

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet Answer Key

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (1)

### All Change

1. Humans are described as better at adapting to their surroundings than any other living creature.
2. Cultural adaptation is put forth as an explanation for humans' ability to adapt quickly to new surroundings.
3. The term abbreviated from Ancient Greek is "mimeme," which refers to units of culture transmitted through imitation.
4. Both genes and memes are kinds of information passed down through generations, with memes allowing faster adaptation.
5. Many species become extinct because they are unable to adapt to new environments as their natural habitats shrink.
6. The term "kayak" refers to a covered seal-skin boat designed by the Inuit, which was later adopted by others.
7. The sharing of knowledge contributes to the accumulation of cultural knowledge by passing down skills and wisdom.
8. The Inuit of the Canadian Arctic ensure their survival through their knowledge of seal behavior, tools, clothing, and shelter building.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the idea of cultural adaptation presented earlier in the sentence.
10. The concept of cultural adaptation challenges the idea of survival of the fittest by emphasizing the role of shared knowledge and rapid transmission of skills, suggesting that cooperation and learning from others can be as important as genetic fitness in human survival and adaptation.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (2)

### Technological People

1. The Industrial Revolution led to an explosion in the manufacturing industries through mass production, accompanied by demographic changes as people moved to cities for factory work.
2. One effect of machines and robots becoming more sophisticated is the loss of millions of jobs in the workforce, particularly in repetitive tasks. However, they can also cut costs and improve efficiency.
3. Robots are considered ideal for repetitive tasks in factories because they don't experience boredom or fatigue, and they can increase efficiency and reduce costs.
4. Jobs that previously required high levels of expertise might become less rewarding, with data entry and interpreting screen readouts becoming the main requirement.
5. The potential upside of using computer programs to grade students' essays is the accuracy and efficiency that they can offer, as shown by US research.
6. The Industrial Revolution led to people moving to cities to work in the new factories.
7. Automation has forced some middle-class workers lacking necessary training into lower-paid jobs.
8. Some people may prefer being served by other people rather than machines, even if it means resisting modernization.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the possibility that people might prefer to be served by humans rather than machines, even if this choice aligns with a more traditional attitude.
10. The answer to this question would require the reader's own analysis and perspective on how the balance between human labor and automation could affect the quality of products and services in various industries. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.

## Influential People

1. "Shakespeare" by Bill Bryson differs from academic books as it targets the general reader and aims to provide basic facts about Shakespeare's life and opinions without being an in-depth scholarly work.
2. Bill Bryson's version of Shakespeare's life focuses on gathering fragmented evidence, highlighting criticisms, and addressing crazy theories about the playwright.
3. Bill Bryson keeps the biography brief because he acknowledges that much about Shakespeare is unknowable, and he avoids pretending to know things that lack solid evidence.
4. At the end of the book, Bill Bryson addresses controversies about Shakespeare's authorship by using available information to refute common theories.
5. Bill Bryson uses the lack of information about Shakespeare's life to his advantage by providing historical context and focusing on the world in which Shakespeare lived.
6. The "Eminent Lives" series allows well-known writers to present basic facts about an eminent person's life and provide their opinions.
7. Bill Bryson's style, known for its entertainment value, contributes to the light-hearted tone of his book on Shakespeare.
8. Bill Bryson emphasizes the world in which Shakespeare lived to explain what is known about the man and the puzzles surrounding him.
9. The pronoun "he" refers to Bill Bryson, who brings England in the late 16th and early 17th century to life through his writing.
10. The answer to this question would require the reader's own analysis and perspective on how understanding the historical context and world in which Shakespeare lived could enhance their interpretation of his works and impact his legacy. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (4)

