

LISTENING

AUDIOSCRIPT

Listen to the radio interview with two young volunteers and check your understanding: grouping.

Interviewer: Today I'm going to talk to two young people who are both doing voluntary work in the sports sector. First there's Liam Parker, who is a keen BMX biker and does a lot of work at a sports centre. And then there's Debbie Sanford, who has volunteered to help with many different sports, and who now has a paid job with a sports organisation. So, Liam, tell us a bit about the place you work – it sounds really interesting.

Liam: Yes, it's really cool. Basically it's a huge space where lots of sports and cultural events take place. It used to be a shipbuilding hangar, but the company went bust years ago. The building was taken over and completely renovated and repurposed about five years ago. Now we have facilities for all kinds of urban sports like skateboarding, breakdancing, Parkour, kick scooter ...

Interviewer: Hang on a moment, can you explain the last two?

Liam: A kick scooter is just a normal scooter with a handlebar, deck and wheels. But now we have stunt scooters and special ones for racing. And Parkour has been around for a while now. It's a way of moving around an urban environment – it developed from military training. It involves climbing, running, vaulting, jumping, swinging and stuff like that. Everyone's seen it on TV and videos, people jumping off incredibly high buildings, between roofs and things.

Interviewer: So what are you involved with?

Liam: My passion is for BMX, and I want to get other people involved in the sport. But I do all kinds of things at the centre. I make sure the bikes and scooters meet safety standards. I check the tracks and ramps so that they are clean and no one can slip and hurt themselves. I teach kids the basics of BMX and do demonstrations. I sometimes cook in the burger van too.

Interviewer: Right, so you've learned a lot of skills?

Liam: Yeah. At first I was a bit nervous about speaking to groups, but now I have no problem giving safety inductions to people. I had to learn sports-specific first aid in case anyone hurts themselves, cooking hygiene for the burger van, maths for taking money at the till. I've had a lot of training in different areas and gained useful certificates.

Interviewer: So all that training will be valuable when you come to look for paid work?

Liam: Absolutely. I'm still only 18 and I've been volunteering for two years. I'd like to stay in this sector and find full-time paid work, so obviously all my experience and skills will help a lot.

Interviewer: Thank you, Liam. And now, our other guest has made that jump from voluntary work to paid work. Debbie, you've been involved in many different sports in your 22 years, haven't you?

Debbie: Yes, quite a few! I started off playing football at county level and then got into coaching. I reckoned that I wouldn't have been able to play football without the help of volunteers, so when I had the chance to help other people, I did. Then I started a degree in Sport Development and I realised that lots of people like me would soon have a degree and be looking for a job and I'd need more experience to compete with them all!

Interviewer: So you volunteered again?

Debbie: Yes, I spent a year helping with an online sports volunteering bureau and volunteered at

various events including a cricket tournament, a table tennis championship and a half marathon.

Interviewer: Wow, that's a lot of experience!

Debbie: Yes. I must add that I don't actually play cricket or table tennis myself, though I do run. You don't have to be an expert in a sport to volunteer – there are lots of jobs that need doing.

Interviewer: And now you've finished your degree and you're working.

Debbie: That's right. I wrote my dissertation on the retention and recruitment of volunteers, and now I manage volunteers for an organisation promoting swimming. I also organise events at a national level. I would never have got the job without all my volunteering experience. It helped me loads.

Interviewer: And finally, a question for you both. Do you think we sometimes exploit volunteers in this country? Are they doing things for free when they ought to be getting paid? Liam, I believe that you volunteer for about ten or twenty hours a week. Do you ever feel that you should be paid for what you do?

Liam: Well, of course, it would be nice. But the organisation I help is non-profit-making and it couldn't really afford to pay all the volunteers. At the moment, I'm happy to do what I love and gain experience of dealing with the public. I'm living with my parents and they are paying my keep. In the future I'll have to look for paid work.

