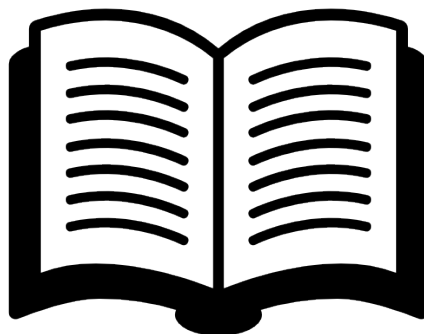

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Hobbies



Answer These Questions

1. What are your hobbies? How much time do you spend on them?

2. What were your hobbies when you were young?

3. What are some expensive hobbies? How about cheap hobbies?

4. What hobbies do men enjoy? How about women?

5. What hobbies do you want to start?



Write Your Own Questions

Q:

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Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using PRONOUNS. Write four sentences with **I**, **he** and **she**.

He is a very nice man. (my father)

1.

2.

3.

4.



Work

Answer These Questions

1. What do you do? How long have you worked there?

2. Why did you choose your job?

3. Do you like your co-workers? How about your boss?

4. What's the best part of your job? How about the worst?

5. If you didn't do your job now, what job would you do?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using PRONOUNS. Write four sentences with **we**, **they** and **you**.

You are a very good teacher. (my English teacher)

1.

2.

3.

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Days Off

Answer These Questions

1. Do you have Saturday and Sunday off? How do you spend your weekends?

2. Do you have to work overtime on your days off?

3. If it rains on your day off, what do you do?

4. Do you like to spend your days off alone or with someone?

5. If you suddenly had a day off, what would you do?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using PRONOUN. Write four sentences with **me**, **him** and **her**.

I bought a birthday present for him.

1.

2.

3.

4.



Family

Answer These Questions

1. Are you married? Do you have children?

2. How many people are in your family? Tell us about them!

3. Who's your favorite family member? Why?

4. How often do you see your parents? Do you like spending time with them?

5. Do you take after your mother or your father?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using PRONOUNS. Write four sentences with **us**, **them** and **you**.

I baked a cake for them. (my children)

1.

2.

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4.



Food

Answer These Questions

1. What's your favorite kind of food? What's your favorite dish?

2. Are you good at cooking? What kinds of foods can you cook?

3. Do you like to eat out or eat at home? Why?

4. What is your favorite restaurant? Why?

5. What do you usually eat for lunch? Do you make it or buy it?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using PRONOUNS. Write four sentences with **my**, **his** and **her**.

I like his jacket. (my boyfriend's jacket)

1.

2.

3.

4.



Travel

Answer These Questions

1. How often do you travel to other countries? How about inside Japan?

2. What countries have you been to? Which was the best?

3. Have you ever had a problem traveling? What happened?

4. Where was the last place you traveled to? How was it?

5. Where do you want to travel to next? Why?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

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※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using PRONOUNS. Write four sentences with **our**, **their** and **your**.

I can see their house from here. (my parent's house)

1.

2.

3.

4.



Sports & Games

Answer These Questions

1. What sports do you like best? Do you like watching or playing more?

2. What are your favorite sports teams? How about favorite athletes?

3. Do you play video games? How about card games or board games?

4. What games did you play when you were a child?

5. Do you like to exercise? What kind of exercise do you enjoy?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes



Notes



Grammar

Practice using PAST PROGRESSIVE.

My wife **was cooking** breakfast at 7:00 this morning.

1.

2.

3.

4.



Movies

Answer These Questions

1. What genres do you like? What are some of your favorite movies?

2. Who is your favorite actress? And your favorite actor?

3. How often do you go see a movie at a theater? Are movies better at theaters or at home?

4. What was your favorite movie when you were little? Do you still like it?

5. Do you like watching foreign movies? Do you watch them dubbed or with subtitles?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes



Notes



Grammar

Practice using PAST PARTICIPLE.

I have eaten squirrel. It was not very good.

1.

2.

3.

4.



Dating

Answer These Questions

1. Where's the best place to go on a first date? How about the worst?

2. Who should pay on a date? Why?

3. What do you think about mixers or dating parties?

4. How do you feel about women asking men for a date?

5. Have you ever started dating a friend?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using BEFORE and AFTER.

I brush my teeth before I go to bed. / I eat breakfast after I wake up.

