforms in developing countries.
A. outlandish
B. outspoken
C. outproduced
D. outranked

92 The editor-in-chief is going to _____ that famous new actor in the magazine next month.
A. feature
B. elevate
C. depict
D. illustrate

93 The fragrance of fresh cut flowers _____ the manor.
A. pervaded
B. invaded
C. perused
D. perjured

94 The Calley brothers were wanted fugitives and were _____ from the police.
A. on the ropes
B. on the lookout
C. on the sly
D. on the run

95 The mere mention of cockroaches causes many people to _____ in horror.
A. rebound
B. falter
C. recoil
D. stagger

96 The witness was summoned to the police station to _____ a suspect from a lineup.
A. pick out
B. pick on
C. pick over
D. pick off

97 The economic climate _____ the president's downfall.
A. predicted
B. predicated
C. premeditated
D. precipitated

98 The employee soon realized that she would have to put her supervisor's critical remarks in _____ .
A. perspective
B. prospect
C. perception
D. proportion

99 The defendant on trial showed no _____ for his atrocious crime.
A. remorse
B. reverse
C. recourse
D. recluse

100 At packed sporting competitions, security officers may have to _____ violent fan behavior.
A. stand up for
B. put up with
C. live up to
D. come down to

101 The authorities and family members were searching _____ for the missing child.
A. judiciously
B. frantically
C. knowingly
D. meticulously

102 Ed _____ to be an expert on Egyptian art, but I find it highly doubtful.
A. alleged
B. imputed
C. professed
D. insisted

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the passage, then answer the questions following it according to the information given in the passage.

This passage is about learning languages.

Over 7,000 languages are spoken in the world today. With so many languages, international communication can be a challenge. Here is where interlanguages, like Esperanto, come in handy. An interlanguage acts as a linguistic intermediary between two different language communities. Its principal attraction is that no member of either language group needs to learn the other's language. It is reported that some learners can spend as little as one tenth the time mastering Esperanto than is necessary to learn other languages. This is feasible largely because of the exceedingly simple structure with which the language has been endowed.

To begin with, Esperanto is a phonetically written language. This means that the pronunciation of each letter always reflects its spelling, and vice versa. Furthermore, the grammatical framework of the language is uncomplicated. Students of other languages are often heard to complain of the hundreds of grammar rules imposed upon them. Learners of Esperanto, on the other hand, must keep track of only sixteen. This simplification is made possible by the universality of human verbal communication. Basically, every natural language shares the same bare "skeleton" of grammatical principles. These few rules make up not only the core, but the entire grammatical corpus of Esperanto.

Invented by Dr. L.L. Zemenhof in 1887, Esperanto was seen as a fresh start for languages, devoid of any historical, political, or ethnic roots. Zemenhof wanted his language to be neutral and authentically international in order to facilitate communication. Besides its obvious benefits for traveling, Esperanto could also be advantageous in corporate and commercial situations. It creates a kind of level playing field as it's a second language for all speakers. None of the speakers can direct or dominate the communication affording a fairer outcome.

Esperanto is not, however, the only language that was created to be an international inter-language, nor is it the first. Its predecessor, Volapük, enjoyed a modest degree of success until it was almost totally supplanted by Esperanto. Not long after its inception, Esperanto language teaching was implemented in school districts in several countries the world over. Despite its initial popularity, however, the language's public profile has faded considerably in recent years.

103 What is the main purpose of this passage?
- A. to describe the rise and fall of Esperanto
- B. to report on the declining popularity of Esperanto
- C. to recommend that more students learn Esperanto
- D. to compare Esperanto with other invented languages

104 What does the author suggest is the purpose of an interlanguage?
- A. to inspire groups to learn each other's language
- B. to reduce the time spent learning another language
- C. to help speakers of different languages communicate
- D. to simplify the structure of languages worldwide

105 How was Esperanto's grammar simplified?
- A. The grammar rules of sixteen languages were combined.
- B. Only a tenth of the original grammar principles were kept.
- C. Its grammar was developed to include only sixteen rules.
- D. A new framework was created with international grammar.

106 What did the creator of Esperanto hope to achieve with his language?
- A. It would create a new international culture.
- B. It would prevent international disputes.
- C. It would make language learning easier.
- D. It would be without cultural influences.

107 According to the passage, why might people choose to speak Esperanto in doing business?
- A. No one has a native speaker advantage.
- B. It is a more direct form of communication.
- C. It reduces the chances of any misunderstandings.
- D. Each speaker has the same opportunity to talk.

108 What can be concluded about the success of Esperanto?
- A. Unfortunately, Esperanto was not as successful as previous interlanguages.
- B. Although it initially generated considerable interest, its use has now declined.
- C. As a result of being taught in schools, Esperanto now has a growing number of speakers.
- D. Notwithstanding its relative obscurity, Esperanto continues to flourish worldwide.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This passage is about relationships in nature.

Millions of species inhabit the Earth's ecosystems often sharing the same space and resources requiring them to interact in a variety of ways. This interaction between two different living organisms is called symbiosis and often plays a vital role in the ecosystem. The type of symbiosis depends on the benefits derived from the relationship.

One classic example of a symbiotic relationship is between the clownfish and sea anemone. The clownfish protects itself from predators by making its home among the poisonous tentacles of the sea anemone. The brightly-colored clownfish attracts other fish looking for a meal. The sea anemone catches these predators as they near the clownfish with its poisonous tentacles and eats them. Both species benefit from their interaction resulting in a symbiotic relationship called mutualism.

