

Reading Comprehension

Task 1. Read the five short advertisements (1-5) below. For each advertisement, choose the statement (A-H) that best matches its content. One statement is extra.

1. The "Future-Proof" CV Clinic

Tired of feeling inadequate in a rapidly changing job market? Our one-day workshop, led by top HR professionals, focuses on identifying and highlighting your soft skills and transferable skills. Learn to use digital tools to personalize your job applications and master the art of the video interview. We don't just fix your CV; we help you see your full potential. Book online now!

2. The Ethical Tech Forum: Beyond the Screen

Join us this Saturday for a thought-provoking discussion on the unintended consequences of social media and the ethical dilemmas surrounding AI development. Guest speakers include leading futurists and environmental advocates. This is your chance to voice concerns about digital detox and learn how to maintain your well-being in an interconnected world.

3. Urban Escape: Community Gardening Project

Need a break from the constant digital chatter? Volunteer for our local green initiative. We are building a sustainable, shared garden space to combat urban decay and promote sustainable living. No experience necessary—just a willingness to get your hands dirty, meet like-minded people, and help make a tangible, eco-friendly change in our neighbourhood.

4. Code Crusaders: After-School Program

A specialized program for secondary school students looking to get ahead. We focus on coding fundamentals (Python and JavaScript), critical thinking in problem-solving, and basic app development. This isn't just about programming; it's about developing the problem-solving mindset required for careers in the 21st century. Limited spaces available.

5. Vintage Vinyl & Retro Gaming Night

Step back in time! Put your phone away and challenge your friends to classic retro games like Pac-Man and Street Fighter on original arcade machines. We've also got hundreds of vintage vinyl records to choose from, played on a state-of-the-art turntable. Enjoy genuine human interaction and a break from the predictable digital feed.

Statements (Options)

- A. This event encourages participants to take action to improve their physical environment.
- B. This service guarantees users a promotion and a higher salary in their current workplace.
- C. This activity is aimed at those who wish to disconnect from their smartphones and digital lives.
- D. This program is designed to develop practical programming and logical abilities in young learners.
- E. This workshop helps individuals present their psychological and adaptable talents to potential employers.
- F. This is a platform for discussing the moral and unexpected results of modern technological progress.
- G. This is a course for adults who want to learn a foreign language and communicate with natives.
- H. This is a recreational gathering that focuses on old entertainment technologies and socializing.

Task 2. Read the text about "eco-anxiety." For questions 6-10, choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

Eco-Anxiety: When Climate Change Becomes a Mental Health Issue

The reality of climate change is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore, extending its impact far beyond melting ice caps and rising sea levels. A growing number of people, particularly young adults, are experiencing eco-anxiety, a chronic fear of environmental doom. This isn't a clinical diagnosis in the traditional sense, but rather a profound, rational response to the overwhelming scale of the global environmental crisis. The worry is often linked to the perceived inadequacy of governmental and societal action to address threats like extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and resource scarcity.

One of the most challenging aspects of eco-anxiety is the feeling of powerlessness. Individuals often feel crushed by the magnitude of the problem, leading to feelings of sadness, guilt, and a sense of grief for the future. For example, a student actively adopting a zero-waste lifestyle might still feel profound stress when reading reports about plastic pollution in the deepest parts of the ocean. This discrepancy—between personal effort and systemic failure—is a major trigger for anxiety. Many also report difficulties with long-term planning, questioning the wisdom of investing in careers or even starting families when the future appears so uncertain.

Mental health professionals are now beginning to recognize this phenomenon as a legitimate public health concern. They suggest that instead of dismissing the worries, it's crucial to validate these feelings. Practical advice often centres on shifting from passive worry to active hope. This involves moving away from endlessly scrolling through disheartening news updates (doomscrolling) and engaging in meaningful action. Even small steps, like joining a local environmental cleanup group, advocating for policy changes, or promoting sustainable consumer choices, can re-establish a sense of personal agency and connection.

Ultimately, addressing eco-anxiety requires a two-pronged approach. Firstly, it necessitates a widespread societal shift towards acknowledging the severity of the climate crisis. Secondly, on an individual level, it requires cultivating cognitive resilience—the mental toughness to process frightening information without being paralyzed by it. By integrating personal action with collective political will, individuals can transform their anxiety into motivation, thereby tackling both the mental health challenge and the environmental emergency simultaneously.

6. What does the author suggest is the primary cause of eco-anxiety?

- A. The inability of young people to find satisfactory, high-paying jobs.
- B. A chronic fear of environmental disaster based on realistic, global threats.
- C. A clinical psychological disorder unrelated to external events.
- D. The widespread use of social media and excessive screen time.

7. According to the text, what is a common source of stress for an environmentally conscious person?

- A. The lack of access to educational materials on climate science.
- B. The conflict between their small, positive personal actions and the vastness of the global crisis.
- C. The high cost associated with maintaining a zero-waste lifestyle.
- D. The inability to form new relationships due to constant environmental volunteering.

8. What long-term personal activity is mentioned as being affected by eco-anxiety?

- A. The choice of hobbies and recreational activities.
- B. Decisions about education and career path.
- C. Difficulty in choosing what to wear or consume daily.
- D. Problems with finding suitable housing.

