

# READING COMPREHENSION



**PART 1.** You are going to read an extract from an interview with a musician. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

## GOOD VIBRATIONS

There is nothing to suggest that Evelyn Glennie is profoundly deaf. She insists that her deafness is irrelevant to her musicianship, but there is no doubt that her **obvious handicap** has turned a remarkable career into a miraculous one.

She was eight when her hearing began to fail; by twelve she had lost it completely and feared she would have to give up the music she loved. But a doctor's suggestion that she should become an accountant rather than follow a hopeless musical career strengthened her will to succeed.

She was brought up on a farm in Scotland. From an early age her great love was the piano, and after enjoying the audience applause at a prize-winning performance she decided on a career as a soloist. By then, however, her love of the piano had been overtaken by her passion for playing percussion instruments like the drums, an almost impossible task for a deaf person. "You need to be very sensitive because you are dealing with literally thousands of instruments," she says. "Anyone can strike something and get a sound but you have to learn to control **it** and that can take a lifetime's work."

As it turned out, music was one of the most advantageous careers she could have chosen and is one reason why her speech remains so extraordinarily correct, despite her deafness. "You can relate a lot of what you feel through the instruments onto your own voice box, so you know how to pitch, how to adjust your voice," she says.

Occasionally she listens to recordings by holding a cassette player between her knees, interpreting the vibrations and the shaking movements. Her deafness is one of the reasons for her unique style, for she can't listen and be influenced by other performances and she has often declared that getting her hearing back would be the worst thing that could happen to her. "It would be like giving sight to a blind person who had fitted their life to what they saw through their hands. Quite apart from that, I am so critical of what I do anyway that I wouldn't want to be comparing myself to others."

As a result of her devotion to her music and her determination to succeed, she has doubled the range of works available for percussion music in Europe and introduced instruments previously unheard of in the west. She has also asked composers to write more than fifty new pieces of music for these instruments, and has set up a library of three hundred works for other musicians to use.

1\_ What do you think the phrase "**obvious handicap**" (line 2) means in this context?

- A an emotional disadvantage
- B a physical achievement
- C a clear musical advantage
- D an apparent physical disability

2\_ What added to Glennie's determination not to give up on a musical career?

- A her doctor's advice
- B her love of the piano
- C her dislike of accountancy
- D her success in a competition

3\_ Why did Glennie want to be a solo performer?

- A Not many people played the drums.
- B It was easier if you were deaf.
- C She liked praise and attention.
- D She knew she was a good pianist.

4\_ What does "it" at the end of the third paragraph mean?

- A being sensitive to reactions to deafness
- B a lifetime's work in the world of orchestral music
- C being in technical command of an instrument
- D finding time to learn many different instruments

5\_ Why was music such a good choice of career?

- A It enables her to speak well.
- B It has made her voice softer.
- C It helps with her deafness.
- D It has made her famous.



6\_ Glennie thinks that being deaf is an advantage because it means her

- A audience is sympathetic.
- B interpretation is her own.
- C style is better than others.
- D performance is influential.

7\_ Why does Glennie dislike the idea of comparison with others?

- A She is too critical of other people.
- B She criticises herself already.
- C She is afraid of harsh criticism
- D She thinks her critics are unfair.

8\_ What would be the most suitable title for this extract?

- A How to be a successful musician
- B The disadvantages of deafness
- C Developing one's musical skills

**PART 2.** Seven sentences have been removed from the following article. Read it carefully and then choose from sentences A – G the one which fits each gap.

### HOW TO LIVE WITH TEENAGERS

There have been countless books and television series on living with teenagers, yet parents don't seem to have discovered how to get their children to pick up their clothes from the bedroom floor, or even clean their room occasionally. It might be difficult to accept, but a new approach to dealing with rude or difficult teenagers is for parents to look at their own behavior.

"The key to getting teenagers to respect you is to respect them first," says Penny Palmano, who has written a best-selling book on teenagers. "You can't continue to treat them the same way that you have been treating them for the previous 12 years: they have opinions that count. **1 – G.** You'd be very upset. You'd never say that to an adult, because it shows a total lack of respect."

Palmano, who has a daughter aged 19 and a 16-year old stepdaughter, has even allowed the children to hold several teenage parties at her home. They passed without problems. "I've found that if you have brought them up to do the right thing, and then trust them to do it, usually they'll behave well," she says. "I make them sandwiches and leave them alone. But I make it clear that they have to clear up any mess. **2\_ \_\_\_\_\_**"

She agrees that teenagers can be irritating: enjoying a world that is free of responsibilities, yet desperate for independence. She doesn't think, however, that they are trying to annoy you. Until recently, scientists assumed that the brain finished growing at about the age of 13 and that teenage problems were a result of rising hormones and a desire for independence. **3\_ \_\_\_\_\_**

"This would explain why many teenagers can't make good decisions, control their emotions, prioritise or concentrate on several different things at the same time. **4\_ \_\_\_\_\_**. It means that they do not intentionally do the wrong thing just to annoy their parents," says Palmano.

The key to happiness for all, Palmano believes, is calm negotiation and compromise. If you want for teenagers to be home by 11 pm, explain why, but listen to their counter-arguments. If it's a Saturday, you might consider agreeing to midnight (rather than 1 am, which is what they had in mind). **5\_ \_\_\_\_\_**. Instead, ask if they've had a problem with public transport and let it pass; they've almost managed what you asked.

