

1

Technonews and Skills



“CHANGE IS THE NORM”

(BILL GATES, *THE ROAD AHEAD*)

1 IN SHORT...

Warm up!

1. Choose and fill in!

- The official language of the Web is (French; English; Italian).
- The Web Jargon is a sort of used by Internet fans. (message; address; language).
- E-mail means (electronic mail; electric mail; elementary post).
- The word Internet means (interactive link; international web; interpersonal net).
- E-commerce is (buying and selling on the net; buying and selling everywhere; buying and selling abroad).

2. Match the two sets.

- | | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. TIA | ➤ | ➤ | a. As far as I know. |
| 2. AFAIK | ➤ | ➤ | b. For example. |
| 3. BTW | ➤ | ➤ | c. That's all for now. |
| 4. E.G. | ➤ | ➤ | d. Thanks in advance. |
| 5. FYI | ➤ | ➤ | e. In other words. |
| 6. I.E. | ➤ | ➤ | f. For your information. |
| 7. IMO | ➤ | ➤ | g. By the way. |
| 8. IOW | ➤ | ➤ | h. In my opinion. |
| 9. TAFN | ➤ | ➤ | i. Id est (in other words). |

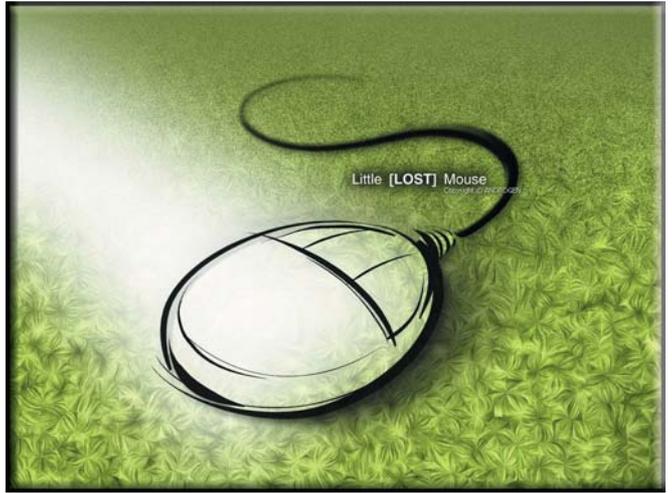


2 SMILEYS

OR...

EMOTICONS

Do you know how to express your **EMOTIONS** with little images? Use the symbols of the keyboard: they look like faces when you watch them from the side.



WRITE

1. Which sentence goes with each emoticon?

I'm very angry/unhappy; I'm happy; I wear glasses; I'm crying; I've got a long nose;
I'm sending you a kiss; I'm angry/unhappy; I have a moustache; I'm screaming;
I've got curly hair; I'm very surprised/I'm shouting.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. :-) | ..... | 7. 8-) | ..... |
| 2. :-( | ..... | 8. :-} | ..... |
| 3. >:-( | ..... | 9. :--) | ..... |
| 4. :-o | ..... | 10. §:-) | ..... |
| 5. :-@ | ..... | 11. :...(: | ..... |
| 6. :-* | ..... |  |  |

2. Do you know any other emoticons?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

3 WWW...

READ and WRITE

1. Match the questions below with some of the following answers.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Can your computer be connected to the Internet directly? | Answer ... |
| 2. Can you find everything you need in the Internet? | Answer ... |
| 3. Is the WWW the same as the Internet? | Answer ... |
| 4. Do you know what a modem is? | Answer ... |
| 5. Is searching the Internet time consuming? | Answer ... |



- a. No, it isn't. The World Wide Web is not the same as the Internet but it is part of it.
- b. No, it can't. Your computer doesn't connect you to the Internet unless you have a modem.
- c. Yes, it is. The www is a system of electronic documents; their name is websites.
- d. Yes, they are. The websites are linked together.
- e. No, I don't. I know only that a modem is a piece of equipment, and it works through the telephone line.
- f. Yes, it is. Your mouse is the way to move around quickly on the www.
- g. Yes, you can. I think you can find almost any type of information on websites.
- h. No, you can't. You cannot find the website you want unless you know its address.
- i. Yes, it is. It takes time. Looking for something on the Net is time consuming; that's why it is called 'surfing'. Sometimes you must look in quite a lot of different places to find what you want.
- j. Yes, that's right. When you find all you need you can print it out.
- k. Yes, you can. If there is some music you can listen to it.

2. Read again and write ok near what you already know.

4 UNWIRE

1. Add the missing words while listening.

advanced, mobile, technology, demanding, powerful, wireless, harmony, whole, cables, airport, online, battery

INTEL INSIDE CENTRINO MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

New Intel Centrino mobile is much more than just a new processor. It's a combination of several computer technologies, optimised to work in together. It makes a really new generation of sleeker, lighter laptops possible. Laptops based on the Intel Centrino technology have the computing power to run today's most applications. Intel's energy-saving breakthroughs enable extended life, so you can work and play longer. And with integrated LAN capability, you can get wherever there's a hotspot – home, office,, café. No or cards are necessary. So if you're looking for laptops that set you free, look for the Intel Centrino logo.



2. Now decide what the title 'Unwire' means.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Not connected with electric equipment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Without all necessary mechanical connections. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Connected with the electrical system. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Answer the questions.

- What is New Intel Centrino?
.....
- What are the characteristics of laptops working with NIC?
.....
- Where can you work?
.....

4. Read the advertisement again and match the words with their definitions.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. hotspot | ➤ | ⬅ | a. The main part of a computer that controls all the other parts. |
| 2. laptop | ➤ | ⬅ | b. With a regular and shiny surface. |
| 3. processor | ➤ | ⬅ | c. A small computer, a portable computer. |
| 4. cable | ➤ | ⬅ | d. Difficult and challenging. |
| 5. logo | ➤ | ⬅ | e. Local Area Network. |
| 6. wireless | ➤ | ⬅ | f. When you don't use much energy. |
| 7. breakthrough | ➤ | ⬅ | g. An important discovery that helps solve a problem. |
| 8. sleek | ➤ | ⬅ | h. With no wires. |
| 9. demanding | ➤ | ⬅ | i. A place where there is a lot of heat or a particular activity. |
| 10. energy-saving | ➤ | ⬅ | j. Thick and strong metal rope. |
| 11. LAN | ➤ | ⬅ | k. A small design that is the official sign of a company. |

Useful Phrases word site

On the phone

- Can I speak to ..., please? This is Mary
- Could I speak to ..., please?
- Mary speaking.
- Hang on/Could you hold on a moment, please?



NEXT STOP: THE FUTURE

1 SAY



SPEAK

1. Say 3 reasons why a computer is useful.

2. Say 3 reasons why a computer is useless.



2 A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Before reading

1. Answer the following questions.

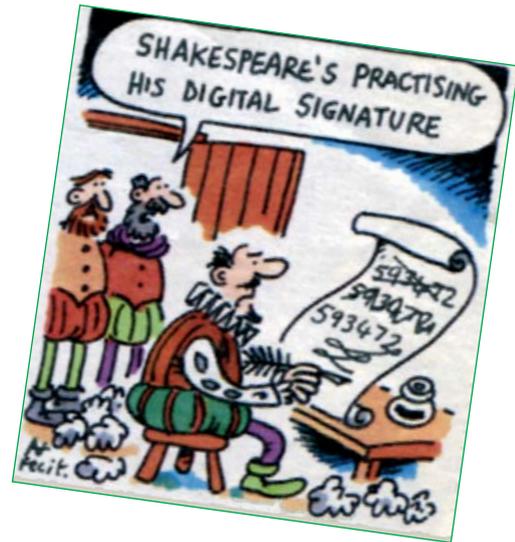
1. Sign here, please:
2. Is your signature legible or illegible?

