Answer Key to Extra Reading Comprehension Activities

Unit 1, page 8

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [She first got interested in watching animals] during her childhood.
2. [He didn’t want someone with formal training] because prior knowledge would interfere with the person’s observations and conclusions.
3. Primatologists and anthropologists [study chimps and other primates.]
4. [She always kept bananas close by] because they let her get close to the chimps.
5. [Chimps eat] plants and meat.
6. [They help baby chimps whose parents are dead or missing] by adopting them.
7. [She is educating future generations about chimpanzees] with a program for schoolchildren to learn about wild animals and conservation of the environment.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers will vary. Possible answers:

1. It says that she was romantic, courageous, and adventurous.
2. It says that she was a strong person who didn’t give up easily and that she was very interested in observing the chimps.

Unit 2, page 22

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [The personality trait they both shared was that] they were both very stubborn.
2. [The reasons she gave were that] she had been on her feet all day and that her husband was calling her names and ordering her around.
3. [The wife proposed that] the one who spoke first had to get up and close the door.
4. [The husband and wife thought] the other person [should have stopped the thieves].
5. [The thieves mistook the husband and wife for wax figures] because they were silent and motionless.
6. [The thieves took] tables and chairs, paintings, carpets, and the couple’s jewelry, watches, and wallets.
7. [She meant that] if the policeman hit him, she would be very angry.
Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. yawned, snapped, shouted, replied, [thought, asked herself], cried, yelled
2. The words give the impression that the couple is loud, lazy, and argues a lot.

Unit 3, page 32

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [As a result of her childhood illness,) she lost her vision, hearing, and power of speech.
2. [She was able to achieve] university study, success as a writer, and worldwide recognition as a great humanitarian.
3. [She was able to communicate with her family] using signs she had invented to let them know what she wanted.
4. [The communication was one-sided] in that / because Keller could let her family know what she wanted, but they could not communicate with her [because she could not hear them].
5. [She became frustrated and behaved like “a wild, unruly child”) because she wanted to communicate in the same way as her family did but was unable to talk.
6. [The disability that Sullivan shared with Keller was that] she was partly blind herself.
7. [She was a humanitarian in that / because] she worked tirelessly for the blind and inspired many other disabled people to achieve similar accomplishments.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers will vary. Possible answers:

1. She means that she realized the letters “w-a-t-e-r” meant the water, and could understand what language was. She was very happy because she understood she could now learn to communicate with others using language. She still had a lot of work to do to learn the language and become more like other people, but she had hope.
2. She means that she doesn’t think about her disabilities and they don’t make her sad. Occasionally she wishes she could see and hear, but it’s not a strong feeling and it quickly goes away. She is content with her life.

Unit 4, page 46

Comprehension Questions
A.
1. [Her life seemed “picture perfect”) because she was a successful executive at a large corporation, and she lived in a beautiful, spacious home [with her husband, also a busy professional, and their two children].
2. [Her life was only picture perfect “on paper”) because she felt that she was unable to give either her job or her family the time they deserved; this made her very unhappy.
3. [She felt that] it no longer inspired her.
4. [Her family had to learn to spend less money] because she took a significant reduction in salary.
5. [She contributed to her community] by taking a job at a non-profit organization [and by being involved in her children’s school].
6. [A person should be just as careful with time as with his or her money] because one can always make more money, but time spent is gone forever.
7. [A person should refuse requests for his or her time] when he or she would rather spend time on something more important.

Critical Thinking Questions
B.
Answers may vary. Possible answers:
1. In the article, both “downsize” and “simplify” are used to mean getting control of one’s life by focusing on doing a few things well instead of stretching oneself too thin.
2. In the article, “values” is used to mean things a person wants to do in his or her life to make themselves happy.

Unit 5, page 56
Comprehension Questions
A.
1. [A phobia is] an exaggerated fear, usually unrelated to real dangers.
2. [It is believed that] about 10% of the population [has a phobia or strong anxiety].
3. [The physical reactions that people with a phobia experience are that] their heartbeat gets faster, their throat goes dry, and sweating increases.
4. [There are] hundreds [of officially recognized phobias].
5. [Someone who had to leave the bathroom if there was a spider in the sink might have] arachnophobia.
6. [People with phobias may feel] embarrassed or silly [but they are unable to make their fears go away.]
7. A person might try some relaxation techniques, such as meditation or deep breathing [to deal with the anxiety involved with a phobia].
Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. Someone who is afraid of being inside elevators or closets might have claustrophobia.
2. Nyctophobia is probably the most common phobia for young children to have.
3. Someone with aviophobia would probably rather drive or take a bus, train, or ship—or not travel at all.