She urges a bit of perspective about other things, too. "There have been times when my daughter's room has not been as tidy as I expected, but as she said once, 'I'm a teenager – what do you expect? **6\_ \_\_\_\_\_** ' "

"It's vital to choose your battles carefully: don't criticise teenagers for having an untidy room, then suddenly criticise them for other things. **7\_ \_\_\_\_\_** One minute, it's about an untidy room and the next, you're saying, 'And another thing...' and criticising them for everything."

Adapted from *The Daily Telegraph*

- A- But it turns out that the region of the brain that controls judgment and emotions is not fully mature until the early twenties.
- B- If they are up to 20 minutes late, don't react angrily.
- C- For example, they may find it difficult to make the right decision between watching television, ringing a friend, or finishing their homework.
- D- I'm not turning into a criminal, it's just clothes on the floor.
- E- I've never had a problem; in fact, the kitchen was sometimes cleaner than I'd left it.
- F- On these occasions, parents tend to mention all the other things that they may or may not have done wrong.
- G- Imagine if you'd spent two hours getting ready to go out for the evening and someone said, 'You're not going out looking like that, are you?'



**PART 3.** You are going to read a newspaper article about activities for young people in the UK. For questions 1 – 13, choose from the activities described under the titles A – E. The titles may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

## There's No Need To Be Bored

**Are your children hanging around and complaining they have nothing to do in the holidays? Here are some suggestions to help you keep them happy.**



### C Hands-on Museums

Not all museums are boring. There are now many museums which have interactive exhibits, that is exhibits which allow you to take part in various activities. For example, in one museum visitors can work on a production line in a factory or talk into a video-phone to find out what happens to the rubbish we throw out. If you want to be an astronaut, you can explore the solar system in a space workshop, and in another museum you can experience what an earthquake feels like – the ground really moves under your feet. There is even a theatre museum which holds workshops where teenagers can play the great romantic parts like Romeo and Juliet. Costumes are provided and the workshops are run by professional actors. This kind of activity is only suitable for fifteen to eighteen-year-olds. You can find out more about these and other hands-on museums by ringing 0071 22549.

### A Bad-Weather Sport

Children as young as 4 or 5 can learn to climb on indoor walls and need no special equipment to get started. In fact, even people who are blind or normally spend their lives in a wheelchair can enjoy some of the activities on offer. Young people gain a sense of responsibility and team skills through climbing, and at the same time may develop a real liking for a new pastime. Some of the indoor climbing centres have been established inside old buildings, and even experienced climbers find the artificial walls really exciting. The trick in learning to climb is to keep your weight on your feet and to keep looking down in order to see where to put your feet next. It's normal to feel frightened when you first start. But you have to focus your mind on what you're doing and not think about falling. For further information contact your local sports centre.

### D The Great Outdoors

You don't have to wait for a fine day if you want to visit a theme park. Not far from London is a theme park full of exciting and adventurous rides. The main attraction is a new indoor ride which is suitable for anyone over the age of eight. This is the first ride of its kind in the world and involves a backward drop of fifteen metres in total darkness! You can book tickets for the theme park in advance, which is a good idea as it can get very busy. You should also try to arrive early in order to avoid the long queues for the rides which build up during the day. Another popular activity is a visit to a wild animal park. In most cases, the parks offer far more than just watching animals in the wild; very young children especially enjoy taking part in the feeding times for animals, which are usually advertised at the entrance to the park. Ring 0018 28571 for further details of parks in your area.

### B Virtual Worlds

There is no point in trying to push youngsters into the fresh air if all they want to do is stay indoors and play with

### E TV Addicts

If you cannot drag your children away from the television, why not encourage them to explore the

a computer. And, according to a recent report, there is no need to feel guilty when they do so – such games can help improve co-ordination skills and problem-solving abilities. The Trocadero in central London claims to be Europe’s biggest indoor entertainment complex and is packed with high-tech excitement. The star attraction uses computer technology to fool you into thinking you are steering a small plane through an imaginary city in 2050. There is also a state-of-the-art electronic ride called Aqua Planet. Passengers are strapped into chairs, given special glasses and sent into a magical underwater world.

medium itself. There is a national museum of photography, film and television which allows visitors to develop their own photohraphic prints. In the same museum you can also visit a studio to see TV programmes being made. The star attraction, however, is the museum’s five-storey Imax cinema, the only one of its kind in Britain, showing an amazing film of the US space shuttle. Another museum runs workshops which show how television and computers work and what cars will look like in a hundred years’ time. Yet another museum allows children to design their own cartoon film or to watch a film of themselves being interviewed by a famous TV personality. You can find out more by contacting an information hotline on 0011 84833

**Which of the activity titles would you recommend for...**

...someone who enjoys acting?	1_		
...parents with young children under eight?	2_	3_	
...someone who enjoys using their computer skills?	4_		
...a disabled person who wants to be sure of being included?	5_		
...people who enjoy feeling frightened?	6_		
...anyone who spends a lot of time watching television?	7_		
...someone who would like to see their children on a screen?	8_		

**Which of the activity titles suggest that...**

...a person’s character may benefit from the new experience?	9_		
...crowds of people can be a disadvantage?	10_		
...a person can operate transport of the future?	11_	12_	13_