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5th Adolescents – Reading Mid-term test

Name: _____

The New DIY Movement

DIY is a hobby which has been increasing in popularity in the last few years. DIY means Do It Yourself and DIYers are people who make or fix things that are normally repaired by professionals. An example of this is someone who maintains their own bicycle instead of taking it to a shop. Nowadays, DIY is also used to describe more artistic hobbies like making your own jewellery or upcycling – taking something old and making something new out of it, such as a bookshelf made with old wooden boxes.

DIY has not just appeared in the last few years. People have always made and repaired things and, until the 1980s many people had the attitude that you should mend broken objects rather than throw them away. It was also common for people to learn subjects like sewing and woodwork at school. Towards the end of the 20th century, however, it became cheaper and easier to buy something new than to repair it. At the same time, the younger generation started to spend their free time doing more passive activities like watching TV. DIY became a thing of the past and it was only the older generation who did it themselves.

That all changed in the 2000s when young people started to take up this hobby again. Knitting and sewing, home repairs, and electronics all became fashionable. However, their increased popularity was not for financial reasons – you can get goods and services online more cheaply than ever before. The main reasons were the concerns for the environment and the wish to do something creative. There was a growing belief that cheap, short-life goods were bad for the environment. At the same time, people did not want the same possessions as everyone else. They wanted things that were original and said something about their personality. Furthermore, the internet and social networking sites meant that it was easier to share ideas about making and repairing things.

In recent years, people have started to think about how hobbies like DIY can help improve their lives. Some people argue that it's important for us to spend time away from modern media like TV or social sites. Instead, they recommend activities like yarn bombing (knitting onto trees and street furniture) or scrapbooking (creating a scrapbook connected to your interests) which help you disconnect. On the other hand, some people believe that hobbies such as robotics or computer programming can increase your understanding of the world. They don't believe in disconnecting from technology but in using it to do something creative. As people become more aware of the benefits of DIY, it will almost certainly continue to gain popularity.

A. Read the article. What do the underlined words refer to? Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

1. … instead of taking **it** to a shop …

   a. Jewellery b. a bicycle c. a bookshelf

2. … spend **their** free time doing more passive activities …

   a. Young people b. older people c. people in general

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3. … **their** increased popularity was not for financial reasons …

a. Young people b. DIY hobbies c. cheap goods

4. ... which helps **you** disconnect ...

a. The reader b. people who have hobbies c. people in general

5. … in using **it** to do something creative …

a. Knitting b. technology c DIY

B. Read the article. For questions 1—5, choose the best answer (A, B, C or D).

1 People who do DIY believe in

A looking for old things to repair.

B repairing their broken things themselves.

C taking old things to repair shops.

D buying things as cheaply as possible.

2 When did DIY start to lose its popularity?

A in the 2000s

B before the 1980s

C at the end of the 20th century

D in the last few years

3 What does 'that' refer to at the beginning of the third paragraph?

A DIY not being popular anymore

B the popularity of passive activities like watching TV

C young people's interest in fashion

D the popularity of DIY with the older generation

4 Which of these is not a reason for DIY becoming popular again?

A People were worried about the environment.

B People had financial concerns.

C People didn't want the same things as others.

D People were interested in their creativity.

5 According to the text, how do many people feel about DIY these days?

A It's more important than learning computer programming.

B It can help you improve your social life.

C There should be more TV programmes about it.

D It can make people's lives better in a number of a ways.

Do your best! 😊

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