READ



A digital signature is a set of coded numbers that helps to authenticate electronic documents. Think of it as a computer-friendly version of your own signature, but without the illegible twirls and squiggles. They are increasingly being used by banks and other important people to verify that senders are who they say they are. In most cases, the signature is also inextricably linked to the document itself, providing added protection. More information can be found at:

www.hipaadvisory.com/tech/DigitalSignature.htm



2. After reading, tick the right meaning.

1. Coded numbers means:
 - a. a set of secret numbers;
 - b. a set of numbers.
2. Computer-friendly means:
 - a. a friendly computer;
 - b. easy to use at the computer.
3. Illegible twirls and squiggles means:
 - a. sounds that you cannot understand;
 - b. irregular curves and lines that is impossible to read.
4. Inextricably linked means:
 - a. strictly connected;
 - b. not well connected.
5. Providing added information means:
 - a. giving extra protection;
 - b. adding extra information.

3 SPY STORY



Never!!!
They must never find it or I'm lost.

I know where you can hide it. Follow me downstairs in the cellar. You can put the memory pen behind the wine rows. There's a very little hole in there and no one can even imagine where it is.

All right. Let's do it quickly. And now, listen: when I'm gone, please remember not to use the telephone and don't try to contact me for any reason.

If I need to talk to you I may leave a photo under the bench near the fountain in the middle of Elm Tree Park. Go there every day at 7 am with your dog. I hope nobody's around at that time. If you find a picture of a red car it means that someone is following you, so be careful. If there's a picture of a house it means that I'm safe but if you see the photo of an animal it is the signal that I'm in danger and I'll try to contact you as soon as I can.



- DON'T ANSWER!!!

- Maybe Danielle is trying to talk to me! Maybe it's important!
- Don't touch the telephone. I'm sure it's them. You mustn't use the computer either. They can control your email with spyware or web bugs and they can spy any other movement on the Net with cookies. They know a lot about me and you, I'm afraid!

- No, Sara. It's too late now. A secret agent can never go back. Take care of yourself. I'm leaving from the backside door. There's a car waiting for me. I don't know if and when we can meet again. Good bye darling...



Michael, I'm scared. You're playing an awful game. It's too risky and dangerous for you, for the two of us. Give them the programme with the deciphering code and forget this story.



Good bye, Michael...



1. Decide which summary is correct.

A. Michael is at home with Sara, his girlfriend. They are leaving in a hurry because they are spies and are stealing a programme with the plans of a very secret weapon. The police are after them.

B. Michael and Sara are two spies for a foreign country. They're trying to steal a secret code whose data are in a memory pen, a tiny but powerful device.

C. Michael is a secret agent who wants to hide the information about a secret code in a memory pen, which has got a tiny but powerful programme. His life is at risk and he must flee away.

WRITE

2. Now give a title to the story.

3. How many answers can you give?

1. Where does Michael hide the memory pen?
.....
2. What does he ask Sara?
.....
3. How can she contact him?
.....
4. Where is the bench?
.....
5. What is the meaning of the third photo?
.....
6. Why can't Sara use the telephone?
.....
7. Why can't Sara use the computer?
.....
8. Why is Sara frightened?
.....
9. Where is Michael going?
.....
10. When can Michael and Sara meet again?
.....

The Web word site

Web bugs: Bugging devices called «.gif» (Graphical Interchange Format). They're invisible images which spread your private data.

Cookies: They're usually biscuits but on the Web they are a system to 'spy' your habits.

Score

- 1.** 9 out of 10 = you get a Listening Master for 1st level.
- 2.** 7 out of 10 = you are a good or very good listener = you get a Diploma for 1st level.
- 3.** 6 out of 10 = you can manage, even if with some problems = you get a Survival Kit for 1st level.
- 4.** 5 out of 10 = you're a 'border line' = you need 4 hours of Listening Tuition to reach 1st level.
- 5.** Below 5 out of 10 = you are in the 'red light area' = danger = you need to activate your Speaking + Listening Skills with 10 to 15 hours of Study & Tuition to reach the 1st level.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

1 THE WORLD OF WEB

Before reading

1. Answer these questions, please.

1. Have you ever used the Net?
2. Make a map of the things you think you can do on the Net.

READ

KILL YOUR SOCIAL LIFE WITH THE INTERNET

A study conducted by Stanford University found that even people who use the Internet for as little as five hours a week don't usually visit or talk to family and friends, and are at risk of isolating themselves from society. People who spent between five and ten hours a week online reported a 25 percent decrease in time talking on the phone or face to face. Sixty percent of the time was at the expense of watching television.

**WRITE**

2. Decide what the real content of the passage is. Tick the right summary.

1. People who spend more than five hours a day surfing the Net become less sociable.
2. People from the Stanford University study five hours a week.
3. People who spend time surfing the Net have fewer social relationships.

SPEAK

3. Do you agree with the passage?

1. Say how many hours you spend at the computer.
2. Say what you do. (Do you play? Do you surf? Do you write? Do you chat?, Do you write e-mails?)
3. Say if your social life has been reduced by computer rated activities.
4. If yes, which part of your social life? Family? Friends? Telephone conversations?

2 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BUY?

1. Read the following address and say if you recognise what it is about:
<http://adbusters.org/spoofads/fashion/nike>

2. Now read and check if you were right!

BUYING

Some products are now part of our life and culture. They are automatically considered as 'cool'. If you buy them your life can become perfect.

Adbusters are 'advertisements' that do the opposite. They copy the original advert but they change it slightly so that they show you the other side of the product. For example, the Tommy Hilfiger adbuster said, 'Follow the flock', meaning that people who bought his clothes were unoriginal and were like sheep.

SPEAK

3. Tell me.

1. When you buy something, do you want something:
 NEW?
 ORIGINAL?
 COOL?
 BEAUTIFUL?
 COMFORTABLE?
2. Are you in favour or against fashion?
3. Did you buy anything on the Net?
4. Do you know the name of the most important e-commerce site?



3 ADOPT A VIRTUAL PET

Before reading

1. Answer these questions, please.

1. Do you know what pets are?
2. Write the name of two or more pets.
3. Do you like pets?
4. Can you take one home?
5. If you already have a pet, would you like a new one?



READ

NEOPETS

Teenagers around the world are going wild for the new type of house pet that requires a lot of attention but that never leaves the computer screen. Called Neopets, these colourful animals can be adopted at www.neopets.com. 80 percent of visitors to this site are between 12 and 17 years old. They can play over 80 low-tech games to win the necessary points to feed and protect their animal friends. Founded in 1999, Neopets.com became one of the most popular entertainment sites on the Web with over 24 million registered users.

WRITE

2. Five questions.

1. What do you need if you want to adopt a neopet?
2. Who buys neopets?
3. How old is the Neopets Site?
4. Have you already adopted one?
5. If not, do you want to?

The Neologism word site

AI:	Artificial Intelligence.
A-list:	the most important people in a particular sector.
Blue Room:	toilette on an aeroplane.
E-free:	food without preservatives or artificial colours.
GMO:	Genetically Modified Organism.