### Ways of Working

1. Office workers might believe that their health regime protects them from serious illnesses like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.
2. The primary concern for office workers' health is the sedentary lifestyle they lead due to spending prolonged periods sitting at a desk.
3. Prolonged sitting, both at work and during leisure time, may significantly increase the risk of cardiometabolic diseases and premature mortality, according to the British Journal of Sports Medicine.
4. Standing desks can help by enabling workers to stand for at least two to four hours each day, encouraging small amounts of activity and reducing blood glucose levels. Benefits include increased activity and lower blood glucose levels.
5. Adopting standing workstations might lead to healthier and more active employees, which could potentially boost productivity and reduce absenteeism.
6. The text discusses hazards related to a sedentary lifestyle caused by sitting at desks for prolonged periods.
7. According to the text, 65-75 per cent of office workers' hours are spent sitting, of which over 50 per cent is accumulated in prolonged periods of sitting.
8. The evidence from the 1950s study involving London bus drivers and conductors supports the health benefits of standing more, as the bus conductors who stood experienced fewer heart attacks compared to the drivers who sat.
9. The pronoun "they" refers to standing workstations.
10. The answer to this question would require the reader's own analysis and perspective on how the adoption of standing workstations might lead to changes in work culture, collaboration, and overall health consciousness among office workers. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (5)

### Memories

1. False memories can be created when observing someone else perform an action, which might make you believe you did it yourself.
2. Gerald Echterhoff and his colleagues discovered that observing someone else perform an action can lead to false memories. They were stunned by this discovery and decided to further research the phenomenon.
3. In the experiments, participants were more likely to falsely remember doing an action if they had watched someone else do it, even when warned about this effect.
4. The phenomenon is potentially connected to our brain's internal simulation, where similar brain activity occurs when performing actions ourselves and observing others. This simulation could lead to false memories.
5. The underdeveloped prefrontal cortex in early childhood and the role of language in processing experiences and creating memories are discussed as factors contributing to childhood amnesia.
6. Mirror neurons create similar brain activity when we perform actions and observe others, which could lead to the creation of false memories, according to Echterhoff.
7. Learning language changes the way children process experiences and helps them commit episodes to memory.
8. The lack of retrieval cues impacts our ability to remember early childhood experiences because the perspective of the environment changes as we grow, making it difficult to trigger memories.
9. The pronoun "he" refers to Gerald Echterhoff.
10. The answer to this question would require the reader's own analysis and perspective on how false memories from observing others might affect eyewitness accounts in legal cases, possibly leading to inaccuracies and unreliable testimonies. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (6)

### Is that for real?

1. The idea of time travel first captured people's imagination in literature through stories where protagonists travel both forwards and backwards in time, often involving scenarios of falling asleep and waking up in different times.
2. The novel "Golf in the year 2000" fascinated readers with its predictions about the future, some of which turned out to be partially correct, creating interest in the concept of future time travel.
3. In "Time Machine," HG Wells introduced the concept of a time machine that sends the character both backward and forward in time, setting a precedent for the use of time machines in science fiction.
4. A wormhole is a hypothetical tunnel in space that connects distant regions of the universe or two different periods of time. It's a theoretical concept that emerged from Einstein's theory of general relativity.
5. Wormholes are theorized to have potential uses in interstellar travel and time travel in science fiction, allowing for travel between distant regions of space or different periods of time.
6. The term "wormhole" replaced "Einstein-Rosen Bridge" in popular usage as a more common and accessible term for the concept of a hypothetical tunnel in space-time.
7. The "grandfather paradox" is a problem that arises with time travel to the past, where if someone travels back in time and changes a past event, it could create a paradox where they might prevent their own existence.
8. According to Stephen Hawking, the current understanding of the laws of physics suggests that backward time travel is impossible due to potential paradoxes and inconsistencies.
9. The pronoun "they" refers to scientists.
10. The answer to this question would require the reader's own analysis and perspective on how the "grandfather paradox" and potential changes to history might impact ethical decisions and philosophical considerations regarding time travel. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (7)