9. Which coping strategy is suggested by mental health professionals to help individuals manage eco-anxiety?

- A. Seeking professional diagnosis for every feeling of sadness or guilt.
- B. Completely avoiding all news related to environmental issues.
- C. Validating the anxious feelings and encouraging meaningful engagement.
- D. Encouraging a return to traditional, location-bound careers.

10. The final paragraph emphasizes that the solution to eco-anxiety requires combining which two elements?

- A. Personal wealth and professional success.
- B. Political indifference and societal avoidance.
- C. Emotional fragility and passive acceptance.
- D. Individual motivation/action and collective political will.

Task 3. Read the six short statements (11-16) about digital identity and social media. For each statement, choose the summary (A-H) that best matches its content. Two summaries are extra.

11. Anya, a Photographer	My Instagram feed is a carefully curated gallery. I only post my best, most aesthetically pleasing work—and only when it fits my specific colour palette. I know it's not <i>real</i> life; it's a digital persona, but it's crucial for my brand. It's about selective presentation to attract the right professional attention.
12. Bohdan, a Student	Sometimes I feel like I'm performing for an audience of total strangers. I waste hours scrolling through perfect lives, which makes me feel inadequate about my own. I tried a digital detox for a week, and honestly, the relief was incredible. I re-read a book and actually had a <i>real</i> conversation with my flatmate.
13. Clara, a Marketing Manager	We use social media algorithms to identify target audiences with incredible precision. If you 'like' posts about sustainability and travel, you'll start seeing ads for eco-resorts. It's not magic; it's data analysis based on your digital footprint. We know your interests better than you sometimes know them yourself.
14. Dmytro, a Freelance Writer	I use my platforms primarily for networking. I follow industry leaders, comment on articles, and join professional groups. For me, social media is a tool to overcome isolation as a freelancer. It helps me stay connected to the professional community and find new, interesting collaborations.
15. Elena, a Teacher	I'm very cautious about what I post because I know students and parents might see it. I treat my professional accounts differently from my private ones. It's vital to maintain a positive reputation and show professional behaviour online, so I avoid anything controversial or too personal.

16. Fedir, a Programmer	The biggest risk online is data privacy. Every piece of information—from your location to your purchase history—is being collected and monetized. I've gone through my settings and minimized my sharing to protect my private data. I think everyone needs to be more aware of their vulnerability online.
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- A. describes the negative effect of social comparison and the benefit of temporary disconnection.
- B. highlights the importance of using digital platforms to establish a reliable reputation in the workplace.
- C. points out that online activities are systematically monitored and used to predict purchasing behaviour.
- D. emphasizes that social media must be used as an essential tool to manage professional contacts and partnerships.
- E. explains that they deliberately manage their online content to create a favourable professional image.
- F. warns about the dangers of excessive screen time for young people's physical health.
- G. expresses concern about the constant collection of personal details and the need to secure them against misuse.
- H. suggests that the main purpose of social media is to provide users with non-stop entertainment.

Task 4. Read the text about cultural differences in communication. For the gaps (17–22), choose the part of the sentence (A–H) that logically completes the paragraph. Two parts of the sentences are extra.

Navigating High-Context and Low-Context Cultures

Understanding how different cultures communicate is crucial in an increasingly globalized world. Anthropologist Edward T. Hall developed a framework that distinguishes between high-context and low-context cultures. This distinction helps explain why communication that is clear in one country **17.** _____.

In low-context cultures (such as Germany, Scandinavia, or the USA), communication is typically direct, explicit, and logical. People prioritize efficiency and clarity, meaning the exact message is contained almost entirely in the **18.** _____. They value blunt honesty, and ambiguity is generally avoided, as it can lead to misinterpretation and delays in decision-making.

Conversely, high-context cultures (like Japan, China, or many Middle Eastern nations) rely heavily on non-verbal cues, shared history, and established social hierarchies. In these societies, the true meaning of a message is often implied, **19.** _____. A direct "no" is rare; instead, individuals might use subtle language to preserve harmony and avoid causing offense or "losing face."

This difference profoundly impacts professional relationships. For example, in a low-context meeting, an agreement is reached through a detailed written contract. However, in a high-context environment, a verbal commitment or a handshake **20.** _____. This reliance on trust and long-term relationships can be confusing for those expecting immediate, explicit contractual arrangements.

A person from a high-context culture might find direct, assertive feedback from a low-context colleague **21.** _____. Conversely, a low-context communicator might perceive the nuanced approach of their high-context counterpart as evasive or **22.** _____. Recognizing these core differences is the first step toward successful cross-cultural communication.

- A. to be overly blunt and unnecessarily aggressive
- B. where time is often treated as a fluid and flexible resource
- C. because they prioritize personal relationships over contracts
- D. and is conveyed through context, tone of voice, and body language
- E. might be completely misunderstood or even considered rude in another
- F. wasting time with unnecessary formalities and gestures
- G. spoken or written words themselves
- H. might find it difficult to adjust to the high volume of text communication