4 FROM SHAKESPEARE WITH LOVE

Before reading

1. Do you know the difference between library and bookshop?

- The shop where you go and buy books is a
- The room or building which contains a lot of books that you can read or borrow is a

READ

VIRTUAL LIBRARY

Now, you can visit the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., where you can find the world's largest collection of Shakespeare's printed works, without leaving your home. The Library created a unique, interactive, multimedia website that allows visitors to select their interests and navigate tours as they prefer. The programme is divided into the three sections of "Treasures", "Quotations" and "Life", each of which are then subdivided into the "Seven Ages of Man" that Shakespeare described in *As You Like It*. You can take a look at the Shakespeare Gallery at the website: www.folger.edu.

WRITE

2. What is your reaction when you hear the name Shakespeare?

- I don't know much of him. Who was he exactly?
- I'm afraid our teacher will tell us to read something by Shakespeare, because he/she thinks he is important.
- Interesting, but... I think he is too difficult for me!
- I like him and I would like to know more.
- I love his works. I watched *Macbeth* at the cinema and I liked it!
- I've read *Romeo and Juliet*. A very sad story. I cried.

3. Some more questions.

- Do you know who Shakespeare was?
- Do you know when he lived?
- Do you know where he lived?
- Do you know what he wrote?
- Have you ever watched or read a work written by Shakespeare?
- If yes, what?
- What is your reaction when they suggest you should go to a library?
- Do you think a web-library can be more attractive than a real library?

4. THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN. Shakespeare divided a person's life in 7 parts. Here they are but in scrambled order. Write the right order.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| a. The adolescent or the lover | n. ... |
| b. The infant | n. ... |
| c. The dead man | n. ... |
| d. The young man or the soldier | n. ... |
| e. The mature man | n. ... |
| f. The schoolboy | n. ... |
| g. The old man | n. ... |



READ

5. Read the modern American version of the Seven Ages of Man:

"In America... the Seven Ages of Man have become preschooler, Pepsi generation, baby boomer, mid-lifer, empty nester, senior citizen and organ donor".

(Bill Cosby, *Time Flies*)

WRITE

6. Now define the age of...

1. a preschooler: from to
2. the Pepsi generation: from to
3. a baby boomer: from to
4. a mid-lifer: from to
5. an empty nester: from to
6. a senior citizen: from to
7. an organ donor: from to

5 LOVE IN WWW

Before reading

1. Tell me.

1. Where did you meet your boyfriend/girlfriend?
2. What did you do to attract his/her attention?

READ

E-MALES AND E-FEMALES FOUND LOVE

Shy people welcome on-line love. It doesn't matter the way you are dressed or if you have your hair done. At the beginning of the new century you don't need an excuse to talk to a woman or to attract men's attention. Now you can meet people 24-7, which means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. American teen Tanya Malloy met 'Jimmy' in a chatroom when she was only 13. She said she was 23 years old. When they met, a few months later, 'Jimmy' attacked Tanya because he was a sex offender. That was a really bad experience and, after that episode, Tanya became much more cautious. But what do British teens think of cyberlove?

Andy

I think that the Internet is a good way of getting to know the person before you meet her to go on a date. However I prefer the phone to e-mails.

Nancy

I don't like going for online love but my sister did. It was really a drama. She e-mailed him, then phoned him, then ran off with him! And they are still together after a year.

Patricia

I'm really scared of on-line dating boys. Anyway, I'd want to go out with the person and get to know him by talking. I think I could meet a real bore when I think of dating on-line.

Willy

I know quite a few girls but if you are shy or live in an area where you don't know many girls, e-mail dating can be a good idea. You can just flirt a bit, you don't have to marry them!

You

.....

.....



Useful Phrases **word site**

Face to face meetings

- Positive comments: That's great!
That's wonderful news! Well done!
- Negative comments: Poor you! I'm so sorry.
Is there anything I can do for you?

2. After reading comments.

What is your opinion?

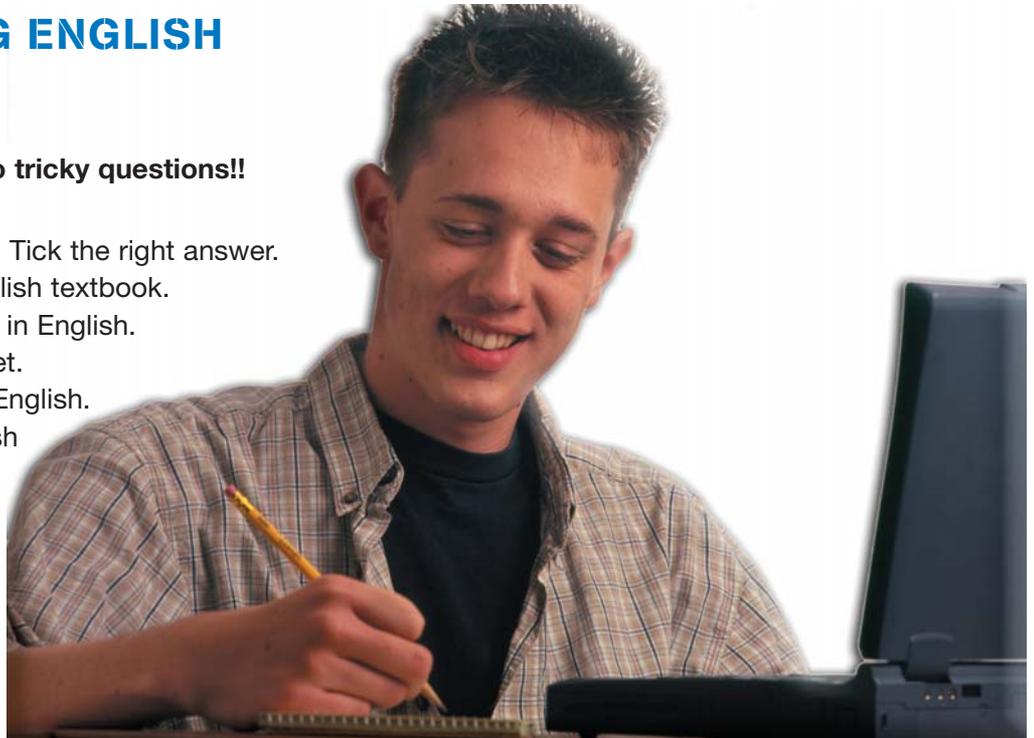
1. Do you think Tanya did well when she lied on her age and dated an unknown boy?
2. Have you ever lied on your age?
3. Who of the British teenagers do you agree with?

6 LEARNING ENGLISH

Before reading

1. Honest answers to tricky questions!!

1. Do you like English?
2. How do you learn it? Tick the right answer.
 - Studying your English textbook.
 - Listening to music in English.
 - Chatting on the Net.
 - Watching films in English.
 - Speaking to English speaking friends.
 - You don't learn it because you don't do anything at all.



READ

THE BEST WEBSITES FOR LEARNING ENGLISH

Here you can find an extra help to improve your English.

The Tower of English

www.towerofenglish.com

The Tower of English is a free site fun designed to help you find the best places on the Internet to practice real English. There are about 300 and interesting websites in about 34 different categories, including animals, quizzes, games lifestyles, mysteries and many others.

English Space

www.englishspace.com

English Space is a free online English language course. Teachers organise groups of students, monitor their progress and give feedback. There are over 60 hours of interactive lesson materials for working on your own or group work as well

as puzzles, games, exercises and projects to help you practise your English Skills (it means your abilities in English). When you join, you become part of a global community, so you'll be able to make new friends all over the world.

My Language Exchange

www.mylanguageexchange.com

This website helps you find a real English speaker with whom you can practise your English! The language exchange happens when two or more people who speak different languages practise each other language in turns. An English speaker who is learning Italian, for example, maybe wants to do a language exchange with an Italian speaker who is learning English. This is a wonderful way to learn real spoken English with all its informal expressions and slang.

