

Answer Key to Extra Reading Comprehension Activities

Unit 1, page 8

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. An optimist [has a positive viewpoint].
2. [The difference between optimists and pessimists is due to] how people perceive and respond to problems.
3. A pessimist [believes life will always be difficult and painful].
4. [Instead of seeing a problem, an optimist will see] a solution.
5. [Having a healthy dose of pessimism can be good because] it can make a person realistic and wise.
6. Maintaining a hopeful, positive, yet realistic perspective in the face of hard times [is essential to living peacefully and happily].
7. [It is also important to see] the beauty, love, generosity, and goodness.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. confident, better, best, look on the bright side, solution, uplifting, hopeful, positive, beauty, love, generosity, goodness
2. down, defeated, difficult, hard, cynical, painful, worst, problem, give up, hard times, unjust, unfair

Unit 2, page 20

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [He went to study in Vienna, Austria] because it was then the center of European cultural life and home to the most brilliant and passionate musicians in the world.
2. [The infamous incident that illustrates his difficult personality was when] Beethoven became so upset with a waiter that he emptied a plate of food over the man's head.
3. [They excused his insults and moody temperament] because of his talent.
4. [Two examples of his eccentric behavior are:] he often walked through the streets of Vienna muttering to himself and stamping his feet, and his clothes would get so dirty that his friends would come and take them away during the night.

5. [An example of his egotistical behavior is that] if people were talking while he was performing, he would stop and walk away.
6. [He began losing his hearing] in his late twenties.
7. [He cried] because he could see the roaring applause that he could not hear.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. He started playing the piano before he was four, and by the time he was twelve, he had already composed his first piece of music. When he was older, even as his hearing grew worse, his creative activity remained intense, and audiences loved his music. In 1826, he held his last performance of his famous Ninth symphony when he was completely deaf.
2. He had a strong and difficult personality. He was moody, often lost his temper, and often insulted his friends. He was also notorious for his eccentric behavior, and completely neglected his personal appearance. He was also very egotistical. And he was often in love with women who were already married or engaged.

Unit 3, page 34

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. A special Oscar for humanitarian service [Newman received in 1993] [reflects his success as a philanthropist].
2. [He agreed to put a picture of himself on his salad dressing label] because the salad dressing would sell only if his face were on the label, and he planned to donate all profits to charity.
3. [Newman makes contributions to] educational and charitable organizations [located in the United States, Japan, France, Brazil, and Australia].
4. [Since 1982, Newman has contributed] more than US\$150,000,000 [to charities].
5. [The Hole in the Wall Gang Camps help children by letting] children participate in many outdoor activities where they can temporarily forget their illnesses.
6. They're free of charge, so children don't need to pay anything [to attend the Hole in the Wall Gang Camps].
7. [He thinks] generosity is simply a human trait, a common-sense way of living. He also respects generosity in others.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. He means that people who have had a good life and are healthy, wealthy, and successful should help people who have not had a good life—people who are ill, poor, or unsuccessful.
2. He means he's not trying to be a hero or act like a god. He thinks that the community has given him a lot, and it's important for him to give back to the community. This is an investment in the community, and it will help everyone in it, including himself.

Unit 4, page 46

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. Media such as televisions, movies, and magazines [define what it means to be beautiful in western societies].
2. People associate success and happiness with being thin and attractive “just like models and movie stars” [in some cultures].
3. [They feel] either invisible or fat and unaccepted [in these cultures].
4. [In the U.S., children age eight or older are exposed to media messages] almost seven hours a day.
5. [The top wish of girls between eleven and seventeen is] to be thinner.
6. [Young people are being targeted as] a consumer group [by the media].
7. [The media is conveying messages to young people about] body image, self-esteem, social values, and behavior.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. most; a majority of; about two thirds of
2. most; a majority of
3. most; a majority of; about two thirds of
4. about a third of

Unit 5, page 58

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [The majority of megacities are in developing countries] because migration to the city is the route for many [rural] people to greater choice, opportunity, and well-being.
2. [In the 21st century megacities will set the standard of] how we live, how our environment is preserved (or not preserved), how our economies work, and what kind of civil society we develop.
3. [They have in common] a “third-world” city of poverty and deprivation and a “first-world” city of high culture, technology, fashion, and finance.
4. [All megacities deal with basic infrastructure problems such as] water, sanitation, and public transportation.
5. [Megacity leaders would especially like to learn about] successful solutions [to the problems of providing jobs, making housing, and health care.]
6. [Perlman disagrees with strict central planning because she thinks] planned cities or communities are too sterile and miss the spontaneity of cities that grew organically.
7. [Perlman thinks people love to go to Siena, Paris, and Barcelona] because they were not centrally planned and there is a lot of diversity within the design.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. Tokyo [is predicted to have the same rank in 2015]. [This might be] because its current population is so much larger than other cities.
2. Mumbai (Bombay) [is predicted to grow the most in population by 2015]. [This might be] because there will be a lot of migration to the city.
3. Seoul and New York [are predicted to grow the least in population by 2015]. [This might be] because people there are having fewer children than in the other cities on the list.

