

READING 2

The Rise of Remote Working

Remote working, also known as working from home, has become much more common in recent years, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. Many companies now allow employees to do their jobs from home using laptops, video calls, and other online tools. This kind of work can be more flexible, as people don't need to travel to an office and can organise their time more freely. For many workers, remote work reduces stress and saves money on transport.

However, remote working also has some challenges. Some people find it hard to separate work from personal life, especially when they don't have a dedicated office space at home. Others miss the social interaction that comes with working in a team at the office. Employers also worry about productivity and communication when workers are not physically present. Still, many believe that remote work is here to stay and will continue to change the way we work.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What tools help people work from home?
2. What problem might people have when working at home?
3. What concerns do some employers have about remote work?

READING 3

Why Recycling Matters

Recycling is the process of turning waste materials into new products instead of throwing them away. Items like paper, plastic, glass, and metal can often be reused through recycling. This helps reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfills and saves natural resources. For example, recycling aluminium uses much less energy than producing it from raw materials. Recycling also reduces pollution and helps protect the environment.

However, not everything can be recycled, and many people still throw recyclable items in the regular trash. Sometimes, items are not cleaned properly before being recycled, which can cause problems at recycling centres. Education is important so that people know what and how to recycle. By making small changes in daily habits, like sorting waste at home, everyone can help reduce the negative impact of waste on our planet.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Which materials are commonly recycled?
2. What is one problem people cause when recycling incorrectly?
3. What are the environmental benefits of recycling?

READING 4

The Power of Reading

Reading books is one of the most powerful ways to learn and grow. It helps people improve their language skills, expand their vocabulary, and understand different ideas. Reading also trains the brain to focus and think more deeply. Whether it's a novel, a biography, or a science book, reading gives people the chance to explore new worlds, learn from others' experiences, and develop empathy.

In today's digital age, many people spend more time on their phones or watching TV than reading books. While technology offers quick access to information, it often doesn't provide the same depth of understanding that books do. Reading for pleasure can also reduce stress and improve mental health. Experts suggest setting aside just 15 to 30 minutes a day for reading as a way to relax, improve concentration, and enjoy quiet time away from screens.

Comprehension Questions:

1. How can reading help improve language skills?
2. How is reading different from using digital technology?
3. What do experts recommend about reading habits?

READING 5

Children and Tech Addiction

Many children today spend several hours a day on smartphones, tablets, or computers. While technology can be helpful for learning and entertainment, too much screen time can lead to problems. Studies have shown that children who use digital devices for many hours often have trouble sleeping, concentrating at school, or spending time with friends and family. Some may even become anxious or upset when they are not allowed to use their devices.

Parents and teachers are becoming more concerned about technology addiction. Experts recommend setting clear limits on screen time and encouraging other activities such as reading, playing outside, or doing sports. Families can also create “tech-free” times during meals or before bed to help children disconnect. While technology is a big part of modern life, learning how to use it in a healthy and balanced way is important for children’s development.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What emotional effects can tech addiction have on children?
2. What advice do experts give about managing screen time?
3. What does a “tech-free” time mean, and when can it be useful?

READING 6

The Rise of Smart Wearables

Smart wearables, like fitness trackers and smartwatches, are devices people wear on their bodies to track health, communicate, or get information quickly. These gadgets can measure heart rate, count steps, monitor sleep, and even send text messages. Many users enjoy the convenience of checking their schedule or receiving updates without needing to take out their phone. Some athletes and health-conscious people use wearables to monitor their progress and set fitness goals.

However, smart wearables are also changing the way people think about health and technology. Some experts worry that users may become too focused on numbers, such as how many steps they take or how many hours they sleep. There are also concerns about data privacy, as wearables collect personal health information. Still, for many, these devices provide motivation to stay active and a greater awareness of their lifestyle habits.

Comprehension Questions:

1. How do smart wearables help people stay healthy?
2. How do athletes use smart wearables?
3. What is one risk related to data collected by smart wearables?

READING 7

Why Communication Skills Matter in Every Job

Good communication is one of the most important skills in any job. It includes speaking clearly, listening carefully, writing emails, giving presentations, and working well with others. Whether you are a doctor, teacher, engineer, or office worker, you need to share information and ideas clearly. Good communication helps prevent mistakes, saves time, and builds trust between team members.

In today's workplaces, strong communication skills are more valuable than ever. Many jobs require working in teams, talking to clients, or managing people from different cultures and backgrounds. Being able to express your thoughts politely and professionally can improve your relationships and career success. Even in technical fields, employers often choose candidates who can explain their work clearly to others. That's why communication is not just useful—it's essential.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why is communication important in every job?
2. How can communication build trust between coworkers?
3. Why might communication be important even in technical jobs?

READING 8

The Rise of Podcasts

Podcasts are digital audio programmes that people can listen to on their phones, computers, or smart speakers. They cover a wide range of topics, including news, science, health, education, and entertainment. Many podcasts are free, and people can listen to them while walking, driving, or doing chores. This makes them a flexible and easy way to learn or relax during the day.

Podcasts have changed how people get information. Instead of watching TV or reading the news, many now prefer to listen to expert interviews or stories on the go. Podcasts also give a voice to individuals who might not work for big media companies but still have something valuable to share. As more people look for personal and meaningful content, podcasts have become a powerful tool for education and connection.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are some common topics covered in podcasts?
2. How are podcasts different from traditional TV or news sources?
3. Why have podcasts become more popular in recent years?

READING 9

Why Learning a Foreign Language Matters

Learning a foreign language can open many doors in life. It allows people to travel more easily, make new friends, and understand different cultures. In today's global world, speaking more than one language is also a valuable skill for work. Many companies look for employees who can communicate with people from other countries or help expand into international markets.

Besides career benefits, learning another language improves brain function. It helps with memory, problem-solving, and multitasking. Studies show that people who speak more than one language often do better in school and are better at understanding others' points of view. Although learning a language can take time and effort, it is a rewarding experience that helps people grow personally and professionally.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are some reasons people learn foreign languages?
2. What are some jobs where speaking more than one language is useful?
3. What mental skills are strengthened by language learning?

READING 10

Dealing with Fake News

In the digital age, it is easier than ever to share and receive information, but not all of it is true. Fake news is false or misleading information presented as if it were real news. It can spread quickly on social media, often using eye-catching headlines or emotional language to grab attention. Fake news can confuse people, influence opinions unfairly, or even cause harm during elections or health crises.

To avoid being misled, it's important to fact-check information before believing or sharing it. One way to do this is by checking the source—reliable news outlets are more trustworthy than unknown websites. People can also compare the information with other reports or look for evidence to support the claims. Learning to question what we see online is a key skill for modern life. It helps us stay informed and protect ourselves from manipulation.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where does fake news often appear?
2. How can fake news affect public opinion?
3. Why is it important to look at the source of information?

READING 11

How Kickstarter and Crowdfunding Work

Kickstarter is a website where people can raise money to turn their creative ideas into real projects. This type of fundraising is called crowdfunding. Instead of getting money from one big investor, creators receive small amounts of money from many people who are interested in the idea. People who support a project often receive a reward, such as a copy of the product, a thank-you message, or early access to the item once it's made.

Crowdfunding websites like Kickstarter have helped thousands of people start businesses, make films, build games, or design new products. However, not every project is successful. Some ideas don't raise enough money, while others have delays or problems after being funded. That's why backers need to be careful and understand the risks. Still, crowdfunding gives more people a chance to share their ideas and bring them to life without needing traditional business loans.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What does the term "crowdfunding" mean?
2. What are some reasons a project might fail?
3. How is crowdfunding different from traditional investing?