WRITE**2. In my opinion...**

I think that the best site is
 because

 especially if you want to improve your
 vocabulary. On the other hand, if you want to
 become
 you can
 because you can meet many people. I like the
 idea of exchanging

 because.....

 All in all, however, my ideal site to improve my
 English is

3. Find 3 good reasons to study English and 3 good reasons not to study English.

4. Find 1 more reason. It is in favour or against English?

5. Collect the previous sentences and write your conclusions. Choose the linkers you need: AND, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN FACT, HOWEVER, OR, EVEN IF, ALSO IF, IN SPITE OF.

Useful Phrases word site**Letters**

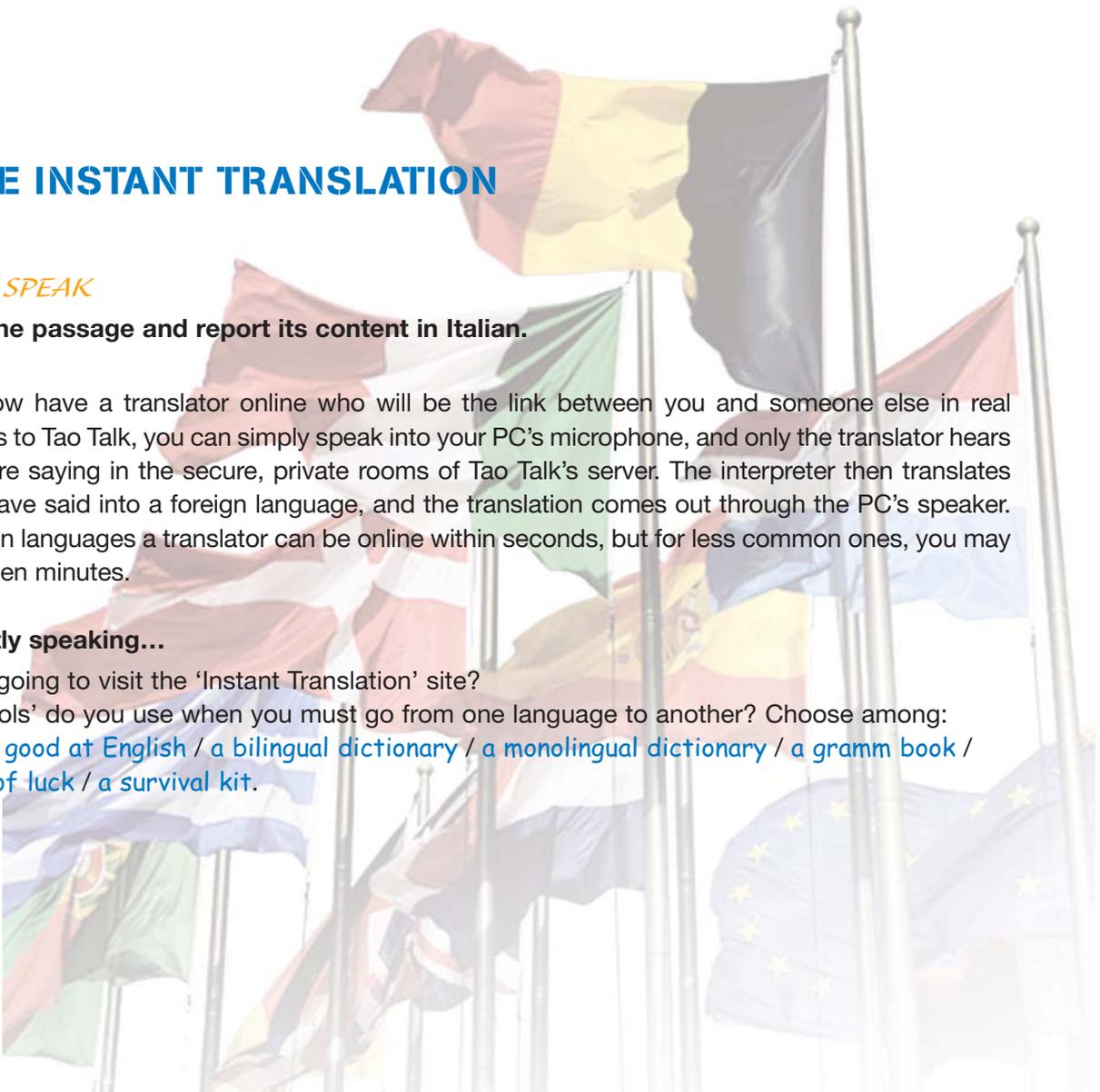
- **Informal:** Dear ...
Love from - All the best ... - Lots of love
- **Formal:** Dear Mr/Mrs/Sir/Madam...
Yours faithfully - Yours sincerely

7 THE INSTANT TRANSLATION**READ and SPEAK****1. Read the passage and report its content in Italian.**

You can now have a translator online who will be the link between you and someone else in real time. Thanks to Tao Talk, you can simply speak into your PC's microphone, and only the translator hears what you are saying in the secure, private rooms of Tao Talk's server. The interpreter then translates what you have said into a foreign language, and the translation comes out through the PC's speaker. For common languages a translator can be online within seconds, but for less common ones, you may take up to ten minutes.

2. Honestly speaking...

1. Are you going to visit the 'Instant Translation' site?
2. What 'tools' do you use when you must go from one language to another? Choose among:
 a friend good at English / a bilingual dictionary / a monolingual dictionary / a grammar book / a pinch of luck / a survival kit.





HI, HI, HI... HI-TECH!

1 THE AGE OF SPIRITUAL MACHINES

Before reading

1. Answer the questions, please.

- List three differences between a human being and a machine.
- In your opinion can machines be as intelligent as men?
- Which 'intelligent' machines do already exist?

READ

by Ray Kurzweil

The following lines come from an interview to a well known computer innovator, Ray Kurzweil who wrote a book called *The Age of Spiritual Machines*: "I believe that our society will produce more and more complex problems. Men won't be able to solve them and they will let machines make many decisions for them. In a near future computers will become so intelligent that they will get the effective control of the world. And it will be impossible simply to switch the machines off, because they will be independent from human beings while people, on the other hand, will depend on them completely".

WRITE

2. Choose the correct summary.

- The passage refers to an interview with a famous writer who thinks that in the future computers will be as intelligent as human beings. He thinks this is a positive fact.
- The passage is about an interview with a scientist who is convinced that maybe in the future machines will be able to solve complex problems and people will take a great advantage from that.
- Ray Kurzweil, who is both a scientist and a writer, gave an interview in which he explained his fear that in a near future machines will overwhelm human beings.



2 CORDLESS FREEDOM

READ

1. Watch and read the advertisement and say which product is advertised.

NEW!

Cordless Desktop MX

With the Cordless Desktop MX from Logitech we will work and play when and where we want. No cords, no untidy mess, and a mouse with an optical engine that works on almost any surface. Getting out of bed has become much more difficult.

- Ultra-flat, stylish and comfortable design.
- Innovative expert controls on keyboard and mouse are going to simplify everything you do.
- Revolutionary rapid mouse charger needs only 10 minutes charge per day.

It will work for weeks on a single full charge.

www.logitech.com



2. Answer the questions, please.

1. What do you see in the advert picture?
2. What are the boy and the girl doing?
Are they playing or working?
3. How do you know?

3. Advantages. Explain in your own words which advantages this new cordless desktop has.

3 EXPERIENCE@BRISTOL.COM

READ

If you are looking for a unique approach to science, nature and art @Bristol is what you need. It uses the latest technology and creative ideas to let you see and experience the world. This really magical learning and free-time destination includes two new attractions.

