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The term "dyslexia" is used to describe a number of problems associated with reading, writing or spelling. Short-term memory, mathematics, concentration, personal organization and sequencing may also be affected. We do not know exactly what causes dyslexia, but we do know that it tends to run in the family. We also know that more boys suffer from dyslexia than girls and that dyslexia is more common in urban areas than in rural.

One of the most common signs of dyslexia is "reversals". People with this kind of problem often confuse letters like "b" and "d" when reading and writing or they sometimes read and write words like "tip" and "won" as "pit" and "now". Other common characteristics are lack of punctuation, misspelling, mixed-up sentence structure and poor grammatical construction.

People are born with dyslexia, but it is only when they begin to learn to write that it becomes a noticeable problem. For children with dyslexia, going to school can be a traumatic experience. Poor achievement can make them feel frustrated and insecure. They are reluctant to go to school and sometimes even skip school altogether. Cheating, stealing and experimenting with drugs can also occur when children regard themselves as failures.

It is a common misconception that dyslexic people are of inferior intelligence. Yet Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Edison and Hans Christian Andersen were apparently all dyslexic. There is no total cure for dyslexia; however, the effects of dyslexia can be lessened with the guidance of skilled specialists and a lot of determination.

1. When does it become apparent that a child may be suffering from dyslexia?
 - A. when they are born
 - B. when they begin their education
 - C. when they use symbols instead of words
 - D. when they start talking
2. According to the passage, dyslexic children _____.
 - A. might have behavioral problems.
 - B. end up taking drugs.

C. look forward to going to school.
D. do well at school.

3. The passage states that one common characteristic of dyslexics is that they _____
A. have difficulty expressing their feelings.
B. are not able to read three-letter words.
C. have difficulty learning the letter "b".
D. read words backwards.

4. The purpose of this passage is to inform readers that _____
A. Albert Einstein was dyslexic.
B. it is difficult for dyslexics to get professional help.
C. dyslexics are as intelligent as other people.
D. dyslexics are inferior to other people.

5. Who is more likely to be dyslexic?
A. girls
B. children who live in the country
C. children who are not bright
D. children whose parents are dyslexic

6. How can the effects of dyslexia be made less severe?
A. by learning to live with them
B. by learning a special skill
C. with professional help and hard work
D. by learning how to deal with failure

7. According to the passage, which of the following is true?
A. Dyslexia refers to a specific learning disability.
B. Dyslexic people become famous.
C. Dyslexia affects only reading and writing skills
D. The causes of dyslexia haven't been fully explained.

Back in 1853, at the age of 24, Levi Strauss opened a west coast branch of his brother's dry goods business in New York. Over the next twenty years, he built his business into a lucrative operation.

One of Levi's customers was a tailor by the name of Jacob Davis. Originally from Latvia, Jacob lived in Reno, Nevada, and regularly purchased bolts of cloth from Levi Strauss & Co. Among Jacob's customers was a man who kept ripping the pockets on the pants that Jacob made for him. Jacob tried to find a way to strengthen his customer's pants when, one day, it finally occurred to him. He decided to put metal rivets on the pocket corners and at the base of the button fly. It worked and the pants became an instant success.

Jacob knew he had discovered something new and worried that someone might steal his idea. That's why he decided to apply for a patent, but he didn't have the \$68 that was required for the paperwork. So, he turned to Levi Strauss. He wrote him a letter suggesting that they hold the patent together. Being the businessman that he was, Strauss agreed immediately seeing the potential for this new product. So, on May 20, 1873, the two men received patent number 139,121 from the US Patent and Trademark Office and went into business together. That was the day blue jeans were born. Who would have thought back then that denim, thread and a little metal would become the most popular clothing product in the world and it's all thanks to two men – Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis.

1. According to the passage, why did Jacob write to Levi?
 - A. He didn't have the necessary funds to get a patent.
 - B. He didn't know how to apply for a patent.
 - C. He had no one else to turn to.
 - D. He knew Levi had the right connections.
2. Which of the following titles best summarizes the content of the passage?
 - A. The Beginning of a Successful Partnership
 - B. The History of Jeans
 - C. How Jeans Were Invented
 - D. The Lives of Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis
3. According to the passage, what happened in 1853?
 - A. Levi set up a business with his brother,
 - B. Levi moved to the west coast.
 - C. Levi became a successful businessman.
 - D. Levi started working on his own.

4. What is true about Jacob Davis?

- A. He was Levi's friend.
- B. He was Levi's customer in Latvia.
- C. He was Levi's business partner.
- D. He was Levi's tailor.