# Lifestyle

1. The concept of 'hygge' is pronounced as HU-geh and is connected with cosiness and a feeling of well-being, often created by a sense of togetherness and shared experiences.
2. 'Hygge' relates to well-being and togetherness by fostering a sense of cosiness, togetherness, and shared experiences that contribute to a feeling of contentment.
3. 'Hygge' is particularly emphasized in Denmark, where it is frequently discussed and even used in the tourist board's marketing strategy to promote the country's unique sense of cosiness and well-being.
4. In Danish culture, 'hygge' is connected to food and drink by encouraging the enjoyment of warming drinks and comfort foods like freshly baked items.
5. Besides cozy interiors and food, the concept of 'hygge' is reflected in the Danish preference for taking time to enjoy simple pleasures, such as spending time in a cosy café or choosing cycling over driving.
6. The text describes how, in Danish social life, cold temperatures lead to a preference for soup over salads, and how coffee and cakes play a significant role, with Denmark ranking among the top coffee-consuming countries.
7. The general mood encouraged by 'hygge' is one that is less stressed and more laid-back, promoting friendly and relaxed behavior among people.
8. The text provides examples of 'hygge' in practice, such as inviting friends for a cozy gathering, taking time to savor coffee in a café, and prioritizing cycling over driving.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the concept of 'hygge,' which conveys the idea of well-being created by a feeling of togetherness.
10. The answer to this question would require the reader's own analysis and perspective on how the practice of 'hygge,' with its emphasis on simplicity, togetherness, and relaxation, might contribute positively to mental well-being and overall quality of life, particularly in the context of a fast-paced and stressful world. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (8)

### Making a Difference

1. The charity Magic Breakfast supports primary schoolchildren by providing free nutritious breakfasts to those from deprived backgrounds through partnerships with schools and sponsors.
2. The popularity of the breakfast clubs among pupils is due to the tasty food that satisfies their morning hunger and the opportunity to socialize with staff members in a relaxed atmosphere.
3. The study suggests that a healthy breakfast is linked to higher academic performance, with breakfast club attendance positively impacting educational attainment, concentration, alertness, and energy levels.
4. Magic Breakfast's goal is to ensure that by 2020, no children in the UK attend school hungry. The charity works with schools where over 35% of students are eligible for free school meals.
5. The intergenerational learning arrangement benefits both preschoolers and elderly residents by providing companionship, learning opportunities, reducing loneliness, and fostering understanding between generations.
6. A healthy breakfast impacts children's ability to concentrate positively, and children who hadn't eaten since the previous lunch can struggle with concentration and exhibit behavioral issues.
7. The elderly residents contribute to the preschoolers' learning experience by offering one-on-one attention, patience, and assistance with various activities, and they benefit from a sense of usefulness.
8. The interaction between preschoolers and elderly residents helps address problems faced by seniors in residential care by reducing loneliness, boredom, and helplessness, which can lead to emotional issues like depression.
9. The pronoun "their" refers to the elderly residents.
10. The answer to this question requires the reader's analysis of how initiatives like Magic Breakfast and intergenerational learning foster a sense of community, empathy, and understanding across generations, contributing to a more cohesive and supportive society. There is no fixed answer provided in the text.



**Reading Comprehension Worksheet (9)**  
**You are what you eat!**

1. In the past, the food industry denied the dangers of overconsumption of sugar, but now there is growing evidence that too much sugar is harmful to health, especially linked to obesity and heart disease.
2. "Free sugars" include glucose, fructose, and sucrose added to foods, as well as those naturally present in products like honey and fruit juices. The World Health Organization suggests limiting free sugar consumption to ten percent of daily energy intake, with an additional recommendation to keep it below five percent.
3. A chocolate bar, a can of cola, and a tablespoon of ketchup can contribute to exceeding the recommended daily sugar intake because they contain more than the suggested 25 grams (6 teaspoons) of sugar.
4. Drinks contain alarmingly high sugar content, with each can of soft drink containing about eight to ten teaspoons of sugar. Children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to excessive sugar intake from such drinks.
5. Health experts advocate for clearer food labeling, taxing sugary drinks, banning advertising of sugary snacks to children, and promoting healthier eating habits. Jamie Oliver supports these measures and has implemented a levy on soft drinks sold in his restaurants.
6. Two thirds of adults in Britain are overweight or obese.
7. Jamie Oliver proposes indicating sugar content on food labels by specifying the number of teaspoons of sugar in a product.
8. Scientists suggest that a craving for sugar is hardwired into our brains due to its role in helping humans survive during times of food scarcity.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the idea that some leading brands of breakfast cereal contain up to 37 percent sugar.
10. This question encourages readers to analyze the implications of excessive sugar consumption on public health, considering both individual choices and the role of government actions in addressing the issue. It also requires readers to consider the effectiveness of awareness-raising strategies and healthier dietary choices in mitigating the risks associated with sugar consumption.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (10)

