

SÈRIE 4

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION

Choose the best answer according to the text. [0,5 points for each correct answer]

Example:

0. Wangari Maathai was ...
- a) a Nigerian environmentalist.
 - b) a tea-planter from India.
 - c) awarded the Nobel peace Prize.**
 - d) a rich American businesswoman.
-

1. Kenia is now a greener country thanks to ...
 - a) the Nobel Prize award.
 - b) its pleasant peace.
 - c) pioneering commercial tree trading.
 - d) Maathai's environmentalist project.**
2. The Green Belt Movement is...
 - a) a Pan African institutional movement.
 - b) an elitist organisation of women's.
 - c) an environmentalist and educational organisation.**
 - d) a research project on deforestation.
3. War in the Darfur Region has its origins in ...
 - a) oppressive regimes that are destroying the environment.
 - b) the sharing of fertile land.
 - c) the fight among black Muslims.
 - d) the conflict between farmers and pastoralists over fertile soil.**
4. Maathai started planting trees to...
 - a) increase the number of gardening jobs in her home town.
 - b) produce more wood to build more schools and churches.
 - c) pay for the education of wealthy women.
 - d) stop the destruction of land and forest.**
5. Reforesting Kenia is also a way of ...
 - a) helping women become more independent.**
 - b) becoming more like Sudan.
 - c) bringing women into politics.
 - d) promoting the construction business.
6. Women's incorporation to Maathai's project
 - a) has helped them learn read and write.
 - b) has given them a greater sense of social concern.**
 - c) has become a national problem.
 - d) has had a negative family impact.
7. Planting trees ...
 - a) has nothing to do with peace.
 - b) prevents people from killing each-other in all African countries.
 - c) helps solve all kinds of political conflict and trouble.
 - d) may help some African families to have a better life**
8. Which of these sentences is true?
 - a) The Green Belt plans have not been completed yet.**
 - b) 90% of the women in Kenia cannot read nor write.
 - c) the Green Belt initiative has been successfully adopted all across Africa.
 - d) Most of the Kenian people belong to the same ethnic clan.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

Face-to-face

cara a cara

*cara a cara***Annoy / annoying / annoyance**

Molestar /

molestar / molesto / molestia

molest /

molèstia

Rehearse / rehearsal

assajar / assaig

ensayar / ensayo

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

Pres.: Science for Life, the radio programme which is always first with the big Science and Technology stories. Today's big story is about "cell phones".

How many working cell phones are there today in Europe? How many mobile phones are there in the whole world? How many cell phone addicts are there who can't stand being away from their mobiles? And how many cell phone users shout their conversations in trains, supermarkets, museums, stations or parks. Are you one of them? If so, how do you think other people feel when you are speaking on your mobile, for example, in your morning train to college? Dr Bret is with us today to help us understand how people react to cell phones.

Pres.: Good afternoon, Dr. Bret and welcome to our weekly programme "Science for Life".

DB: It's a pleasure.

Pres.: Dr Bret is a Psychologist at the University of York in the UK. Doctor, do cell phones get on your nerves?

DB: Yes, they do and I guess they also annoy you and the majority of your audience. Am I right?

Pres.: Well. Personally I love using my mobile, but I also find it very irritating when other people use them. But is it really the same for everybody? Is this a general feeling?

DB: This is precisely the question we asked ourselves when we observed that many people, including cell phone users, reacted in similar ways when exposed to cell phone conversations in a variety of situations.

Pres.: So ...

DB: So we designed an experiment to try and answer the question.

Pres.: An experiment? What did it consist of?

DB: It was a simple experiment. We wrote a one-minute conversation about a holiday and a surprise party. Then we asked two female actors to memorize and rehearse the script. They rehearsed and rehearsed until they felt comfortable with it. During their rehearsals we made sure that they could control their voices...err basically they had to be capable of maintaining a consistent volume in their conversation.

Pres.: Then ...

DB: Then, when their performance was regular we placed the actors in either the waiting room of a bus station or on a train travelling between the cities of York and Sheffield. In these places they acted out their conversation in two different ways.

Pres.: Which ways?

DB: We called them "face-to-face condition" and "mobile phone condition". In the "face-to-face condition," both actors carried out their conversation in the presence of a passenger. In the "mobile phone condition," only one actor sat near the passenger and pretended to be speaking on her phone.

Pres.: So, in the face-to-face condition, the passenger saw and heard both people involved with the conversation, while in the mobile phone condition, the passenger saw and heard only one side of the conversation. Right?

DB: Yes. Perfect. We repeated the procedure a number of times.

Pres.: What happened next?

DB: After the conversations, one of the actors approached the subjects and told them that she was conducting an experiment. Then, she asked the different passengers if they could answer some questions about the conversation.

Pres.: What sort of questions?

DB: We asked them whether they had noticed the conversation or not. What they remembered from the conversation and how annoying they had found the conversation, things like that..

Pres.: What did the passengers answer? What did you find out?