1.

2.

3.

4.



My City

Answer These Questions

1. Where do you live now? How long have you lived there?

2. What are three things that you like about your city?

3. What are three things that you don't like about your city?

4. What is your city famous for? Is anyone famous from your city?

5. Where's the best place to eat in your city? How about the best place to drink?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using IN and AGO.

I will go to America in three months. / I lived in Tokyo 3 years ago.

1.

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Seasons & Weather

Answer These Questions

1. What is your favorite season? Why do you like it?

2. What is your least favorite season? Why don't you like it?

3. What is your favorite thing to do in summer? How about in winter?

4. What is your favorite kind of weather? Why do you like it?

5. How do you feel when it rains? How about when it snows?

Write Your Own Questions

Q:

Q.

Q.



※ Don't forget to post your answers online!



Questions & Notes

Notes

☒ Grammar

Practice using INDEFINITE PRONOUNS. Write four sentences with **something**, **someone** and **somewhere**.

I want to eat something spicy.

1.

2.

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REPORTS

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Hate Speech Crack Down

1

Social media websites in Germany could be in for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content too slowly. The German government has decided to crack down on the darker side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and other illegal material. Under the proposed new law, the likes of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or incur a heavy financial penalty. Any content deemed to be “clearly criminal” would have to be removed within 24 hours. Germany’s justice minister Heiko Maas quoted research which suggested Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary due to heightening concern over the influence social media is having in shaping public opinion. He said: “The biggest problem is that the social networks do not take the complaints of their own users seriously enough.” He added that voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not working, saying: “Too few comments are deleted, and they’re not being deleted quickly enough.” Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required to set up a complaints team that must be operational 24/7. A digital trade organization feared that removing content within 24 hours from sites that handle more than one billion posts per day was “utterly impossible”.

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Less Work in Japan

2

Japan's government has backed an initiative to ease the pressure on Japanese workers and simultaneously boost consumer spending. The new measure is called "Premium Friday". A spokesperson from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said the campaign would encourage workers to leave work earlier on the last Friday of each month to relax and/or go shopping. Around 130 companies across Japan have signed up to participate in the initiative, including many major employers. Skeptics are unsure whether the scheme will succeed or not because of the infamous workaholic nature of Japanese workers. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters: "It will take time for Premium Friday to take root."

The idea for Premium Friday was partly prompted by the suicide of an employee who was continually required to work excessive overtime at the ad agency Dentsu. A court ruled the suicide was "death by overwork" and stressed the need to address what is a common problem in Japan - overworking. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is leading by example. He promoted the campaign by leaving the office early for a meditation session at a Tokyo temple at 3:30 p.m. Mr Suga said it was essential for both the government and the private sector to create an atmosphere where workers feel comfortable in leaving early. However, many workers said they would just have to work on Saturdays instead to finish their work.

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Bio-Terrorism

3

The former head of Microsoft, Bill Gates, has warned that the world could be in great danger from bio-terrorism. He said the world could face a catastrophe from a virus made by terrorists that could kill 30 million people in less than a year. Mr Gates, the richest person in the world, was speaking at the Munich Security Conference in Germany. He said there was a "reasonable" chance that a bio-terrorist could act in the next 10 to 15 years. He added that world leaders are not prepared for such an attack. He expressed his surprise that very few leaders were even aware of it. He asked for global "health security" to become a major part of government discussions and policies.

Mr Gates explained that: "The next epidemic has a good chance of originating on a computer screen." He said a genetically engineered virus was easier to make and could kill more people than nuclear weapons, but no country on Earth is ready for this threat. He asked governments, "to prepare for these epidemics in the same way we prepare for war". Gates asked governments to start "germ games" activities to prepare for a bio-terrorist attack, like many countries engage in war games. He said we needed better monitoring to spot outbreaks early, and systems to quickly develop vaccines - within weeks rather than years. "We need a new arsenal of weapons, anti-viral drugs, antibodies, vaccines and new diagnostics," he said.