Unit 6, page 70

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. Biodiversity is being reduced when ecosystems are modified and habitats of plants and animals are destroyed.
2. [Scientists compare] the disappearance of the dinosaurs [with the current wave of species extinctions].
3. [Three species clinging to survival are] the giant panda, the polar bear, and the mountain gorilla.

4. The decades of civil war in Central and East Africa [may be one cause of the decline in the mountain gorilla population].
5. [Extinction is totally irreversible] because once gone, these species cannot be brought back.
6. [The WWF is promoting] the use of renewable resources such as wind and solar power [to head off the effects of global warming and to help save the polar bear's habitat].
7. [If one species in an ecosystem disappears,] other species are affected.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. Natural inheritance: all the different kinds of plants and animals on the earth that humans inherit when they are born and later pass on to their children
2. Umbrella species: each species is like an umbrella protecting the other species; saving one species helps the other species that live in the same habitat because they are interdependent

Unit 7, page 82

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [Shopping for many in the last century meant] buying provisions to satisfy physical needs.
2. [Today people] shop to indulge themselves in luxuries and shop for the sheer fun of it.
3. [Many people express] a sense of identity, taste, and lifestyle [through their acquisitions].
4. [Some negative consequences of obsessive impulse buying are] considerable financial debt and psychological distress.
5. [Extreme impulse buying affects an estimated] 5 to 10 percent of the adult population in many countries.
6. [For many people, impulse buying is a way of avoiding or hiding] feelings of anxiety and loneliness.
7. [Compulsive shoppers tend to experience] more anxiety and depression as well as a lower level of well-being [than those who do not prioritize shopping.]

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. At sales, people often buy things just because they think they are cheap—not because they need them. By avoiding sales, a person might avoid spending money on unnecessary items.

2. People often buy things on impulse without considering the cost or whether they really need them. If they wait 24 hours, they have time to consider these two questions, and they may not want to buy the items any more.

Unit 8, page 94

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. More than 31 percent of the people [in China will be over 60 by the year 2050].
2. [If the number of elderly continues to increase,] the elderly could eventually outnumber young people.
3. [China introduced the one-child policy] to stop China's burgeoning population from growing too fast.
4. [A "4-2-1 family" means that] for every one child, there are two parents and four grandparents to look after.
5. Many young adults who can afford it are beginning to transfer the responsibility of looking after their elderly relatives to private nursing homes.
6. The government [may need to help care for the elderly in the future].
7. [The government has] started a national lottery to raise money for elder care.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. They might have expected their children to take care of them. They may think their children are not honoring or respecting them. They might want to live with their children.
2. The child might need to work and might not have time to care for his or her parents or grandparents. It is expensive to care for so many people, and there are many responsibilities when someone cares for an elderly person.

Unit 9, page 106

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [Wetherell was at Loch Ness] because he had been hired by the *Daily Mail* to look for evidence of the Loch Ness Monster.
2. Four people [were involved in the Loch Ness hoax: Duke Wetherell, Ian and Christian Spurling, and Colonel Wilson].

3. [It was made believable] because Colonel Robert Kenneth Wilson, a respected London surgeon, said he had taken the photo.
4. [Wetherell and Wilson didn't admit to the hoax] because the story created so much publicity in 1933.
5. [Supposedly they had originally been found] by farmers after a Nazi plane crashed in a field in April 1945.
6. [Some skeptics questioned the authenticity of the story] because it was well known that Hitler didn't like to take notes.
7. [Kujau had made the diaries look real] by imitating Hitler's own handwriting.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. Both hoaxes were created by more than one person. Both hoaxes were reported in newspapers and magazines. Both hoaxes had good, but false, stories. Both hoaxes presented some fake evidence.
2. The Loch Ness Monster hoax was based on a photo, and the Hitler diaries were fake diaries. The two people who created the Hitler diaries got a lot of money from the hoax, but the people who created the Loch Ness Monster photo did not. The Hitler Diaries were soon discovered to be fake and the creators were sent to prison, but the Loch Ness Monster hoax lasted for 60 years, and the creators were not discovered and did not go to prison.

Unit 10, page 116

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [According to surveys, new technologies are] killing our leisure time.
2. [For many years people have assumed new technologies would] free them from the burdens of the workplace and give them more time to grow intellectually, creatively, and socially.
3. [In the past, after people left their offices] they were often completely disconnected from and out of touch with their jobs, and were off-duty once they were home.
4. [Employers] demand increased productivity, expecting workers to put in longer hours and to keep in touch almost constantly.
5. [College students are tied to their desks today] because faculty, friends, and other members of the college community increasingly do their work online.
6. [People expect] instant responses to voice mail and e-mail messages.
7. [He thinks that] people, as a society, are barely conscious of it.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. killing, stressed, destroying, bound, pressured, worry, difficult, stressful
2. free, grow, exploring, enjoying, boom times, liberate, benefits, opportunities, meaningful