UNIT 3 – LESSON 5

PART 1: READING

Read the text about volunteer work in the United States on the left and the reading task on the right.

In the United States, almost everyone, at one time or another, has been a volunteer. According to U.S. government statistics, about one-fifth of the American population does volunteer work each year. Americans have had the tradition of volunteering and helping one another since the early days of the country.

Americans volunteer not because they are forced or paid to do it. They enjoy it! Traditional volunteer activities include raising money for people in need, cooking and giving food, doing general labour (such as clean-up projects and home repair), providing transportation (such as giving rides to the elderly), and tutoring/ mentoring young people.

The text is taken from the English 7 textbook - Unit 3: Community service - Reading

Decide if the following statement is true (T) or false (F).

1. According to the text, nearly every American has done volunteer work in his or her life.

To decide whether the statement is **true (T)** or **false (F)**, you need to underline key words in the sentence first and then compare these key details with related information in the text.

According to the text, nearly every American has done volunteer work in his or her life.

Look at the text. You find this related sentence:

In the United States, almost everyone, at one time or another, has been a volunteer.

Comparing two sentences, you may notice the two paraphrases below:

nearly every American = almost everyone

has been a volunteer = has done volunteer work

Because the two paraphrases mean exactly the same, the sentence (1) above is **true (T)**.

WHAT IS A PARAPHRASE?

A **paraphrase** expresses **the same meaning** using different words. Paraphrases often use **synonyms.**

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HOW TO MAKE PARAPHRASES

Type 1: Using synonyms

A paraphrase may use **synonyms,** words/phrases that have **the same meaning**, or nearly the same meaning, as the words in the original sentence.

In the example above, the phrase **"nearly every American"** is a synonym of the phrase **"almost everyone"**.

Type 2: Using antonyms

A paraphrase may use **antonyms,** words/phrases that have the **opposite meaning**, or nearly opposite meaning, as the words in the original sentence.

Here is another example:

Original sentence	Paraphrase
Americans volunteer not because they are forced or paid to do it.	People in the United States are willing to work without payment.

You can see that:

Since the early days of the country = Since the United Stated was founded

=> The paraphrase uses passive voice which you'll learn in Unit 6.

Americans have had the tradition of volunteering and helping one another = It has been traditional in the country to do volunteer work and supporting others.

=> The paraphrase uses a different structure.

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STEPS TO RECOGNISE PARAPHRASES TO DO THE TASKS

Step 1: Read the given sentence in the task and underline all keywords.

* **Keywords**: They are usually **subjects, nouns, verbs, adverbs, phrasal verbs**.

For example, in this sentence: ***Every year almost one in five Americans works as a volunteer***

The keywords are: **every year, one in five, Americans, volunteer.**

Step 2: Find the original sentence which has similar information with the sentence in the task.

For example, based on some key words above, we can scan the text and find the sentence with similar information:

According to U.S. government statistics, about one-fifth of the American population does volunteer work each year.

Step 3: Check if the sentence in the task is a paraphrase of the original sentence. Pay attention to synonyms, antonyms and sentence structures.

The sentence in the task: **Every year almost one in five Americans works as a volunteer.**

The original sentence: **According to U.S. government statistics, about one-fifth of the American population does volunteer work each year.**

We can find some synonyms:

one-fifth = one in five

American population = Americans

does volunteer work = works as a volunteer

each year = every year

=> The sentence in the task is a paraphrase of the original sentence.

Step 4: Make a decision (Decide if it is true/false, choose the correct option in the multiple choice,...)

Task: Read the text above and decide if the sentence "Every year almost one in five Americans works as a volunteer is **true (T)** or **false (F)**.

Answer: **True (T)**

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PART 2: PRACTICE

Exercise 1:

Before reading a text about volunteer work, let's learn some new words and phrases

- Time-consuming: tốn thời gian
- Downside: bất lợi
- Free of charge: miễn phí
- Get paid: được trả tiền
- Unpaid work: công việc không lương
- All walks of life: những nghề nghiệp, tầng lớp khác nhau
- Remote and mountainous areas: khu vực miền núi và vùng sâu vùng xa

Decide which are good points (GP) and bad points (BP) of volunteer work.

1. Volunteering can make you more confident by giving you the opportunity to try something new. _____
2. Some students are distracted from work and learning because they invest too much time on working free of charge for the community. _____
3. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, then helps you to boarden your support network. _____
4. Volunteering can take your time away from finding a paid position. _____
5. Volunteering helps you practice important skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork and problem solving. _____
6. During the volunteer trip, you may have to do manual work such as farming or building, which can make you tired. _____

Read the text and answer the questions

Volunteer work influences other people's lives and helps to develop your community. However, there are still some downsides of the unpaid work.

