



ESAME FINALE DI LIVELLO

COGNOME _____ NOME _____ GRUPPO STUDENTI _____

Reading comprehension^a

The following article illustrates a current issue. After you read it, decide if the sentences below are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or if the information is **Not Given (NG)**. Circle the correct answer.

China believed to be behind cyber spy network

1. TORONTO - A cyber spy network based mainly in China infiltrated into classified documents from government and private organizations in 103 countries, including the computers of Tibetan exiles, Canadian researchers said Saturday.
2. The work of the Information Warfare Monitor initially focused on allegations of Chinese cyber espionage against the Tibetan community in exile, and eventually led to a much wider network of compromised machines, the Internet-based research group said. "We uncovered real-time evidence of spyware that had penetrated Tibetan computer systems, extracting sensitive documents from the private office of the Dalai Lama". The research group said that while its analysis points to China as the main source of the network, it has not conclusively been able to detect the exact identity or motivation of the hackers.
3. Bhutla Karpoche, 'For a Free Tibet' activist, said she was not surprised about the possibility that China could be behind the network: "Our computers have been hacked into numerous times over the past 4 to 5 years and especially in the past year". She said she often gets e-mails that end up containing viruses that crash the group's computers.
4. The IWM is composed of researchers from Ottawa-based experts and the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. The group's initial findings led to a 10-month investigation that has been summarized in the report that will be released online Sunday.
5. The researchers detected a cyber espionage network involving over 1,295 compromised computers from the ministries of foreign affairs of Iran, Bangladesh, Latvia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Barbados and Bhutan. They also discovered hacked systems in the embassies of India, South Korea, Indonesia, Romania, Cyprus, Malta, Thailand, Taiwan, Portugal, Germany and Pakistan.

Continues →→→

6. Once the hackers infiltrated the systems, they gained control using spyware — software they install on the compromised computers — and sent and received data from them, the researchers said.

7. Two researchers at Cambridge University in Britain who worked on the part of the investigation related to the Tibetans are also releasing their own report Sunday. They say prevention against such attacks will be difficult since traditional defense against social spyware in government agencies involves expensive and intrusive measures that range from mandatory access controls to tedious operational security procedures.

1. Canadian researchers infiltrated the computers of Tibetan exiles	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
2. Information Warfare Monitor is an Internet-based research group.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
3. Investigations proved that the hackers were only from China.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
4. Bhutila Karpoche takes no interest in issues regarding Tibet.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
5. Bhutila Karpoche reports that her computer has been infected mainly in the last year.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
6. Bhutila Karpoche lives in Canada.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
7. Hackers found it impossible to infiltrate computers in the Canadian embassy.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
8. Researchers say that hackers cannot infiltrate computers.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
9. The IWM report and the Cambridge University report will be published on the same day.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
10. The Cambridge University report will be released online.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>

Synonyms

Read paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 again and find synonyms for the following words. Do not write more than one alternative.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. originally | 1. _____ |
| 2. larger | 2. _____ |
| 3. discovered | 3. _____ |
| 4. taking out | 4. _____ |
| 5. principal | 5. _____ |
| 6. categorically | 6. _____ |
| 7. militant | 7. _____ |
| 8. particularly | 8. _____ |
| 9. break down | 9. _____ |
| 10. made up of | 10. _____ |

Dialogue

The following dialogue reflects a real-life situation. Put the jumbled sentences into the correct order by writing the letters into the correct place.

Ed So, how was York?
Gill _____
Ed I thought you were going to be staying in the best place in town.
Gill _____
Ed So, what was wrong with the place, then?
Gill _____
Ed Don't tell me! Were they dirty?
Gill _____
Ed That's disgusting. Did you complain about it?
Gill _____
Ed Apart from that, was everything else all right?
Gill _____
Ed So what are you complaining about?
Gill _____
Ed And he brought it back well done?
Gill _____
Ed Did you complain to the chef?
Gill _____
Ed So, I imagine you won't be going back again?
Gill _____