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Marriage is Good for Health

4

A new study suggests that marital bliss has beneficial health effects. The research is from Carnegie Mellon University in the USA. It concludes that being married reduces your levels of a stress hormone called cortisol. Researchers tested for cortisol in the saliva of 572 adults aged 21-55 on three different, non-consecutive days. Multiple saliva samples were taken throughout each 24-hour period. The researchers found that the married people in the sample had less cortisol than people who were single, separated, divorced or widowed. The researchers said: "Married people tend to be healthier than both the previously and never married, but the mechanisms through which this occurs remain unclear."

The stress hormone cortisol has many different functions in our body. It regulates blood sugar levels, immune responses and inflammation and can increase the risk of heart disease. It also increases the chances of surviving cancer. High levels of cortisol have been linked to mental conditions such as anxiety and depression. Laboratory director Sheldon Cohen said: "These data provide important insights into the way in which our intimate social relationships can get under the skin to influence our health." Researcher Brian Chin added: "It is exciting to discover a physiological pathway that may explain how relationships influence health and disease."

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Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Fines for Selling Data

5

The television maker Vizio has agreed to pay \$2.2 million to settle claims that it collected data from 11 million people without their consent. The lawsuit against the flat-panel TV maker was filed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the USA. The FTC discovered that Vizio had been gathering and selling data on customers without permission for years. The FTC claimed Vizio began making televisions in 2014 that automatically tracked what people were watching. They fitted tracking devices to TVs made before 2014 by using software updates. The FTC said: "Consumers didn't know that while they were watching their TVs, Vizio was watching them."

The FTC said Vizio captured second-by-second information about what people were watching. The company also recorded people's IP addresses. The FTC said this was a breach of privacy and security. It said: "The data generated when you watch television can reveal a lot about you and your household." Vizio sold information to advertisers about people's age, sex, household size and income, marital status, home ownership, and education level. However, the company did not share people's names. Vizio lawyer Jerry Huang said: "Today, the FTC has made it clear that all smart-TV makers should get people's consent before collecting and sharing television viewing information."

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Women's March

6

New figures reveal that as many as 500,000 people attended the Women's March on Washington on January 21st. There has been debate over the size of the crowds because there were no turnstiles or ticket sales. However, high-tech analysis from the company Digital Design and Imaging Service provides a "solid estimate" of there being 440,000 marchers, with a possibility of half a million. It was the biggest demonstration in the USA since the Vietnam War protests in the 1960s. The New York Times reported that the Women's March was three times the size of President Donald Trump's inauguration, which they said had 160,000 attendees. Five million people participated in women's marches around the world.

The Women's March was a global protest aimed at highlighting and protecting women's rights. The marchers also focused on immigration, healthcare, the environment, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, freedom of religion, and workers' rights. The marches were held the day after the inauguration of President Trump. Event organisers said they wanted to, "send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights". They added: "We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all."

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Cats as Smart as Dogs

7

For whatever reason, people assume dogs are more intelligent creatures than cats. This notion has been called into question by scientists in Japan, who have said that cats are as smart as dogs at certain memory tests. Cat lovers, of course, have always known this. Researchers at Kyoto University conducted tests on how well 49 cats could recall or relate to an event from the past – known as an episodic memory. The Japanese team got the felines to eat from one of two bowls. Fifteen minutes later, the cats were tested on their ability to remember which bowl they had eaten from and which remained untouched. The team found the cats could recall what they ate and where, suggesting they had episodic memory.

The scientists also said that cats were as good as dogs on a whole variety of mental tests, including responding to the gestures, facial expressions and emotions of humans. Researcher Saho Takagi told reporters that she believed cats think about past events similar to the way humans do. She said: “An interesting speculation is that they may enjoy actively recalling memories of their experience, like humans.” She added: “Episodic memory is viewed as being related to an introspective function of the mind. Our study may imply a type of consciousness in cats.” Ms Takagi said the research is good news for pet owners, saying: “Understanding cats more deeply helps to establish better cat-human relationships.”