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A. Volunteering can take a lot of your time. When you spend long hours working free of charge, you may have little time for your family, learning and other entertainment activities. It is best to look for volunteer opportunities that require only a few hours of your time each month.

B. You may not get paid. Although your experience can be turned into a job opportunity in the future, you need to make sure that you can pay for your own living before taking part in a volunteer project.

C. Volunteer trips can affect your mental and physical health. Meeting people from all walks of life can make you stressed sometimes. In addition, you may get some diseases when volunteering in remote and mountainous areas.

1. What is the main topic of the text?
   A. Good points of volunteer work
   B. Bad points of volunteer work
   C. Influence of volunteer work on others' lives
2. Write A, B or C to match the passages with the given titles.
   Do you have enough money? _____
   How may your health be affected? _____
   Do you have enough time? _____
3. Julia is the last year student at university. She has a lot of assignments to do but she really wants some volunteer experience. According to passage A, what should Julia do?
   A. spend less time on the assignments
   B. work as a full-time volunteer
   C. spend a very small part of her time volunteering
4. Which of the following sentences is correct?
   A. Volunteer experience is not useful for future jobs.
   B. Volunteers get money for their work.
   C. Volunteers should pay for their living before volunteering.
5. How may volunteers' physical health be affected?
   A. They may get stressed when meeting new people.
   B. They may get sick when volunteering in low-quality living areas.

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C. Volunteers have less time for entertainment activities

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Exercise 2: Read the text and choose the correct option to answer the questions.

Volunteering in South Africa: Brianna Monaghan's Story

Last year, I travelled with a group of 50 student volunteers through Volunteer Eco Students Abroad (VESA) in South Africa.

During my trip, I helped the orphans by teaching them English. I joined hands with other volunteers to build houses for poor families. I also had the opportunity to visit and volunteer in a wildlife center, and travel to Swaziland and Mozambique.

My trip has also taught me new things about culture, language and skills. I will never forget how excited I was when learning to make cement.

However, I had expected to try the local food but I was served Western food. Moreover, I didn't think I would meet the hippos and the monkeys on the streets at night, but I did.

If you want to take a similar trip to South Africa, it is important to respect their culture. You also need to keep in mind that comfortable showers and toilets are not always available.

- Opportunity (n): cơ hội
- Wildlife center (n): trung tâm động vật hoang dã
- Cement (n): xi măng
- Respect (n): tôn trọng

1. What does VESA stand for?
   A. Volunteer Eco Student Abroad
   B. Volunteer Eco Students Abroad
   C. Volunteers Eco Students Abroad
2. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?
   A. Brianna taught English to the children in the orphanage.
   B. Brianna worked with other volunteers to provide homes for the poor.

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C. Brianna worked with animals in Swaziland and Mozambique.

3. What did Brianna learn from her volunteer trip?
   A. Enjoying Western food
   B. Making cement
   C. Meeting animals at night
4. If you take a volunteer trip to South Africa like Brianna, what may you expect?
   A. Similar culture
   B. Comfortable bathrooms
   C. Low-quality bathrooms
5. Which of the following ideas is NOT mentioned in the text?
   A. What she did in her volunteer trip
   B. What she learned from her volunteer trip
   C. What she didn't expect during her volunteer trip
   D. How she and other volunteers go to South Africa

(hocbaionha.com)

Exercise 3: Read the text and decide the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

TELL is a not-for-profit organization with over 40 years of experience of providing free English counseling services and support for mental healthcare and suicide prevention to Japan's international community. Last year, the organization announced that it will launch a 24-hour lifeline and held its first Tokyo Climb event to help raise funds for these purposes. Having a non-stop lifeline support calls for a major increase in volunteers and counselors, so this is perhaps the time when the organization needs you the most. TELL is always looking for dedicated individuals to support its lifeline, work on special projects, fundraising events and office work. Becoming a lifeline volunteer rewuires a special nine-weel online training.

1. _____ TELL is a not-for-profit organization providing free English counseling services.
2. _____ This organisation supports mental healthcare and suicide prevention.
3. _____ Next year, the organisation will hold its first Tokyo Climb event to help raise funds for these purposes.

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4. _____ The organization need a lot of volunteers to have a non-stop lifeline support.
5. _____ Becoming a lifeline volunteer requires no online training.

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