Unit 6, page 68

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [Mr. White suggests that] a hotel employee [may have burglarized his room].
2. [According to White, the hotel finally questioned the employees only] because the Whites insisted that the hotel investigate.
3. [The hotel finally agreed to cover White’s entire loss] because Eliott [and his staff] intervened.
4. [Elliott suggests the safest place for valuables in a hotel is] the hotel manager’s safe.
5. Homeowner’s insurance [might pay for items stolen from a hotel room].
6. [A person can travel without a laptop and still be able to work on his or her home computer because] several online sites offer a service that allows a person to connect with his or her home or work computer remotely from any Internet-connected computer.
7. [According to Elliott, the only way to make sure valuables are not stolen is to] not let them out of one’s sight.

Unit 6, page 68

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. particularly devastating, only after we insisted, failed to provide my family with secure lodging, made absolutely no attempt to recover or replace over $12,000 worth of stolen property
2. Elliott appears to blame both the hotel and White. He says that he thinks the hotel owes White for his loss, but he also writes about the ways White could have avoided the burglary.

Unit 7, page 80

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [Cleaning up one’s workspace can] reduce the time one normally spends searching for mislaid files or a favorite pen.
2. [It is important to develop a pattern of behavior because studies show that] following a systematic routine can make it easier to devote one’s undivided attention to a task.

3. [One can use a list as a visual reminder to help one focus] because one writes down all the tasks one needs to accomplish that day and crosses off each item as one completes it.

4. [Challenging oneself makes it easier to focus] because it stimulates blood flow and activity in the brain.

5. [Besides telling others, a person can] close the door to one’s office or find an area where one can work without being interrupted.

6. [One can keep Internet news and incoming e-mail from being concentration killers] by making it a point to stay offline while working, or by setting aside certain times of the day for reading and replying to e-mail.

7. [You can take a breather without leaving your desk] by closing your eyes, relaxing your muscles, and breathing deeply.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. a disorganized workspace; lack of a routine; not being focused on goals and achievement; letting a boring task drag on forever; being interrupted by others; being interrupted by Internet news or e-mail; not taking enough breaks

2. Answers will vary.

Unit 8, page 92

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [According to the Superiority Theory, people laugh at the misfortunes and mistakes of others] because they make them feel superior.

2. [According to the Incongruity Theory, the incongruity of] the thought or emotion a person had as he or she was listening and the one that the punch line revealed at the end [makes a person laugh].

3. [According to the Relief Theory, humor is] the feeling of relief that comes from the removal of restraint.

4. [Two occasions when tension is high are] a roller-coaster ride and a rough airplane landing.

5. [People can laugh at their own past mistakes] because from the passage of time, they have become detached.

6. [In order to find something funny, a person must feel uninvolved] because, if the joke or situation is too familiar or realistic, it may evoke feelings of sadness and concern.

7. [By saying, “there is no universal joke,” the writer means that] a person might also need some knowledge of cultural, economic, political, and social issues in order to understand a joke.

Critical Thinking Questions
B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. People might laugh after a rough airplane landing because the landing made them very tense. They laugh to release the tension.
2. People might laugh because other people’s mistakes make them feel superior.
3. People might laugh at this because they know the cat is just a toy and they don’t expect the child to go to the vet—this is an incongruity.

Unit 9, page 106

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [The two goals of the GreenZone project are] to conserve resources by using only renewable energy sources to meet energy demands and to reduce energy consumption by 60-70% by using green technologies.
2. A geothermal system, solar collectors, and water pipes [help heat the car showroom building].
3. [The geothermal system] collects heat energy from within the Earth.
4. [The water pipe system] carries excess heat from one building to another.
5. Electricity from the national power company, electricity from a local wind generator, and [sunlight from] skylights [are used for lighting].
6. [The demand for fresh water is reduced by 90%] because rainwater is collected and used water is always filtered and reused.
7. [“Green filters“ are] living plants [that are] used to purify air that circulates in the ventilation system.

Critical Thinking Questions

B.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. They don’t usually have a good reputation when it comes to environmental issues.
2. They might want to join the GreenZone project because they want people to see them as committed to improving on environmental issues.

Unit 10, page 116

Comprehension Questions

A.

1. [The World Bank believes globalization has helped] reduce poverty in a large number of developing countries.
2. [According to advocates, farmers can benefit from globalization] by promoting their goods worldwide via the Internet.
3. [Critics of globalization believe] it is actually widening the gap between the rich and poor.

4. [According to a U.N.-sponsored organization’s study,) only a few developing countries have [actually] benefited [from globalization / integration into the world economy].

5. [According to the study,) the poor, the illiterate, unskilled workers, and indigenous peoples [have not benefited].

6. [Small businesses around the world might have to compete with] large-scale manufacturers or superstores like Wal-Mart [in the future].

7. [By “there is no turning back” after globalization, the writer means that] advances in technology, combined with more open policies have already created an interconnected world.

**Critical Thinking Questions**

B.

Answers will vary.