A more sophisticated form of mutualism can be found in the relationship between the Hazda, an indigenous tribe of Africa, and a bird called the Honeyguide. These two species join forces to harvest honey. As its name suggests, the Honeyguide leads the tribesmen to the location of beehives high in the tree tops by letting off a special call. As they get closer to a hive, the bird's call changes to let the tribesmen know to search specific trees. Once the beehive is located, the Hazda use fire to smoke out the hive and calm the bees in order to collect the honeycomb. Scraps of honeycomb fall from the tree and are eaten by the Honeyguide birds. The result is a successful harvest for both man and bird. It's an interaction of each species' specialized skills resulting in an interdependent partnership that most likely developed over centuries.

Not all symbiosis is mutually beneficial and can be one-sided, advancing the survival of just one of the participants while the other species neither benefits nor is harmed by the interaction. Known as commensalism, it can be seen in the behavior of crustaceans, called barnacles, which attach themselves to the skin of whales. They are then transported by the whales to plankton-rich waters, where both species feast upon the rich supply of microorganisms there.

A variety of symbiosis is necessary to keep ecosystems functioning and in balance. A good case in point is nitrogen-fixing bacteria and plants. The bacteria use plants for a home but at the same time convert nitrogen to a form that the plants need for survival. Plants are fundamental for the ecosystem and its inhabitants, so this simple symbiosis is absolutely needed.

109 What is the main purpose of the passage?
A. to justify all symbiotic relationships
B. to explain the importance of symbiosis
C. to introduce new symbiotic relationships
D. to describe changes in symbiotic relationships over time

110 In the first sentence of paragraph 1, what does **them** refer to?
A. ecosystems
B. resources
C. species
D. spaces

111 What is meant by the phrase **join forces** in the second sentence of paragraph 3?
A. The Hazda and the Honeyguide help each other out in many ways.
B. The Hazda and Honeyguide work together for different reasons.
C. The Hazda and Honeyguide together fight other species for the same food.
D. The Hazda and the Honeyguide collaborate to reach a common goal.

112 What is implied about the Honeyguide Bird and the Hazda?
A. Their relationship is highly-evolved and complex.
B. Their relationship is essential for each other's survival.
C. Their relationship is the result of years of training the birds.
D. Their relationship is the same as it was thousands of years ago.

113 What is the relationship between whales and barnacles?
A. They compete for the same food.
B. They help each other find food.
C. They both need each other to survive and work as a team.
D. They coexist with only one benefiting from their relationship.

114 Why does the article mention nitrogen-fixing bacteria?
A. to describe a commensalism relationship
B. to illustrate the role of symbiosis in a biome
C. to demonstrate how bacteria behave in an ecosystem
D. to explain why plants are so dependent

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This passage is about alternative work arrangements.

The nature of work has undergone some gradual and dramatic changes over the past decades. In particular, alternative work arrangements have emerged challenging the traditional 9 to 5 workday. A large portion of these changes are due to advances in technology, globalization, and marketplace competition.

Alternative work arrangements are all based on the premise of flexibility that allows employees some control over their work schedules. Part-time work is nothing new, but has significantly increased in recent years with workers deciding how often they work. Likewise, flextime employment allows workers to structure their workweek in regards to choosing start and finish times as long as the required number of hours per day are completed. Such an arrangement, though, is not applicable to the service industry, with its part-time positions with set shifts, and tend to be office-related in nature.

Another alternative work schedule is a compressed work week that permits employees to work the normal number of hours in fewer than five days. For example, 4 days at 10 hours per day rather than the traditional 5 days at 8 hours is a popular compressed work schedule. With more days off, workers find it easier to complete outside work tasks. At the same time, poor performance has been associated with such models as employees might compromise quality to complete their work quickly.

The fastest growing of all alternative work arrangements is telecommuting in which the employee works away from the office, in most cases at home using a computer. The home office offers a wide range of benefits. Its success depends, however, on ensuring such arrangements do not disrupt communication or alienate the employee. Having real-time chat groups to ask questions or even share a joke usually does the trick.

Whatever the alternative workplace, organizational culture is changing. This is the set of values and attitudes that a company stands for and is reflected in how it approaches its work. Companies in the e-commerce industry are driving this change in hopes of increasing creativity through a variety of workplace environments and schedules. Work cultures are now less-structured, breaking down barriers and inviting employees to participate in the overall development of the business while keeping their overall welfare in mind.

115 What is the main purpose of the passage?
- A. to explain the reasons behind changes in work arrangements
- B. to highlight disadvantages in alternative employment patterns
- C. to promote different types of working arrangements
- D. to illustrate alternative arrangements in employment

116 What difference between part-time and flextime does the passage point out?
- A. They benefit employees in different ways.
- B. They are suitable for different sectors of work.
- C. Part-time has a specific number of hours per week.
- D. Flextime workers begin their shifts earlier.

117 What is one possible drawback of a compressed work week?
- A. it can be stressful
- B. non-related work occurs
- C. the possibility of low quality work
- D. too many hours in a day

118 In the last sentence of paragraph 4, what does the phrase **does the trick** suggest?
- A. Jokes help make a work environment more productive.
- B. Online communication avoids problems faced by offsite employees.
- C. Employees produce more work at the physical work place.
- D. Feedback and questions are key to productive online work.

119 Why is e-commerce mentioned in the passage?
- A. to point out a major influence in the employment market
- B. to illustrate a leading industry today
- C. to show the role of creativity in work
- D. to highlight the importance of technology

120 According to the author, what can be inferred about many of today's companies?
- A. They no longer require full time employment.
- B. They are resistant to change.
- C. Their work schedules offer more free time.
- D. Their organization is informal and collaborative.

LIVEWORKSHEETS