Reading test - level 15

A - Read the text below and choose the correct answer, a), b) or c).

Cows that milk themselves? This is not science fiction, but a product of twenty first-century technology. Farmers and scientists have created a farm where the cows choose when they want to be milked using a computerized automatic milking system. As long as they turn up for milking at least once a day, the cows are free to do whatever they like. But how does it work? The animals are first attracted into the building by automated devices like skin-brushing and scratching machines, which they enjoy using. Nearby, there's a robot that scans a microchip in the cow's collar. The chip holds information about the cow's milking history and health. If it needs to be milked, the robot machine starts the milking process while feeding it with a protein and energy supplement at the same time.

Farmers who use this computerized milking system are very enthusiastic about it. One British farmer we interviewed told us, "It's amazing how the cows take to it, and it's certainly the biggest step forward for dairy farmers in the last thirty years." There are now more than eight thousand farms in over twenty-five countries around the world using the new system. People who support it say the system not only saves time and money, but also shows respect for the cows by allowing them to manage their own lives. However, others claim it's just another form of "factory farming,' and has a negative effect on the animals.

1 Self-milking cows are _____.

a) expected to become a thing of the future

b) in existence at this moment in time

c) going to evolve naturally

2 The new system has been created _____.

a) by agriculturally-orientated scientists

b) through cooperation with farmers

c) as a result of researching cows' behavior

3 Much of the time _____.

a) milk goes to waste

b) cows do their own thing

c) the scratching facility doesn't function

4 Robots are essential for _____.

a) keeping data records up-to-date

b) scratching and brushing the cows

c) attracting the cows into the milking area

5 _____ after having its collar scanned.

a) Not every cow is given supplements

b) Each cow automatically gets milked

c) A cow doesn't always gets milked

6 One British farmer _____ for thirty years.

a) has used the system

b) says this is the best dairy innovation

c) has developed this system

7 Over _____ farms are now using this system.

a) 25,000 **b)** 8,000 **c)** 21,000

8 Those in favor of the system believe _____.

a) it gives the cows autonomy

b) that cows respect it

c) farmers can now better manage their lives

9 There is concern from some people that _____.

a) dairy farmers are losing their jobs

b) not enough countries are interested in the system

c) this system is not good for the welfare of the cows

LIVEWORKSHEETS