Debbie: I think many volunteers feel they want to give something back to their sport. It was like that for me with football. Ideally it would be good to have more paid positions, but we also need volunteers. Sport just couldn't function without them. It is really important to give people recognition for what they do, though.

Interviewer: Thanks very much for sharing your experiences. And now, we're going to move on

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муниципальный этап

9 – 11-е классы

Participant's ID number

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LISTENING

Time: 15 minutes

Help others, help yourself

TASK. Match the activity with the person who talks about it. Two sports are not mentioned by either speaker.

table tennis

modern dance

football

cricket

Parkour

tennis

skateboarding

kick scooter

marathon running

BMX biking

Debbie	Liam	Not mentioned

You now have 5 minutes to complete your task.

This is the end of the listening task.

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Participant's ID number

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READING

Time: 30 minutes

I. Read the text.

Are we losing the art of conversation?

We asked four people who watched an online talk on technology and communication by Sherry Turkle for their opinions.

A

The talk certainly gave me plenty of food for thought about the way we communicate these days and how technology is changing our behaviour. People are constantly multitasking, whether it be emailing during meetings or texting in the checkout queue. I really believe it's affecting the way we relate to each other and it's not just in the workplace. Kids fade into the background as parents message at the dinner table or post on social networks during the school run. It's as if we can't bear to miss out on what our online buddies are up to, so we juggle the real and online world. My greatest concern is that we don't give our brains a chance to switch off. It's these precious moments when we actually process information that helps us make important decisions.

B

It was a fascinating talk and the speaker really hit the nail on the head with a couple of things. Take parental influence, for instance. How can we expect teenagers not to text while doing their homework when they witness their parents posting on social media while cooking the evening meal or waiting at a red light? She also made a valid point about people wanting to be in two or several places at once. So they switch back and forth between their real-life and online conversations. I see it all the time with my teenage daughter and her friends. They arrange to meet and then sit together in silence while each one engages in a different conversation online.

C

So much of what the speaker said rang true. I honestly believe there's a danger that the more connected we are, the more isolated we feel. I don't think this is such an issue for my generation who've lived without technology for so long. We know how to be alone and, more importantly, we know that it's OK to be alone. But the under 20s are another kettle of fish. They're so busy communicating that they never experience the feeling of solitude and run the risk of not learning how to enjoy their own company. In addition, they're learning conversation through messages that can be edited and changed at the expense of learning the art of real conversation in real time with the person in front of you.

D

I'm not sure to what extent I agree that people are more alone, but the way we communicate has certainly evolved. We send tiny snippets of conversation or emoticons to each other and I wonder how much this actually allows us to really understand one another. This superficial conversation is replacing in-depth face-to-face interaction with its pauses, intonation and sentiment. The speaker makes a good point about how we're getting used to conversing with machines like Siri or robots, which are totally devoid of any experience of human life. But despite such limitations, we seem to be expecting more from technology and less from each other.

Complete the sentences to match the expressions from the text with the meanings.

- a) they say exactly how something is
- b) the first thing harms the second thing
- c) they are less important than before
- d) it seems to be true
- e) it makes you think
- f) it's completely different from something else
- g) it doesn't have something that you would normally expect it to have
- h) you change between two ideas

- 11. If something gives you food for thought, _____.
- 12. If someone fades into the background, _____.
- 13. If someone hits the nail on the head, _____.
- 14. If you switch back and forth, _____.
- 15. If something rings true, _____.
- 16. If something is another kettle of fish, _____.
- 17. If you do something at the expense of something else, _____.
- 18. If something is devoid of something, _____.

II. For items 19-25, read the text and choose the best answer for the questions below.

Space could solve water problems

Have you ever tasted saltwater? I guess you have and if so, you will agree with me that it's not very refreshing. In fact, drinking more than a few cups worth can kill you.