- A. Exactly. They hadn't been changed since the last guests checked out.
- B. The restaurant. I decided to eat in on the Saturday. I ordered a steak and asked for it well done, but the one they brought me wasn't cooked enough. I called the waiter over and he took it away.
- C. Oh yes, and they were very apologetic. I had them bring some clean ones immediately.
- D. Well, yes and no. The hotel bar was great and the barman was fantastic, a really nice guy! But ...
- E. Well you could say that. It wasn't exactly well done, it was more well burnt!
- F. Well, first of all, when I arrived I wanted to have a shower, but I noticed that there was something funny about the towels.
- G. Well, that's what the brochure said.
- H. Yes, but he said I didn't appreciate good food.
- I. Oh, it was good. It's a shame about the hotel, though!
- J. That's right! It's sad, really, though, because it was a lovely city.

Text Cohesion

The following headings have been taken from current newspaper articles. Complete each sentence with a phrase from the box below. Write the letter that corresponds to the ending in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Georgian authorities foiled an attempted army mutiny that they believe was designed | 1. _____ |
| 2. Fiat Group, fresh from an agreement to buy a piece of troubled automaker Chrysler, has plans | 2. _____ |
| 3. A Spanish court has decided to investigate Israel for an alleged "crime against humanity" | 3. _____ |
| 4. Congress has approved a \$3.4 trillion budget for the coming year, approving most of President Obama's | 4. _____ |
| 5. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress that the economy is likely | 5. _____ |
| 6. Canada will ask the Russian ambassador to explain why two Canadians | 6. _____ |
| 7. A Socialist was elected for the first time as Basque regional president on Tuesday, | 7. _____ |
| 8. Archaeologists excavating a site in East London have made an "extremely rare and unprecedented" find - | 8. _____ |
| 9. Dozens of international envoys walked out during a speech by Iran's president as he accused Israel of | 9. _____ |
| 10. The WHO cautioned that the swine flu outbreak could gain momentum in the months ahead, | 10. _____ |

- A. a delicately detailed dish made of hundreds of pieces of tiny glass petals.
 - B. despite claims by the health secretary of Mexico that the virus "is in its declining phase."
 - C. ending decades of pro-independence nationalist rule in northern Spain.
 - D. for its 2002 bombing in Gaza that killed 15 people and wounded 150 others.
 - E. having a "racist government" and committing genocide.
 - F. key spending priorities including increasing in health care, education and alternative energy spending.
 - G. to disrupt planned NATO exercises in the former Soviet republic.
 - H. to pull out of the recession and start growing later this year.
 - I. to purchase GM Europe and spin off the recombined carmakers into a new company.
 - J. who worked at the NATO Information Office in Moscow had their diplomatic accreditation revoked.

Language in Context

You are going to read a text on air pollution. Select the answer (a, b, c, or d) which completes each sentence. Write your answers in the right hand-column.

AIR POLLUTION

Every day, the (1) person inhales about 20,000 liters of air. Every time we breathe, we risk inhaling dangerous chemicals that have found (2) way into the air. Air pollution includes all contaminants found in the atmosphere. These dangerous substances can be (3) in the form of gases or particles. Air pollution can be found both outdoors and indoors. Pollutants can be trapped inside buildings, causing indoor pollution that (4) for a long time. The sources of air pollution are both natural and human-based. (5) one might expect, humans (6) increasing amounts of pollution as time has progressed, and they now account for the majority of pollutants released into the air.

Air pollution can have serious consequences for the health of human beings, and also severely affects natural ecosystems. (7) it is located in the atmosphere, air pollution is able to travel easily.

(8), air pollution is a global problem and has been the subject of global cooperation and conflict.

Cities with large numbers of automobiles or those that use great quantities of coal often suffer most severely (9) problems of air pollution. In order to curb the various (10) caused by air pollution, governments, scientists and environmentalists are using or testing a variety of methods aimed at reducing pollution.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| 1. | a. normal | b. average | c. medium | d. ordinary | 1.____ |
| 2. | a. the | b. one | c. any | d. their | 2.____ |
| 3. | a. both | b. rather | c. neither | d. either | 3.____ |
| 4. | a. lasts | b. continues | c. exists | d. stays | 4.____ |
| 5. | a. So | b. As | c. Like | d. How | 5.____ |
| 6. | a. is producing | b. produce | c. produced | d. have been producing | 6.____ |
| 7. | a. Although | b. Despite | c. Because | d. While | 7.____ |
| 8. | a. As a result | b. However | c. Nevertheless | d. In addition | 8.____ |
| 9. | a. of | b. at | c. with | d. from | 9.____ |
| 10. | a. effects | b. affects | d. reasons | d. results | 10.____ |

Reading comprehension

Read the following text and choose the answer (a, b, c or d) that best completes each statement. Write the answer in the right-hand column.