1. Explore@Bristol

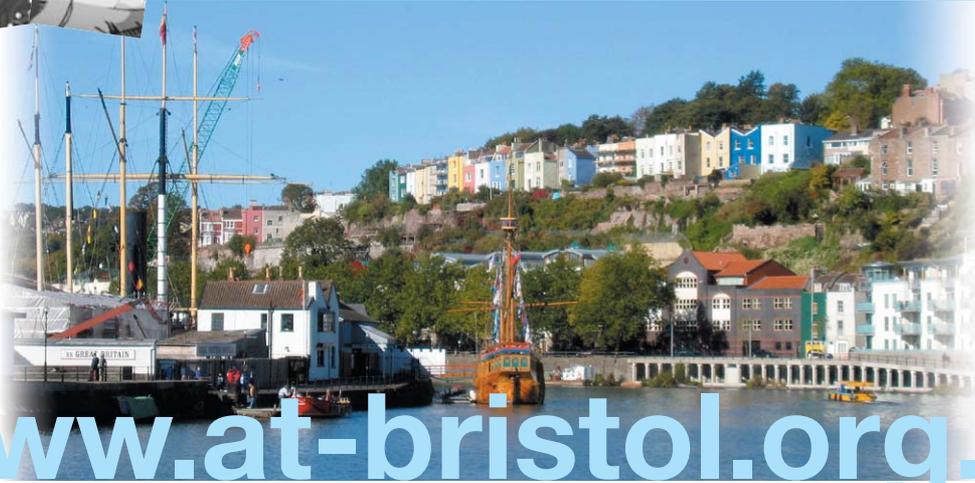
Enables visitors to discover and experience science in a totally new way. The exhibitions use some of the very late multimedia techniques to involve the visitor personally:

Your Amazing Brain: investigate your brain and test yourself while exploring your emotions and mental activities.

Curiosity Zone: create a sense of excitement and adventure by investigating the forces of nature. You will literally walk into a two-metre tornado simulation.

2. Wildscreen@Bristol

Will bring visitors face to face with extraordinary aspects of the natural world. It is a unique wildlife and multimedia attraction, part zoo, part science centre. Wildscreen will give visitors the opportunity to observe and explore the world's wildlife in ways which will change their ideas of the natural world. Small animals and plants are combined with on-demand video, 'magic' observatories, sound and interactive exhibits.



www.at-bristol.org.uk

WRITE

1. Read again the passage and write which particular aspects of Bristol you can 'experience'.

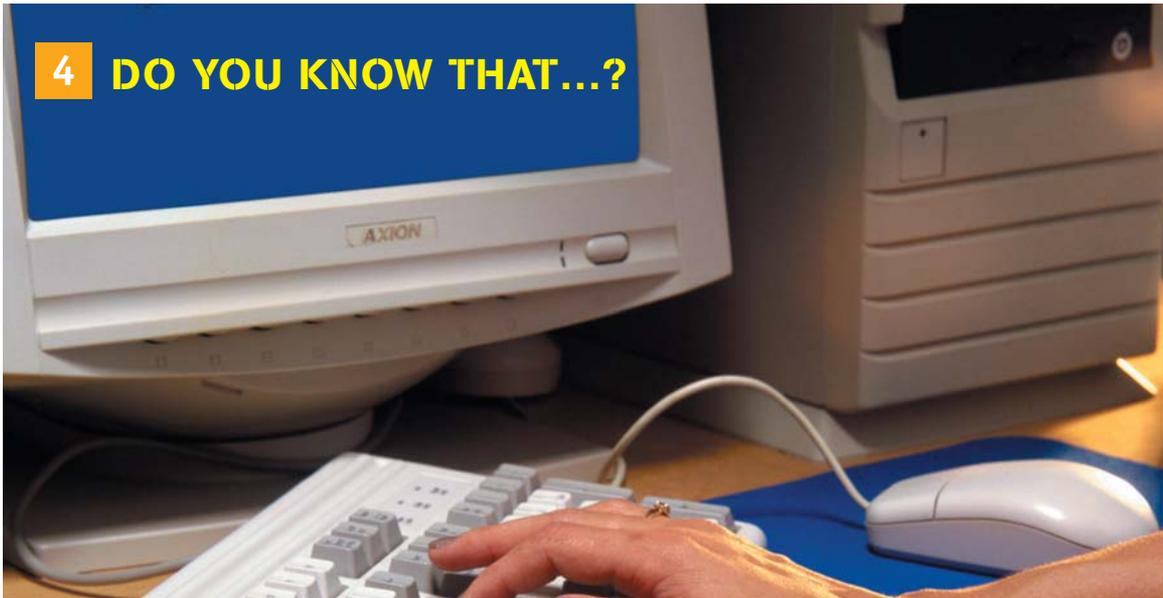
2. Find the Internet address where people can find information about your town in general or about peculiar aspects of it.

3. Choose.

1. Choose the attraction you prefer.
2. Write no more than 10 words to explain why.

4. Do you know any other similar sites in Italian? If yes, please write its/their address.

4 DO YOU KNOW THAT...?



1. Fill in the gaps with the words given.

every – send – rules – have – chatting – visual – select – music – most – texts – world – address

1. Netiquette defines a few of good conduct when you communicate on the Net.
2. By you can participate in live conversations, including, audio and videos.
3. The symbol you use on e-mail address is called "at".
4. The book is where you can store your e-mail addresses.
5. Your class can a real-time conversation with other classes across the
6. IRC means Internet Relay Chat and it helps you a channel to talk in real time with people from far away countries.
7. You can create your own channel and chat with people in places.
8. The interaction is called videoconference.
9. You can give voice to an e-mail and your voice and even to friends all over the world.

5 TRAVEL INSURANCE ON THE NET

Before reading

1. What is a travel insurance?

It is a document in which an arrangement with a company is written. You pay them money and they pay the costs if something bad happens to you when:

- A. you travel.
- B. you are at home.

READ

ARE YOU GOING ABROAD ON A STUDY TRIP IN THE NEAR FUTURE? GLOBY STUDENT SPECIALISES IN INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS AND IT'S AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET. YOU CAN CONSULT THE www.globy.it SITE AND YOU WILL GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE TYPE OF POLICY YOU WANT. YOU CAN CHOOSE AMONG HEALTH, ACCIDENT, AND OTHER TYPES. THE SITE WILL ALSO LET YOU KNOW WHICH IS THE TRAVEL AGENCY NEAREST YOU. GLOBY ALSO OPERATES A 24 HOUR-A-DAY INFORMATION SERVICE WHERE YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT VARIOUS STUDY PROGRAMMES, TRANSPORT, (TRAINS AIRFARES, CAR RENTALS) AND HOTELS.

THE SECURE STUDY SERVICE INCLUDES A 24-HOUR MEDICAL CONSULTANCY AND TRANSPORT TO THE HOSPITAL CAN ALSO BE ARRANGED. THE POLICY COVERS MEDICAL EXPENSES OF UP TO EURO 1,500 IN ITALY, EURO 10,000 IN EUROPE AND EURO 20,000 FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.