### Going Green

1. A massive tornado in 2007 prompted Greensburg to become a green town. It achieved this by rebuilding with energy-saving technologies, constructing a wind farm, and focusing on eco-design rated buildings.
2. Iceland generates its electricity from 75 percent hydroelectric dams and the rest from geothermal energy, utilizing heat from the earth's thin crust. Water pumped into boreholes returns as high-pressure steam to generate electricity.
3. Copenhagen is taking measures such as switching from coal to biomass, focusing on energy efficiency, investing in bicycle infrastructure, and expanding public transport to become carbon neutral by 2025.
4. Fukushima faced devastation from the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster, which prompted the district to commit to providing electricity from renewable sources by 2040, including plans for solar and wind plants and floating wind turbines.
5. Fukushima plans to have 143 floating wind turbines with a capacity of 1GW installed by 2020.
6. Iceland generates 75 percent of its electricity from hydroelectric dams.
7. Copenhagen is planning to replace half of its street lamps with LED bulbs to save energy and improve cyclist safety.
8. Fukushima plans to have 143 floating wind turbines installed by 2020, with a combined capacity of 1GW.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the move of replacing street lamps with LED bulbs.
10. This question prompts readers to analyze the impact of renewable energy initiatives on sustainability and resilience. It encourages them to consider how these initiatives address environmental challenges and inspire broader adoption of renewable energy practices.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (11)

### The Arts

1. James Bond films are unique because they have been successful feature films spanning over fifty years, unlike other long-running franchises that are often television soap operas.
2. Recognizable features of James Bond films include the opening sequence, the new theme tune, the meeting with M, and action sequences with car chases and stunts.
3. The character James Bond was originally created by the author Ian Fleming, who wrote twelve novels and two short-story collections featuring him.
4. Various actors have portrayed James Bond, with Sean Connery and Roger Moore both starring seven times. Sean Connery is the most popular Bond according to UK box office statistics.
5. Unlike other franchises like "The Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Zorro," James Bond films reflect the era they were made in terms of fashions and preoccupations.
6. Sean Connery made his debut as James Bond in the film "Dr No."
7. The entertainment value of the stunts, including chase sequences with fast cars, speedboats, parachutes, and helicopters, has consistently thrilled audiences.
8. James Bond films reflect the world as they are made by incorporating the fashions and preoccupations of each era.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the entertainment value of the stunts in James Bond films.
10. This question prompts readers to analyze the impact and longevity of James Bond films in popular culture. It encourages them to consider the factors contributing to the franchise's success and the reasons behind its ongoing relevance.

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet (12)

### The In Thing

1. Fashion has been a part of human culture for a long time, with different styles denoting social classes. Even today, dressing well and wearing certain garments and jewelry reflects social status.
2. Dressing well and taking care of appearance signal confidence to others, and fashion can help create a personal style that contributes to self-image.
3. The author suggests breaking away from the dictates of the fashion industry due to its environmental impact, waste, and exploitation of workers.
4. The fast fashion industry, fueled by cheap labor in Asia, leads to environmental damage and worker exploitation.
5. Colors and styles of clothing can influence a person's identity, mood, and the messages they convey to others.
6. The author believes that buying cheap and disposable fashion is a false economy and suggests that clothes should be an investment, not something to wear once and throw away.
7. The author criticizes consumers' focus on big-name brands, emphasizing that workmanship and quality are often overlooked in favor of prominent logos.
8. The text warns against the negative effects of branding, especially among young people, where the pressure to wear certain brands can impact self-worth and social relationships.
9. The pronoun "it" refers to the pair of hundred-dollar trainers mentioned in the sentence.
10. This question prompts readers to consider the implications of fast fashion and branding on both the individual and society. It encourages reflection on finding a balance between personal expression, ethical considerations, and environmental responsibility in the fashion industry.