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



3 Million Trees

8

The city of Manchester in England has embarked on an ambitious plan to plant three million trees. The project is called the “City of Trees”. Project director, Tony Hothersall, explained that the green venture had three main aims. He said: “One is to plant three million trees - a tree for every man, woman and child - over the next 25 years. Next, we are very much focused on bringing existing woodland into management because there is no point in planting new woodland if you can’t manage what you’ve got already. Finally, we want to engage people a lot more in their natural environment - in planting trees, in managing areas, [and] in understanding more about the benefits that trees and woodlands bring to our society.”

Mr Hothersall further outlined the rationale behind the recently-launched environmental project. He said: “Manchester wants to be a world-class city region. We have a lot of fantastic development going on, but the natural environment needs to keep up with that.” He believes the initiative will reconnect people with trees and the natural world, provide benefits to health and reduce stress. He said: “Woodlands can do great things in terms of air pollution reduction and can help to screen for noise pollution. They can also help cities and towns become more resilient to climate change both in terms of things like reducing the urban heat island effect and also reducing...flooding.”

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Spice for Life

9

There is good news for lovers of hot and spicy food – the chili inside it can help you live longer. Researchers from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in the US have discovered that capsaicin, the active ingredient in hot red chili peppers, may boost the metabolism, strengthen the cardiovascular system and help reduce high blood pressure and obesity. They said people who regularly ate hot red chili peppers had a 13 per cent reduced risk of premature death compared with those who did not eat them. They concluded that: “The consumption of hot red chili pepper was associated with reduced mortality. Hot red chili peppers may be a beneficial component of the diet.”

The researchers surveyed a total of 16,179 adults over a period of six years. Survey participants answered questions on their health, lifestyle, income and eating habits. The researchers analysed the deaths that occurred in the 18 years following the survey. A total of 4,946 of the participants died. Of these, 21.6 per cent regularly consumed chili compared with 33.6 per cent who did not. This led the researchers to believe hot red chili peppers helped prolong life. Britain’s National Health Service urged people not to rely on one “superfood” like chili to stay healthier. It said: “Eat a balanced diet high in a variety of fruit and vegetables, limit salt, sugar and saturated fat, stay active [and] avoid smoking.”

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Weekend Exercise

10

There is good news for those who only have time to exercise at the weekend – the so-called ‘weekend warriors’. Cramming your recommended weekly exercise into several weekend sessions is sufficient to help you live longer. Researchers from Loughborough University and the University of Sydney found that there were few differences in health benefits from working out daily or only at the weekends as long as people burnt enough calories. The researchers discovered that weekend warriors lowered their risk of dying from cardiovascular diseases by 41 per cent and from cancer by 18 per cent, compared with those who did no exercise. Those who exercised regularly reduced their risks by 41% and 21%.

The researchers’ article is published in the journal ‘JAMA Internal Medicine’. Their findings are based on a survey of around 64,000 adults aged over 40. The researchers recommended people engage in a total of at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity once or twice a week. They said: “The present study suggests that less frequent bouts of activity, which might be more easily fit into a busy lifestyle, offer considerable health benefits.” They added: “A particularly encouraging finding was that a physical activity frequency as low as one or two sessions per week was associated with lower mortality risks.”

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.



Cashless Society

11

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined his controversial plan to make India a cashless society. Indians are already up in arms following his recent and sudden decision to ban the old 500 and 1,000 rupee banknotes. They ceased to be legal tender in India from the 9th of November, although the old 500-rupee note was replaced by an updated version. The government claimed the move was an effort to stop the banknotes being used to fund terrorism, as well as being a crackdown on counterfeit money in India. The ban means 80 per cent of the country's currency has been withdrawn from circulation and business has been brought to a virtual standstill. It is very unpopular among most Indians.

Mr Modi went a step further on Sunday when he called for a cashless society. He said in a televised speech: "I want to tell my small merchant brothers and sisters, this is the chance for you to enter the digital world." He added: "Learn the different ways you can use your bank accounts and Internet banking. Learn how to effectively use the apps of various banks on your phones. Learn how to run your business without cash. Learn about card payments and other electronic modes of payment....A cashless economy is secure. It is clean." He addressed India's more tech-savvy people by declaring that: "All the youth of India can do it very quickly, and within a month, the world can see a modern India."

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New Words or Phrases

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Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.