2. Match questions and answers.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Which service gives you medical help if you are on a study trip? | ➤ | ➤ | a. You can have a 24-hour information service. |
| 2. What is Globy Student? | ➤ | ➤ | b. It is about euro 1,500. |
| 3. What is the cost of the policy in Italy? | ➤ | ➤ | c. It's a travel insurance for students. |
| 4. What information does Globy Student give you? | ➤ | ➤ | d. The Secure Study service. |

3. Write in Italian the information given in the article above.



6 WEB TEST

READ and WRITE

1. Do the following test and you'll find out some interesting aspects of your personality.

1. Do you usually connect from...?

- A) home
- B) school
- C) your friends' house or your cellphone
- D) an Internet café

2. Which browser do you use?

- A) Internet Explorer
- B) Netscape
- C) Opera
- D) Don't know

3. How many e-mails do you write every day?

- A) From 1 to 5
- B) An awful lot
- C) A lot, but not too many
- D) Just a few, you still prefer writing letters

4. What kind of e-mail do you usually send?

- A) Serious and linked to your work
- B) With jokes and funny things
- C) With requests of information
- D) Of the loving type

5. Which sites do you preferably visit?

- A) The ones which contain practical information
- B) The amusing ones
- C) The ones about tourism and journeys
- D) The ones which deal with culture and news

6. Which Internet services have you already used?

- A) Games on the Net
- B) Chats and meetings
- C) Trading online
- D) Music downloading

If you have scored a **majority of A**: you are
THE STAY-AT-HOME TYPE.

You do not like adventures but love quiet holidays, better if not far from home. You enjoy lying on the beach sitting on a comfortable deck-chair, or reading a good book in a country cottage.

If you have scored a **majority of B**: you are
THE FUN-LOVING TYPE.

You like places full of people like Ibiza or Santorini. You don't know much about life in the daylight because you live at night. You may sometimes play beachvolley or a water-sport in the afternoon making sure people are watching you.

If you have scored a **majority of C**: you are
THE DARING TYPE.

You are a free spirit and you like exciting or even dangerous journeys. You can't stand predictable situations and package tours to tourist spots. What you want is a few nights under the starry sky and a rucksack.

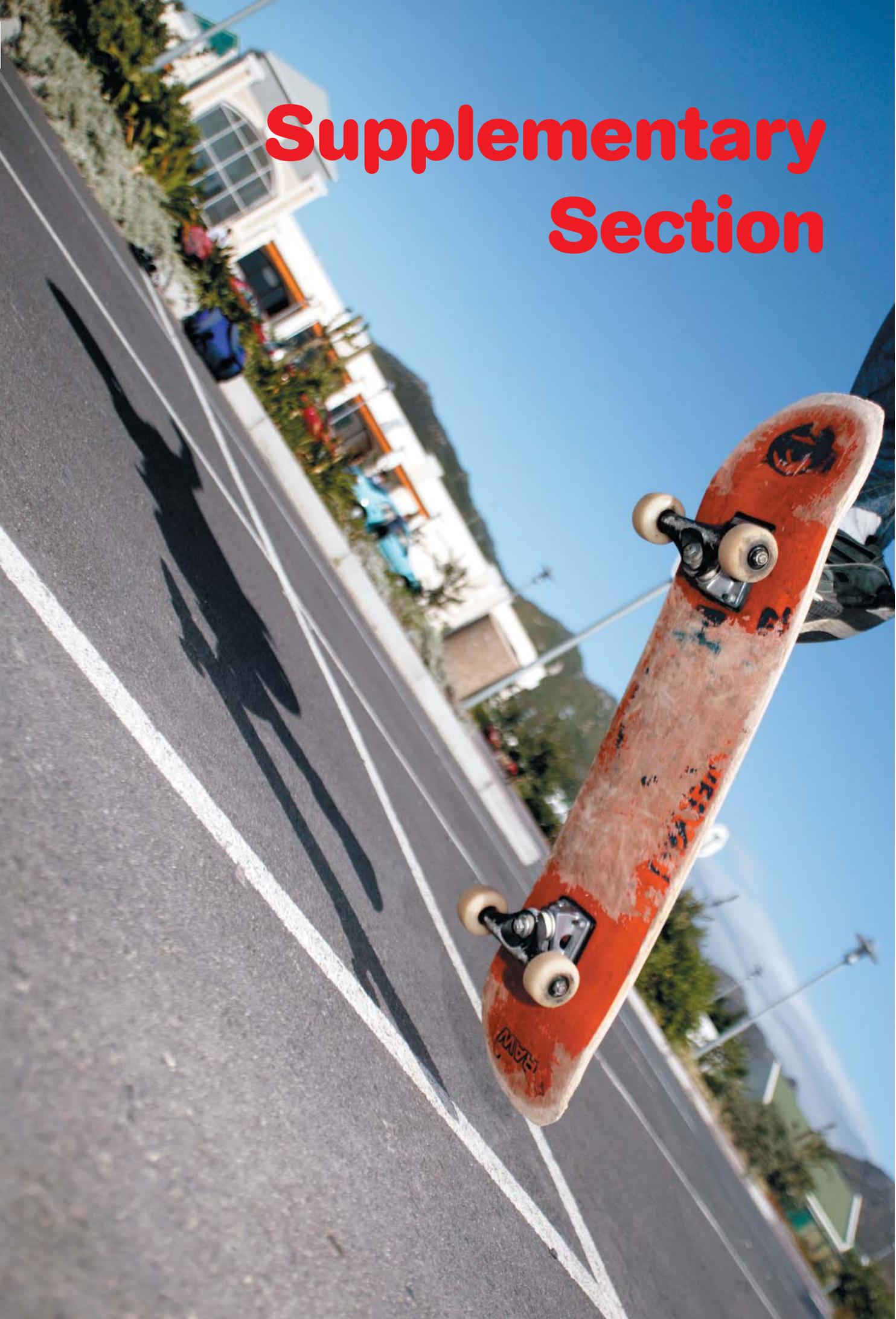
If you have scored a **majority of D**: you are
THE ENVIRONMENT LOVER.

You enjoy walking in the open air and need a deep contact with nature. You like talking with good friends and reading a good book – maybe while drinking a glass of red wine. You do not like many people around and prefer trendy, quiet places. It does not matter where.

2. So you are a Is it true?

3. If you disagree with the test result invent a new type. Describe what type you are and what your ideal holiday is by 'stealing' the words you need from the previous descriptions.

Supplementary Section





1

Report from Johannesburg

Read the text then answer the questions below.

Swanky Khanyile stays with his wife and two young daughters from Pimville, a section of the huge Black township of Soweto, outside Johannesburg. He is 33 and has been working for four years as a machine operator in a plastics factory in Johannesburg. Swanky would not reveal his salary, except to say that “it is too little... but it is not the same as staying at home.” The salary, paid to him on a weekly basis, does not allow him to buy one of the cheapest houses for sale in the township, so he lives in a room built in his parents’ backyard. Swanky dropped out to school because he could not pass his matriculation exam, which is usually taken at the age of 18 or 19. He blames the lack of school facilities for his failure: “We never had enough teachers. It was so frustrating.” After leaving school, Swanky was lucky enough to find a job. He tried to pursue his studies at night school, but only a few months after beginning his job, he was placed on a night shift. That put an end to studying.

1. Where does the scene take place?

- a. In America.
- b. In Africa.
- c. In Asia.

2. Where does he live with his family?

- a. In a huge house.
- b. In a hotel.
- c. With his parents.

3. Did he go to school for a long time?

- a. Yes, he passed a degree to become a doctor.
- b. No, he didn’t like school.
- c. No, his job prevented him from studying at school.

2

A letter

Read the text then answer the questions below.

Dear Isabelle,

If you look at a map of my country, you will find English names like London or Windsor, French names like Trois Rivières or Indian names like Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Winnipeg. Strange, isn't it? Let me tell you more about my country. But you know its name, don't you? It's Canada, of course and I'm Canadian.

The history of my country is longer than that of the United States: a Viking, Leif Erikson, 'discovered' Canada in 986.