It had been a pleasantly warm day, without much wind, and with enough cloud to prevent the heat of the sun becoming too great. Charles had spent a long time studying the level of the water in the boat, and discovered that, by evening it had fallen very slightly. This, it would seem, must mean that the boat was not taking in water, which was fortunate, because any attempt to empty it out suggested greater effort than he felt equal to. One other immediate problem had held his wandering thoughts for a few moments at long intervals. This was the problem of Harcourt. The thing to do, Charles realised, was to put poor Harcourt in the sea. It should be a simple matter and take no more than a few seconds. Charles arranged in his mind exactly how it could most easily be done, but his body did not react to the suggestions of the mind. Charles told himself that it was his hands that were the trouble. It was better, really, not to find out how badly they were burned. There was nothing to be done about them except not use them.

But then, suddenly, almost without knowing how he did it, Charles moved, stood up, bent over the body of poor Harcourt, lifted and let it slip as gently as possible into the sea. Afterwards he stood in the stern of the boat for a long time, watching the colour of the sea deepen and the sky become increasingly farther off with the coming of night. In a curious way he felt strangely happy. The problem of his rescue had not yet begun to trouble him.

After a time Charles's returning interest in living showed itself in the simple form of hunger. With some difficulty, owing to the water in the boat, he explored its stores and found food and water in air-tight tins. He also found a neat package wrapped in green oiled silk. He unwrapped it and found maps. Neat, beautifully designed and printed, spotlessly new, they lay across his knees and he was no longer alone in a world of water. At the moment these clean official maps, correct in every detail, were as comforting as the sound of a human voice, as cheering as a candle in darkness.

1. The day was not too hot because ... 1. _____
 - A the sun wasn't shining.
 - B it was windy.
 - C the sun was completely hidden behind the clouds.
 - D clouds reduced the heat of the sun.

2. In the evening the water in the boat was ... 2. _____
 - A higher than it had been in the morning.
 - B a little less than it was in the morning.
 - C deeper than it had been when he studied it.
 - D the same level as what it had been in the morning.

3. He judged that the boat was ... 3. _____
 - A slowly filling with water.
 - B likely to sink before long.
 - C taking in more and more water.
 - D in no immediate danger of sinking.

4. Charles was worried about Harcourt's body because ... 4. _____
 - A it was unwise to keep it in the boat.
 - B he couldn't bear to get rid of it.
 - C he didn't know what to do with it.
 - D he thought it was too heavy.

5. Charles thought his hands ... **5.**_____
- A would not prevent him from lifting the body.
 - B would help him carry out his plan.
 - C were not so badly burned as he had thought.
 - D might be too badly burned to use.
6. Charles got rid of the body by ... **6.**_____
- A pushing it out of the boat into the sea.
 - B lifting it up and dropping it into the sea.
 - C throwing it into the sea.
 - D raising it and allowing it to slide into the sea.
7. Charles then spent a long while ... **7.**_____
- A looking around into the growing darkness.
 - B looking into the depths of the sea.
 - C sitting in the boat trying to see where the sea and the sky met.
 - D looking angrily at the sky.
8. He was not yet worried about whether ... **8.**_____
- A he would be saved.
 - B he ought to feel as happy as he did.
 - C he ought to have rescued Harcourt.
 - D there was more trouble ahead of him.
9. The first sign of Charles's renewed desire to live was that he ... **9.**_____
- A started to look for food and water.
 - B was able to explore the boat.
 - C found he needed to move about.
 - D began to feel the need for food.
10. The finding of maps cheered him because ... **10.**_____
- A they were spotlessly new.
 - B they reminded him of the world beyond his boat.
 - C he could see at once where he was.
 - D they were carefully wrapped in oiled silk.

