2.4 READING

All about passwords • antonyms • nouns and verbs • the temperature

1 Read the text quickly and choose the best title.

1 How to create a secure and easy-to-remember password
2 How to remember all your passwords
3 How to guess someone's password

1 _____

We all know the basic rules for choosing good passwords and keeping them secret. Rule number one: use numbers, symbols and a good mix of letters – upper case (A, B, C) and lower case (a, b, c). Rule number two: use a different password for each of the devices you use or for each website you visit. Rule number three: change your passwords regularly. Rule number four: never write your passwords down. These rules sound easy to follow, right?

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Well, not really. The rules say that a secure password should look something like this: 'N0r@5%_fpO&47d1nk'. Do you think you can remember that? Don't forget you should have several different ones, you shouldn't write them down AND you have to change them every few weeks. Does this sound like an impossible task? Well, for most people, it is. So what do most of us do?

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Recently, researchers had a chance to analyse secret information about passwords. They found that many of us totally ignore the experts' advice and choose simple, easy to remember and extremely insecure passwords. Data shows that one out of every ten people uses '1234' as the pin number for their bank cards, and that the passwords 'welcome', '123456', 'ninja' and of course 'password', are some of the most popular choices. Even governments choose terrible passwords. It seems hard to believe, but in the 1980s, the American government actually used the 'secret code' '00000000' to unlock its nuclear missiles.

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So how can we make our passwords secure and memorable*? Well, first, the length of your password is important. For a hacker with a computer that can make 1000 guesses per second, a lower case, 5-letter password like 'ftmps' takes only around 3hrs and 45 minutes to crack*. A similar password with 20 letters takes a little longer – around 6.5 thousand trillion centuries*!

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Hackers are very good at guessing when we choose symbols and numbers instead of letters. For example, the password 'M@nch3st3r' seems like a good one, but the code is actually very simple – first letter = upper case, @ = a, 3 = E. It is easy for hackers to program their computers to look out for these kinds of codes. Because the length of the password is so important, a group of words written in lower case, e.g. 'help cheese monkey swimming' is much more secure than something like 'M@nch3st3r', and probably a bit easier to remember (think of a monkey – it is shouting for help and swimming towards some cheese!).

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One day, we probably won't have to worry about all this because we won't need passwords. Some laptop computers already have fingerprint* readers. Recently, scientists in the US have designed a prototype ring for your finger that sends electricity through your skin to a touch screen to tell computers and phones who you are. For now though, we still need passwords, and if you want one that is secure and memorable, the best advice is to make it looooooooo oooooooooooooooooooooooong.

GLOSSARY

memorable *(adj)* – easy to remember
crack a code or a password *(v)* – work it out or solve it
century *(n)* – 100 years
fingerprint *(n)* – a mark made by the pattern of the skin on the end of your fingers

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the text again. Match headings A–H with paragraphs 1–6. There are two extra headings.

A NuM83rs @nd sYmB0ls
B How to become a hacker
C No more passwords!
D Passwords for beginners
E Dangerous choices
F How they did it in the US
G How good is your memory?
H Short = bad, long = good

3 Read the text again. For questions 1–6, choose the correct answer A–D.

1 Which basic rule for passwords is not mentioned?
A Use a mix of letters, numbers and symbols for passwords.
B Use different passwords for different websites.
C Never tell another person your password.
D Change your passwords often.

2 The article says that most people
A don't know how to choose a secure password.
B use the same password for everything.
C don't follow experts' advice when they choose a password.
D forget passwords easily.

3 The most popular password is
A not mentioned.
B 'password.'
C '1234.'
D '00000000.'

4 In the 1980s, the US government
A had a secure password for unlocking its nuclear missiles.
B didn't have a password for unlocking its nuclear missiles.
C lost the password for unlocking its nuclear missiles.
D didn't have a secure password for unlocking its nuclear missiles.

5 The article says that hackers
A choose passwords with symbols and numbers.
B program their computers to look for symbols and numbers in passwords.
C choose lower case passwords.
D program their computers to look for long passwords.

6 According to the article, scientists in the US recently designed
A fingerprint readers for phones.
B a prototype keyboard.
C something people can wear to identify them.
D a touch screen laptop.

4 Find the opposites underlined in the text.

fantastic ≠ terrible
1 advanced ≠ _____
2 similar ≠ _____
3 forget ≠ _____
4 possible ≠ _____
5 complicated ≠ _____

REMEMBER BETTER

Many words in English have opposites, e.g. *start ≠ finish, easy ≠ difficult, man ≠ woman.* These words are called antonyms. When you learn antonyms, use them in personal sentences to help you remember.

In your notebook, write personal sentences with the antonyms from Exercise 4.

The weather was terrible at the weekend, but we saw a fantastic film on Saturday.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE | Nouns and verbs

5 Look at the vocabulary in lesson 2.4 in the Student's Book. Complete the sentences with the missing verbs or nouns. The first and last letters are given.

My grandmother always has a **j**igsa**w** on her living room table. I like to help her when I visit, but I often put the pieces in the wrong place.

1 You'll need to put on another **l**_____**r** of clothing. It's really cold outside today.
2 My father never takes food to work because he eats at the company's **c**_____**n** every day.
3 How long will it take to **r**_____**h** the top of the hill? I'm already really tired.
4 Annie wants to **r**_____**n** her own computer games shop when she finishes school.
5 In many towns here you can still see the **r**_____**s** of the old city walls made from large stones.
6 We can't land on the island. There's no **a**_____**p** there.

WORD STORE 2E | The temperature

6 Complete the telephone conversation between Warmomatic and a customer with the words from the box. There are two extra words.

above below boiling chilly cold
degrees falling freezing rising

In the year 2033 ...

W: Good afternoon. This is Warmomatic. How can I help you?
C: Hello? Warmomatic? Oh, thank goodness you've answered. HELP!
W: What is the problem, madam?
C: My computer-controlled heating system isn't working. My home is really cold! It is [1]_____ zero in every room in the house and the temperature is still [2]_____. It's minus ten now.
W: OK madam, please try to calm down. I'll try to fix the problem from my desktop computer. Please call me again in 20 minutes.

20 minutes later ...

W: Good afternoon. This is Warmomatic. How can I help you?
C: It's me again! Now the house is too hot. In fact, it's [3]_____. It's plus 35 [4]_____ centigrade and the temperature is [5]_____. Help me!
W: Oh dear. There is one very easy solution, madam.
C: Anything. Please. Tell me what to do.
W: Open a window madam. It's [6]_____ outside.

LIVEWORKSHEETS