C Reading 1

A Ali Isfahan

All my life I've never had a television in my home, and certainly no other form of digital entertainment. I'm retired now, but when I was a kid my parents couldn't afford to buy a television, or even a radio, and it was the same for many other families in our street. When I left home and went to university, television was still a relatively new thing, so once again I didn't have one. After that, I was focused on my future life, and having a television just wasn't a priority. In any case, I'm a great reader: I'm never without a book, no matter where I am. I even take a book with me when I go shopping or to the bank, just in case I have to wait in a queue. So for me a home without a television just isn't an issue. My whole house is like a library . . . a school . . . a university! Every room, including the kitchen, is full of books, so if I need entertainment I simply pick one up. Sometimes I'm reading three or four books at the same time, in different rooms of the house!

B Alma Dusit

For me, the internet is an educator above everything else. We are incredibly lucky to have access to so much high-quality educational content, from science to geography and history, and even cooking and sport. There really is no excuse not to be well-informed about current affairs, or whatever your particular interest might be. **Obviously**, there is also a lot of rubbish online, but with so much free content readily available, we are definitely spoilt for choice, and we can't use money as an excuse not to watch. My biggest problem with digital entertainment is that I often can't decide which programme I most want to watch. But nowadays everything is available 24/7 so I can always catch up later on something that I might have missed. This of course creates a problem: finding enough time to watch everything! But for those people who can only complain about the quality of programmes available, I suggest looking a little deeper online. Sure enough, you'll find something that will not only entertain you, but educate you too.

obviously (adverb): in a way that is easy to understand or see

apparently (adverb): according to others; seeming true, but not certainly so

supposedly (adverb): according to what is generally believed

C Marcos Andreou

Entertainment is definitely not what it used to be. For one thing, there are a lot more celebrities on our screens who, several years ago, would never have even been considered remotely interesting or important enough to appear online. **Apparently** nowadays everyone is a celebrity, no matter who they are or what they have done. Every time you log on there's another **supposedly** 'famous' person telling you what they think about something. I recently watched a cooking programme with a celebrity chef. His one aim seemed to have nothing to do with cooking skills, but with making jokes about football, trying (completely unsuccessfully) to be funny. He also promoted his new book, advising everyone to buy it. I learnt nothing about cooking, but I certainly learnt how to tell a bad joke. What happened to the days when we could be entertained *and* informed? Nowadays these so-called celebrities just show off and make themselves look far more important than they really are.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Julie Carter

I definitely couldn't live without my phone and tablet. They are essential to my lifestyle, from the moment I wake up until I go to bed, and I have no problem in admitting this. Some people may say that I'm online too much and that my digital devices control my life, but my response is that they make my life better and easier, as well as keeping me informed about what's going on. I just don't have time to read a newspaper or watch the TV news at a specific time. I use my phone for everything: staying in touch with people, ordering taxis, buying tickets for the theatre and for other entertainment, such as listening to music, playing games, watching sports events, shopping, reading the news, and so on. At work I use my laptop much more, for emailing, writing reports and looking at documents such as spreadsheets that need a larger screen than my phone. I also use my laptop for social media communication, linking up with colleagues in different parts of the world for meetings or sharing documents. But the phone never leaves my side.

Read the four short blogs (A–D) about digital entertainment. Then answer questions a–i.

For each statement, choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

Which person

a	always has something to read?	[1]
b	believes that online content can teach us whatever we want?	[1]
c	communicates globally for work?	[1]
d	feels fortunate to have so much digital content to choose from?	[1]
e	thinks that entertainment is different nowadays?	[1]
f	gives a reason for not having a television while studying?	[1]
g	has difficulty choosing a programme to watch?	[1]
h	is too busy for TV news programmes?	[1]
i	watched something online and did not learn anything?	[1]
		[Total: 9]

LIVEWORKSHEETS