DB: We found that the cell phone conversations were more noticeable. They sort of made people feel as if they couldn't stop listening to them. Also, compared to face-to-face conversations, the subjects felt as if the cell phone conversations were more irritating.

Pres.: Interesting! Did you find any differences between the conversations in the bus station and on the train?

DB: As a matter of fact we did. The most "intrusive" type of conversation was a loud cell phone conversation on a train.

Pres.: So, if I understood well, your results confirm that listening to a person speaking on her mobile is more annoying than listening to two people talking face-to-face.

DB: That's right.

Pres.: But why? Have you got an explanation for that?

DB: Err. Our guess is that this annoyance is caused by hearing only one side of the cell phone conversation ..

Pres.: Mmm, only one side ... instead of the whole conversation ...

DB: Yeah. It's possible that hearing only one person in the conversation alters the attention of the listener. But this is just a guess, you know. Now we are working on a new experiment to test this hypothesis...

Pres.: Sounds interesting, doesn't it? Do you promise to come back to our programme and tell us the results when you complete this new experiment?

DB: Of course I'd love to.

Pres.: Thank you very much and we go now to our photo-mobile contest ...(fading)

Choose the most appropriate answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct. Look at number 0 as an example.

Example

0. Dr Bret is today's guest in Science for Life ...

- a. because the audience loves shouting on their mobile phone
- b. because the audience hates shouting on their mobile phone
- c. because many listeners can't stand being deprived of their mobile phones
- d. **to help the audience understand how people react to mobile phones**

1. How does Dr Bret feel about mobile phones?

- a. he loves them. He is a cell phone addict.
- b. he can't stand them. He never uses them.
- c. **he sometimes finds them irritating.**
- d. we are not told.

2. Dr Bret noticed that tend to get angry when others used cell phones in public places.

- a. **people of all kinds**
- b. many people, specially those who are not cell phone users,
- c. the majority of the people, except cell phone addicts,
- d. most people, specially those who do not own a cell phone,

3. In the experiment, Dr Bret made sure that several conditions did **NOT** change. Two of the things that were kept constant were ...

- a. **what the actors said and the volume of their voices**
- b. the passenger they interviewed and the train
- c. the volume of the passengers' voices and the two actors
- d. Sheffield's bus station and the older actor

4. In the experiment, Dr Bret made sure that some conditions changed. One of the things that changed was ...

- a. Sometimes the actors were women. Others, the actors were men.
- b. **The way the actors acted the conversation.**
- c. The content of the conversation.
- d. The clothes the actors were wearing.

5. In the face-to-face condition, the passenger saw ...

- a. both participants but only heard one side of the conversation.
- b. one of the participants and heard only one side of the conversation.
- c. only one of the participants but heard the whole conversation.
- d. **and heard both people involved with the conversation.**

6. As a part of the experiment ...

- a. Some of the passengers were filmed and some were interviewed.
- b. Some passengers were filmed and interviewed.
- c. **Some passengers were interviewed.**
- d. Some passengers were filmed.

7. In the "mobile phone condition" one actor ...

- a. talked to the passenger. The other actor pretended to be speaking on her mobile phone.
- b. **sat near the passenger and pretended to be speaking on her mobile phone.**
- c. interviewed the passenger using her mobile phone.
- d. one actor made a call to the passenger's mobile phone.

8. Dr Bret found out that phone conversations conversations.

- a. on a train were less annoying than most face-to-face conversations.
- b. in a bus station were often as annoying as on a train.
- c. were often less annoying than face-to-face conversations..
- d. **were always more annoying than face-to-face conversations.**

SÈRIE 1

PART 1. READING COMPREHENSION

ENGLISH IS THE GLOBAL LANGUAGE

Questions

Choose the best answer according to the text. [0,5 points each correct answer]

Example

0. The article "English Rules" talks about the fact that ...

- a) the rules of English grammar are similar to the rules of many other languages.
- b) English is now a global language but will not be in the future.
- c) **English is spoken all over the world and will possibly continue to be.** ?
- d) English will be spoken in the universe.

1. Why did television programmes achieve world-wide audiences? Because ...

- a) **they referred to English as a global language.**
- b) they were in English.
- c) their audiences were English speakers.
- d) newspapers and magazines publicized them.

2. By the turn of the century, the topic of English as a global language...

- a) **was already very popular.**
- b) was not as popular as it had been fifty years before.
- c) Was much more popular than it is nowadays.
- d) Did not exist.

3. On television, we hear politicians ...

- a) **from all over the world who speak English.**
- b) who speak English only when they visit England or the USA.
- c) travelling and seeing English signs and advertisements.
- d) addressing English audiences.