That was a long time before Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. The explorers Jacques Cartier and Champlain were French, and that is why they called the country New France. But there were more English people than French people in Canada and it became an English colony in 1763.

After many wars Canada became independent in 1867. As you know, Canadian soldiers came to help France and England against Germany in 1917 and 1944.

Canada is larger than the United States, did you know that? Its area is about ten million square kilometres, that is eighteen times as big as France and forty times as big as the United Kingdom but only twenty-five million people live there.

If you look at a map, you can see Canada is near Alaska. As you can imagine, it is very cold in winter but it is also very hot in summer.

Only six million of us speak French, in Quebec. But the French say we have a funny accent and use funny words. But you know, we are neither English nor French. We are Americans, North Americans, well Canadian, but we are not far from the USA. We use dollars, Canadian dollars of course, and there are no frontiers between our country and the United States.

So, if you go to North America one day, don't forget to visit Canada.

Love from your friend,
Marie

1. Where does Marie live?

- a. In India.
- b. In England.
- c. In Canada.

2. Who 'discovered' this country?

- a. Leif Erikson.
- b. Christopher Columbus.
- c. Jacques Cartier.

3. This country is...

- a. as big as France.
- b. bigger than France.
- c. smaller than France.

4. When did this country become independent?

- a. 1492.
- b. 1867.
- c. 1944.



3

Works stops in Ireland to watch eclipse

Read the text then answer the questions below.

Thursday, August 12th 1999. Thousands of Irish eclipse-watchers joined sky-gazers around the world yesterday in viewing the last great solar spectacular of the millennium. The world didn't come to an end but work stopped temporarily, as people flooded out of homes and offices to witness the moon eclipse the sun. Temperatures dropped by up to 2° Celsius in Ireland and the sky noticeably darkened.

Shortly after 11 am, cars stopped, telephones were left unanswered and people looked to the heavens. In five minutes, electricity demand fell by 3.5 per cent. Despite all the warnings, people did look

directly at the sun, using devices ranging from eclipse sunglasses to the back of their hands. Dublin's Eye and Ear Hospital received up to 40 phone calls last night from people fearful that damage may have been caused to their eyes. At least five people were examined, two of whom are to return today for further tests. However, no major injuries have been identified, said Professor Louis Collum, adding that anyone with any visual symptoms should contact their GP or eye doctor. A total eclipse occurs somewhere in the world about every 18 months. The next total eclipse to pass over Ireland will be in 2090, and over Dublin in 2600.

1. When was the article published?

- a. In the early fifties.
- b. Thirty years ago.
- c. A few years ago.

2. Where did the scene take place?

- a. In Ireland.
- b. In Japan.
- c. In France.

3. What happened?

- a. An earthquake.
- b. An eclipse.
- c. A big fire.

4. No-one watched it.

- a. True.
- b. False.

5. Temperatures...

- a. increased.
- b. decreased.

6. It happened in the evening.

- a. True.
- b. False.

7. A total eclipse occurs:

- a. every eighteen months.
- b. every five months.
- c. every thirty months.

8. When will the next eclipse occur in Dublin?

- a. In 2020.
- b. In 2320.
- c. In 2600.

4

Facts about Halloween

Read the text twice and choose the suitable word among those given below to fill in the gaps. Then answer the questions below.

believed, candles, celebration, deceased, evidence, harvest, jack-o-lanterns, pumpkin, settlers, spirits, sundown, carve

The origin of Halloween dates back at least 3,000 years to the Celtic of Samhain. The festival was held starting at sundown on October 31st and lasted until on November 1st. It was similar to the modern practice of the New Year's celebration.

On this magical night, glowing, carved from turnips or gourds, were set on porches and in windows to welcome loved ones, but also to act as a protection against malevolent Burning lumps of coal were used inside as a source of light, later to be replaced by Samhain was not the name of a "Lord of the Dead", no historical has ever been found to back this up, it was simply

the name of the festival and meant "Summer's End". It was that the souls of the dead were closest to this world and was the best time to contact them to say good-bye or ask for assistance. It was also a celebration of the It is still treated as such today by those who practice Wicca or other nature based religions. It has absolutely nothing to do with Satan, who was a creation of the Christian church.

When European, particularly the Irish, arrived in America they found the native to be larger, easier to and seemed the perfect choice for jack-o-lanterns. Halloween didn't really catch on big in the USA until the late 1800's and has been celebrated in many ways ever since!

Now answer the questions.

1. Why is Halloween so popular in the United States?
2. What do you think about this ancient Celtic cult?
3. Which habit do children have on the 31st October night?
4. Do you know which is the phrase they say to people?



5

The Bermuda Triangle

Read the text then answer the questions below.

At 2 pm on 5th December 1945, five US bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale in the USA for a training flight in perfect weather. Shortly afterwards, the pilots radioed that their flight instruments were all malfunctioning. Two hours after take-off, all contact with the planes was lost. A reconnaissance plane was immediately dispatched to search for the missing planes. Within 20 minutes, radio contact with it had also been lost. No trace of any of the planes was ever found. In all, six planes and 27 men had vanished into the air.

The disappearance of the six planes was far from being the first mysterious incident in the area: for years, navigational problems and strange magnetic forces had been reported. The disappearance was not even the greatest disaster within the triangle.

The Cyclops, a 19,000-ton US ship was sailing from Barbados to Norfolk, Virginia, in March 1918, when it vanished with its crew of 309 from the surface of the ocean without making



a distress call and without the slightest wreckage ever being found.

The losses of boats and planes in that area defy explanation. The disasters are the origin of a new phrase in the English language – the Bermuda Triangle – and this phrase has entered legend. The Bermuda Triangle has been called the 'Devils' Triangle', the 'Triangle of Death', the 'Graveyard of the Atlantic'. It has swallowed up 140 ships and planes and more than 1,000 people. Today many airmen and sailors are still afraid of that area of the Atlantic Ocean.

1. Where was Fort Lauderdale located?

- a. In Great Britain.
- b. In Ireland.
- c. In the USA.

2. It was the first incident in this area.

- a. True.
- b. False.

3. What was *The Cyclops*?

- a. A big monster.
- b. An alien.
- c. A big ship.

4. The ship was found in 1985.

- a. True.
- b. False.

5. What is the other name of the Bermuda Triangle?

- a. The Devil's Area.
- b. The Sea Graveyard.
- c. The Triangle of Death.

6. How many people have disappeared?

- a. About one hundred.
- b. More than one thousand.
- c. About one million.

7. This legend is over. Nobody believes it anymore.

- a. True.
- b. False.

6

Saying "no" to bullies!

Read the text then answer the questions below.

Bullying is when someone continually insults or hurts you. Many young people are bullied at school. But there are some positive ways to solve the problem.

Tom Cruise, Peter Andre, and Michelle Pfeiffer have something in common: they were all bullied at school. These stars prove that bullying does not necessarily stop you from being successful, says *Kidscape*, a children's organisation in Britain.

Kidscape has some original ways of stopping bullies. The "bully box", for example, is a box in school where students put notes about bullying. The important thing is to tell an adult about the bully. Teachers usually learn how to recognise when a kid is being bullied, but sometimes schools can't solve the problem.

In a recent case in Britain, the police arrested a 16-year-old girl for bullying a 12-year-old girl. The younger girl's mother said the school hadn't solved the problem, which had become very



serious. So she went to the police. Most bullies are stopped by the school or by the kids themselves.

At the Martial Arts for Peace association in America, Dr Terence Webster-Doyle suggests discussing the problem openly with the bully. Dr Webster-Doyle teaches martial arts for self-defence, not for fighting. He says that if you know you can defend yourself, "you are not afraid of the other person".

