ENGLISH TEST UNIT 6

SKILLS FOR LIFE
ENGLISH INSTITUTE

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

Face recognition

We now upload over four billion photos a month onto *Facebook*, and anyone who uses the site is familiar with the idea of face recognition software, which can tell you who is (or might be) in your photo.

Face recognition is being used in many different areas, especially to help the police identify criminals. Computers are not able to read faces like humans can, but they can be trained to compare a face with a photo that is stored in a database. They do this by noting certain features, or, for example, measuring the distance between the eyes. A 'smart' surveillance system – cameras which record our movements in public spaces – has now been developed by a Japanese company which can look through 36 million faces in one second to find a matching one. Many people say they feel safer if there are cameras to protect them in public places, but others are not comfortable with the fact that so many images of us are stored in a database.

The technology is not yet perfect (people who have had plastic surgery can especially confuse the system!), but it is now often preferred to other forms of conventional identification. This is partly because it can be used without us knowing. Face recognition is being improved all the time. Other new technology has been designed which can predict how a face might look as it gets older or which can fill in missing parts of an image. It can even identify someone from video taken in very low light.

In the future, face recognition might also inspire many more good business ideas. There is already an app for smartphones to tell how many people are at a club, and the ratio of men to women. Sony has also designed a camera that waits for you to smile before it takes a picture.

Finally, facial recognition doesn't just recognize humans now – tests have been carried out which show that individual chimpanzees can be recognized, a development that could be used to protect wildlife in the future.

1 _____ photos are uploaded onto Facebook every month.
- A 36 million ☐
- B More than four billion ☐
- C Fewer than four billion ☐

2 Computers are able to _____.
- A record the differences between two images ☐
- B recognize faces like people can ☐
- C measure the distance between two people ☐

3 It takes _____ one second to search 36 million images.
- A the police ☐
- B a computer ☐
- C a surveillance system ☐

4 Many people like surveillance systems in public places because _____.
- A they can recognize criminals ☐
- B they feel safer ☐
- C they like being filmed ☐

5 Face recognition technology _____.
- A occasionally makes mistakes ☐
- B is likely to make mistakes ☐
- C is 100 per cent accurate ☐

6 Other technology has been designed to show _____
- A how we can improve ourselves ☐
- B how we can predict the future ☐
- C how we might look when we're older ☐

7 A smartphone app can tell _____ in a club.
- A how much people spend ☐
- B the number of men and women ☐
- C us how to save time ☐

8 A new camera doesn't take a photo until people_____.
- A smile ☐
- B stand still ☐
- C look natural ☐

9 Facial recognition _____ animals in the future.
- A can definitely help ☐
- B may be able to help ☐
- C is unlikely to help animals ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: Face recognition is something new for *Facebook* users. *F*

1 The police don't use face recognition to identify criminals. ____
2 Some people are worried that photos are kept in a database. ____
3 People know when they are being identified by face recognition technology. ____
4 Identification isn't possible if there isn't much light. ____
5 Face recognition won't be used so much for business in the future. ____
6 Face recognition technology can now be used on all animals. ____

		6
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LIVEWORKSHEETS