Text flow

The correct use of discourse markers is very important in academic writing. Complete the following text by using some of the words in the box to create a coherent and cohesive text. Write your choice in the right-hand column.

_____1_____ *English as a global language* did not appear until 1997, 1. _____
it was _____2_____ written in 1995, which in 2002 seems a very long 2. _____
time ago, _____3_____ global linguistic developments are concerned. 3. _____
The 1990s were a revolutionary decade, in _____4_____, with a proliferation 4. _____
of new linguistic varieties arising out of the worldwide implementation of the Internet,
an emerging awareness of the crisis affecting the world's endangered languages,
_____5_____ an increasingly public recognition of the global position of English. [...] 5. _____
The largely article-driven literature of previous decades had typically been exploratory and
programmatically, restricted to individual situations, anecdotal in illustration, lacking a sociolinguistic
frame of reference, and focusing on the written language. _____6_____, the 1990s saw the 6. _____
emergence of a more comprehensive perspective in which spoken varieties became prominent,
there was a real increase in the amount of descriptive data, and attempts were made to arrive
at explanations of an appropriately general and sociolinguistically informed character.
_____7_____, several book-length treatments of English appeared, each providing a personal 7. _____
synthesis of previous observations and speculations, and focusing on the phenomenon of global
English as an end in itself. _____8_____ of the decade, the different attitudes had highlit 8. _____
a number of important theoretical issues, and made it possible to see the various kinds of focus
adopted by individual authors. I came to see the first edition of the present book, as a consequence,
more clearly as predominantly a retrospective account, examining the range of historical factors
which have led to the current position of English in the world. [...] In my view, the momentum of
growth has become so great that there is nothing likely to stop its continued spread as a global
lingua franca, at least in the foreseeable future. Other books took different perspectives.
For _____9_____, David Graddol's *The future of English*, published in 1998, looked towards 9. _____
the future, beginning with the present-day situation, and examining the contemporary trends
likely to affect the language's eventual role. For him, English is certainly stoppable. [...]
Then Tom Arthur, in *The English languages*, also published in 1998, adopted a more synchronic
perspective, moving away from a monolithic concept of English. His primary focus was on
the kinds of variation encountered in the language _____10_____ its global spread. [...] 10. _____

Adapted from *English as a Global Language* (Crystal, 2003)

actually	after	although	and	as far as
as a consequence of	because	by contrast	by the end	however
instance	in particular	that respect	regardless	time

Text completion

You have received a letter from the University of Reading informing you that you have been accepted into their distance study program. Complete the letter below by thinking of an appropriate word for each of the blank spaces. Write your answers in the blank spaces.

Dear Mr. Speranza,

As Head of the School of Languages and European Studies, and 1. _____ behalf of my colleagues, I would like to welcome you 2. _____ a student with the University of Reading and to express the hope that you will find your time on our programme 3. _____ rewarding and enjoyable.

We believe that the MA scheme you are joining is unique 4. _____ the range, variety and flexibility that it offers.

Please study the enclosed Handbook carefully and, if you are in 5. _____ doubt, consult your personal tutor or Programme Director about the choices that you intend to 6. _____.

You are also joining 7. _____ you will quickly discover to be an international community.

Our students come from all over the world and even most of the staff, usually has considerable 8. _____ of work and study abroad.

I believe that this provides a particularly rich environment for academic and professional development and hope that you will take advantage 9. _____ online means of communication to get to know each other as well as your tutors.

If you are ever able to come to Reading, either to study on the campus-based programme for a while, to use our library or just for a social visit, your tutors will be very happy to meet you in 10. _____.

Whether on campus or at a distance, we all look forward to working with you and sharing the challenges of the coming years.

Kind regards,
Professor Christopher Duggan

Writing

You are interested in applying to a Master's Program at the University of Manchester. Write a letter to the Admissions Office in which you:

- specify the program you are interested in
- give information about your current degree course, including core courses and expected graduation date
- say why you are interested in the program
- ask for information regarding fees and deadlines

Write your answer in 180-220 words in an appropriate style.