1. What do Tom Cruise and Michelle Pfeiffer have in common?

- a. They were very bad at school.
- b. They didn't go to school.
- c. They both had problems with other pupils.

2. What are bullies?

- a. Pupils who harass other pupils.
- b. People who fight against violence at school.
- c. A children's organisation in Britain.

3. What does Dr Webster-Doyle recommend?

- a. Making friends with bullies.
- b. Fighting as soon as there is a problem.
- c. Learning martial arts for self-defence.



7

Danger in the fields

Read the text then answer the questions below.

MINES ARE PERHAPS THE MOST TERRIBLE WEAPONS OF MODERN WARS BECAUSE THEY KILL SOLDIERS DURING WARTIME AND BECAUSE THEY CAN KILL OR INJURE INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN PEACETIME.

WHEN THE WAR IN BOSNIA ENDED IN 1996, PEOPLE WERE HAPPY BUT THEY KNEW THEY WERE STILL IN DANGER SINCE THERE WERE ABOUT SIX MILLION MINES HIDDEN IN EX-YUGOSLAVIA. A LOT OF THESE MINES HAVE NOW BEEN FOUND AND REMOVED; BUT DOING THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS. A PERSON MAY BE WALKING ALONG A PATH THROUGH THE FIELDS, AND SUDDENLY, THE GROUND EXPLODES UNDER HIS FEET.

SOMETIMES MINES ARE FOUND BY CHANCE BY YOUNG

CHILDREN, WHO START PLAYING WITH THEM AS IF THEY WERE TOYS. THE CONSEQUENCES CAN BE FATAL.

MINE CLEARING IS ONE OF THE JOBS THAT THE BRITISH SOLDIERS OF THE UN ARE DOING IN BOSNIA.

THE SOLDIERS ALSO VISIT SCHOOLS TO SHOW MINES TO CHILDREN AND WARN THEM ABOUT THE DANGERS, WHICH WILL CONTINUE FOR YEARS.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TOOK PLACE IN AUTUMN 1997, BUT SOME COUNTRIES, LIKE THE USA AND CHINA, REFUSED TO SIGN IT.

EVERY DAY, EVERY MINUTE, A PERSON GETS KILLED OR INJURED BY A MINE IN EUROPE, AFRICA OR ASIA.

1. What is the text about?

- a. Land mines.
- b. Computers.
- c. Cars.

2. What is a "land mine"?

- a. It is a mine which uses toxic chemicals.
- b. It is a mine which destroys towns.
- c. It is a mine which explodes when someone walks on it.

3. Why are mines "the most terrible weapons"?

- a. Because they cost a lost of money.
- b. Because they are nuclear bombs.
- c. Because they kill soldiers and civilians.

4. How many people are killed or injured every hour in the world?

- a. About 10.
- b. About 60.
- c. About 1.

5 The USA and China:

- a. have never used mines.
- b. have banned mines.
- c. continue to use mines.

6. 'UN' stands for "Universal Nature".

- a. True.
- b. False.

7. Land mines can only kill people during wartime.

- a. True.
- b. False.

8

Youth crime

Read the text then answer the questions below.

Until two years ago, Clearing, Illinois was a tranquil suburb of Chicago. But the residents grew alarmed when they noticed armed teenagers on the streets, giving gang signals and shouting at passing cars. Then came a series of burglaries and graffiti messages on storefronts. By the time local authorities realized they had a gang problem, it was too late. Last December, two 13-year-old girls were shot outside their school as they sat in a car with two members of a local gang, the *Ridgeway Lords*.

Nearly all fifty states have recently passed laws that allow youths aged 14-17 to be tried in court, as adults. In about 25 states they have passed laws to punish parents for their children's behaviour. And in 146 of the nation's largest cities, they have imposed curfews to reduce juvenile violence. When you look at the spectacular rise of

violent crime among young people recently, it's easy to understand the concern. Over the past decade, there has been a decline in adult murders in the US, while murder rates have surged for youths between 14-17.

For young offenders who aren't sent to prison, the punishments vary: some are ordered to perform community service, others are placed in job training programs, still others sent to youth prisons.

But the Republicans in Congress want to reverse a basic principle of juvenile justice: the separation of young criminals from hardened adult criminals in prison.

The reasons are partly financial - to reduce the cost of having separate prisons for young people - and partly psychological - to end what Republicans consider as society's highly protective attitude towards young criminals.

1. What happened in Clearing?

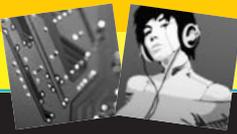
- a. A policeman shot a young man.
- b. Two girls were killed because they were with two members of another gang.
- c. Criminality decreased.

2. There is an increase in:

- a. the number of crimes done by young people.
- b. the number of crimes done by adults.
- c. the number of prisons.

3. What would the Republicans like to do?

- a. They would like to separate young criminals from adult criminals.
- b. They would like to put young criminals into prisons for adults.
- c. They would like to ban youth prisons.



9

December 5th, 1955, Montgomery, Alabama

Read the text then answer the questions below.

THIS IS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 1955

ANOTHER NEGRO WOMAN HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND THROWN INTO JAIL BECAUSE SHE REFUSED TO GET UP OUT OF HER SEAT ON THE BUS AND GIVE IT TO A WHITE PERSON. THIS WOMAN'S CASE WILL COME UP MONDAY. WE ARE, THEREFORE, ASKING EVERY NEGRO TO STAY OFF THE BUSES ON MONDAY IN PROTEST OF THE ARREST AND TRIAL. DON'T RIDE THE BUSES TO WORK, TO TOWN, TO SCHOOL, OR ANYWHERE ON MONDAY. YOU CAN AFFORD TO STAY OUT OF SCHOOL FOR ONE DAY, IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER WAY TO GO EXCEPT BY BUS. IF YOU WORK, TAKE A CAB, OR WALK; BUT PLEASE, CHILDREN AND GROWNUPS, DON'T GET ON A BUS AT ALL ON MONDAY. PLEASE STAY OFF ALL BUSES MONDAY.

Monday came. Rain threatened, yet the black population of Montgomery stayed off the buses, either walking or catching one of the black cabs stopping at every municipal bus stop for 10c per customer – standard bus fare.



Now answer the questions.

1. What do you know about Apartheid?
2. Which is your opinion concerning black people's exploitation in the past years?
3. How could these problems be solved as far as you know?

10

A chance to learn

Read the text then answer the questions below.

Mako ran away from home because her father didn't want her to go to school anymore as she should get married. She is just 10 years old and of course doesn't want to marry anyone! She belongs to the Masai tribe, Kenya, Africa. It is a nomadic group roaming around the countryside with goats and cattle and these people give little importance to education, especially for girls! Fortunately, she ran faraway and found shelter in the Kajado African Inland Church Boarding Primary School, where the principal, a woman, has been protecting girls for years thus helping them getting an education. Mako's father shouted that she could never return home if she choose school over marriage. Every day around the

world girls like this are denied the right to learn and many of them leave school to get married, forced by their parents. Others are compelled to stay home to help with housework.

Having an education instead affects the health, wealth and equality of women and their children. The kids of educated women live longer and safer lives. Education is considered a basic human right for women, and the representative responsible for developing girls' tuition for UNICEF says that it is the mechanism for building a better life, but the problems don't have simple solutions indeed.

Now answer the questions.

1. What did Mako refuse to do?
2. Where did she go? What for?
3. What was her father's reaction then?
4. Why is education important for girls?
5. Sum up the article in your own words.