According to the United States Geological Survey, whose mission is to collect and disseminate reliable, impartial, and timely information that is needed to understand the nation's water resources, about ninety-seven percent of the water on our planet is saltwater; the rest is stored in lakes, rivers, glaciers and aquifers

underground. Moreover, only about one-third of the world's potential fresh water can be used for human needs. As pollution increases, the amount of usable water decreases.

Water is the most precious and taken-for-granted resource we have on Earth. It is also one of the most threatened resources. Increased population and possible climate change will put more and more strain on supplies of this vital resource as time goes on. What could we do in this situation? Though it may seem like science fiction, the solution could lie in outer space.

I'm not saying we're going to be teleporting to a spring on the other side of the galaxy or colonizing another planet just to have longer showers – it's much more mundane than that. What we could achieve realistically in this century is the successful use of the solar system's rare metals and water, barring the invention of the matrix.

You may be surprised to learn that the metal in your keys, coins, cell phone, computer, car and everywhere else, originally came to this planet from space. When Earth formed, the heavy metals sank to the center and formed a solid core. The lighter elements formed the mantle and the crust we live on. Asteroids and comets that struck the Earth brought water and metals to the surface.

There are thousands of asteroids orbiting near Earth. Most asteroids are made of rock, but some are composed of metal, mostly nickel and iron. Probes could be sent out to these to identify useful ones. Then larger probes could push them towards the Earth where they can be handled in orbit.

In order to fuel ships and probes, we simply need to find a source of water, such as a comet or the surface of the moon. We collect the water and pass an electric current through it from a solar panel. The water separates into oxygen and hydrogen, which in liquid form is a powerful rocket fuel.

Is this really possible? We may soon find out. Private company SpaceX has already started delivering equipment to the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is proof that countries once at each other's throats, like America and Russia, can work together and pull off multi-billion dollar projects.

Recently, a company called Planetary Resources Inc. made the news for getting big names like Google and Microsoft to invest in exploring asteroids for material gain. Although it will take many decades, it is wise to put the gears in motion now.

We've already landed probes on the surface of asteroids and taken samples from them. We can put something as large as the ISS, which weighs just short of 500 tons, according to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in orbit.

We can make a half-million-mile round-trip to get rocks from the moon. We can do all of these things already. They just need to be applied and developed in a smart way.

19. According to the author, the space water sources may be used for ...

- a) fuel production.
- b) water supplies for spaceships.
- c) moon exploration.
- d) the production of electricity.

Answer: ____

20. What problem is raised in the article?

- a) Cooperation in space
- b) Threats of climate change.
- c) Danger of drinking salt water.
- d) Lack of water supplies on Earth.

Answer: ____

21. According to the author, the information published in the US Geological Survey is meant to ...

- a) assure the nation that there is still enough of usable water.
- b) help to monitor the state of the country's water resources.
- c) demonstrate the quality of water the nation uses.
- d) warn the public about the dangers of water pollution.

Answer: ____

22. The author thinks that outer space ...

- a) is dangerous because of asteroids.
- b) is a source of important supplies.
- c) is not studied properly.
- d) should be colonized.

Answer: ____

23. The Google and Microsoft (paragraph 9) are mentioned to ...

- a) explain how Planetary Resources Inc. became famous.
- b) prove that asteroids can be commercially attractive.
- c) show that space research is important for computer science.
- d) prove that asteroids can interfere with the Internet.

Answer: ____

24. The expression "put the gears in motion" in "...it is wise to put the gears in motion now" (paragraph 9) means ...

- a) to explore.
- b) to begin.
- c) to move.
- d) to invest.

Answer: ____

25. What idea is stressed in the last two paragraphs?

- a) There is room for further achievements in space exploration.
- b) Asteroids are unique objects for scientific research.
- c) Only smart administration can manage space programs.
- d) International Space Station is the heaviest object in space.

Answer: ____

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WRITING

Time: 30 minutes

Write about the following topic.

In some countries young people have little leisure time and are under pressure to work hard in their studies.

What do you think are the causes of this?

What solutions can you suggest?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience.

Write 180-200 words.

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