5. Why did Jacob put metal rivets on the pants he made?

- A. because his customers asked for it
- B. because he wanted to prevent something from happening
- C. because it was fashionable
- D. because he wanted to do something different

6. Why did Levi accept Jacob's offer?

- A. because he knew it would pay off
- B. because his business was in trouble
- C. because he was looking to expand his business
- D. because Jacob was a good customer

7. In 1873, Levi and Jacob _____.
A. founded their first company.
B. applied for a patent number.
C. made their first blue jeans.
D. got their first customers.



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PROTECT OUR PLANET WITH CAT!

Back in the 1960s and 70s, the world was becoming more aware of the destructive effects of industry on the environment and people were starting to think seriously about ways of protecting the environment. One man who was particularly affected by this subject was Gerard Morgan-Grenville. As Morgan-Grenville travelled round earning his living as a gardener, he noticed signs of the damage that was being done to the countryside around him. It wasn't long before Morgan-Grenville decided that he had to do something about this situation. He felt that if people could be shown a better way of living then maybe they would be interested enough to try to protect their precious environment.

Mr Morgan-Grenville decided to set up a project that would prove what was happening to our surroundings and what could be done about it. So, in 1975, Morgan-Grenville created the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in a village in Wales.

The main aim of CAT is to search for an ecologically better way of living by using technology that does not harm the environment. One of the most important things CAT did initially was to explore and demonstrate a wide range of techniques and to point out which ones had the least destructive results on the world around us. It is also very important for CAT to provide information and advice to people all over Britain and all over the world. If more and more individuals are informed about how much damage our modern lifestyle is doing to the planet, maybe more of them would be prepared to look for solutions.

The point about CAT is that by combining theoretical and practical ideas, it has shown ways in which people, nature and technology can exist together successfully. CAT now covers many themes, including energy-saving techniques, good use of land, the correct management of waste products, recycling and health and food issues. Visitors to CAT are able to observe many new ways of living, all of which are ecologically correct and use up less of our valuable raw materials. For example, the sewage systems at CAT that get rid of all the waste from the kitchens and bathrooms are organised so as to be completely environmentally friendly, and much of the energy used at the centre is created by power from the sun, wind or rain. In addition, all the building methods used are ecologically ideal and no chemicals are used at the centre; for instance, no chemicals are used in gardening or cleaning. Everything is based on the use of natural products.

One major global problem is the damage done to the whole planet by the effects of industry. Problems such as global warming, the holes in the ozone layer, the destruction of huge areas of forests, and pollution in our atmosphere are all connected to the fact that there is an increase in industry. Now, at last, this problem is being recognised worldwide.

People now agree that we want clean air, pure drinking water, safe sunlight and healthy food. What CAT is trying to do is to demonstrate that we can have all those things without the environment paying the price. Slowly, CAT is communicating its message to countries across the world. In Europe, several countries have set up similar ecological centres to look at alternative environmentally friendly technology. The workers at CAT hope that one day there will be so many centres all over the world that governments and managers of industry will start to change their ideas and will think more carefully about the environment. Once this happens, the possibilities for protecting our beautiful planet will be endless.

1. Mr Morgan-Grenville was worried about ____
 - A. the damage his gardening was doing to the countryside.
 - B. the countryside being harmed.
 - C. people protecting the environment.
 - D. what he did for a living in the countryside.
2. One of the main aims of CAT is ____
 - A. to use better technology to harm the environment.
 - B. to use less technology in the environment.
 - C. to stop using technology that does not harm the environment.
 - D. to use technology that causes less damage to the environment.
3. Which one of the following statements is true?
 - A. CAT uses a mixture of theory and practice to explain its message.
 - B. CAT only uses practical solutions to explain its message.
 - C. CAT has demonstrated how successful its theories are.
 - D. CAT believes it would be better if technology didn't exist.
4. Visitors to CAT ____
 - A. can use valuable raw materials.
 - B. are all ecologically correct.
 - C. can see new ideas in practice.
 - D. can see valuable raw materials.
5. The increase in industry worldwide ____
 - A. has led to an increase in environmental problems.
 - B. is due to the damage done to the whole planet.
 - C. is a result of efforts to protect the environment.
 - D. has been caused by problems like global warming.
6. The workers at CAT are hoping ____
 - A. that their managers will start to change industry.
 - B. that their ideas will be used all over the world.
 - C. that our beautiful planet will end.
 - D. that it can protect governments and managers worldwide.