4. English...

- a) will be understood in hotels and restaurants in the future.
- b) is used only in the menus of hotels and restaurants of English cities.
- c) will be understood very soon in hotels and restaurants everywhere.
- d) **is understood and used in restaurants and hotels everywhere.**

5. Spanish leads because ...

- a) it is spoken as a second language all over the world.
- b) there are around twenty countries where only mothers speak it.
- c) in Latin America it is the only language spoken.
- d) **It is spoken as a mother tongue in more countries than any other language.**

6. An official language of a country...

- a) is used together with another language in the government, the law courts, the media and the educational system.
- b) achieves the role of being a global language.
- c) is only spoken in that country.
- d) **is used by the government, the media, the educational system, the law courts, among other domains.**

7. India is one of the countries where English is ...
- a) **a 'second language'.**
 - b) the mother tongue of most of the population.
 - c) not spoken by mothers.
 - d) the mothers' first language.
8. Is English taught as a foreign language in many countries? Yes, ...
- a) where it is the only official language.
 - b) **in many countries where it is not the official language.**
 - c) but it is being displaced by other languages.
 - d) in almost one hundred countries, including China and Russia.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

THE DA VINCI CODE

Introduction

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

<i>decrypt</i>	desxifrar, entendre / descifrar, comprendre
<i>cliffhanger</i>	situació dramàtica, no resolta que fa que volguis continuar llegint / situación dramática y no resuelta, generalmente al final de un capítulo, que te invita a seguir leyendo
<i>sequel</i>	continuació / continuación
<i>springboard</i>	trampolí / trampolín

Ready? Now read the questions. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

The Da Vinci Code

An interview with Dan Brown

Presenter: Hello again at "Ex Libris". With us today, at our programme, is Dan Brown, author of the book that everyone has been reading this year, *The Da Vinci Code*. And we'll also be chatting to an expert on Brown's novels, Dr Elyn Rhys from Oxford University. In December 2004, she read her doctoral thesis on Brown's novels which are now being published by Harvard Press Publishers. Good afternoon, Mr Brown, Good afternoon Dr. Rhys and welcome to Radio Europe International.

Dr. Rhys: Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here today.

Mr. Brown: Good afternoon.

Presenter: Dr. Rhys, why did you decide to write a thesis on Dan Brown's novels?

Dr. Rhys: Well, erm ... I read ... I had always been interested in history but because of several reasons, I ended up taking a degree in literature. Well... you know, that kind of thing happens. Anyway, when I read *Digital Fortress*, that's Dan's first book, ... -well, in fact, e-book as it was first published on the web- I was eager to know more about him, how he creates the kind of suspense that, you know, doesn't allow you to put the novel down until you've finished it.

Presenter: *The Da Vinci Code* was first published in March 2003 and sold 6,000 copies on the first day. Since then it has sold more than 10 million copies. It has been at the top of the bestseller lists around the world, has been translated into 42 languages, and next year will be turned into a film, directed by Ron Howard. Mr Brown, are you surprised by the success of your book?

Mr Brown: Stunned. Err ... I worked very hard on this novel, and I certainly expected people would enjoy it, but I never imagined so many people would be enjoying it this much.

Presenter: Dr Rhys, so why is the book such a huge success?

Dr Rhys: Well, when it was first published, the critics didn't like it at all. They thought it was badly written and that the story was ridiculous. The writing is basic, but Brown is an author that knows how to create suspense. Each of the book's 105 chapters ends with a cliffhanger. It's a book that's almost impossible to put down. Well, I really haven't answered your questions yet. Err ... what was it? Oh yeah, why such a success. ... mmm I think it's mainly due to word of mouth, with people recommending it to their friends. The book has also appeared at a time when there is enormous interest in conspiracy theories. You know, Diana's death in the car crash, the attacks of September 11, ...

Presenter: So it came out at the right time, is that what you mean?

Dr Rhys: Exactly, we live at a time when it is often hard to believe what authorities tell us. The *Da Vinci Code* fits perfectly with the mood of the time. You know, it allows us to escape from the real world and to enter the mysterious world of religion, novels, history, ...

Presenter: Can you summarise the plot for us?

Dr. Rhys: Sure. Langdon, a famous Harvard symbologist, - you know, a person who studies symbols and anagrams- is called to the Louvre Museum in Paris to examine a series of cryptic symbols related to Da Vinci's artwork. In decrypting the code, he uncovers the key to one of the greatest mysteries of all times... and he becomes a hunted man.

Presenter: So, Mr Brown, although the book is a work of fiction, the combination of historical facts and real places with the story is so convincing that many people believe it is true. So, the question is ... how much of *The Da Vinci Code* is true?

Mr Brown: *The Da Vinci Code* is a thriller, a novel and, therefore, a work of fiction. While the book's characters and their actions are obviously not real, the artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals depicted in this novel all exist. Err... for example, Leonardo Da Vinci's paintings, the Louvre pyramid, the Gnostic Gospels, etc. These real elements are interpreted by fictional characters, the people that I invented. Some of the things they say may be true but the reader has to reach his or her own conclusions. Characters interpret what they see and find out. Readers must do the same. My hope in writing this novel was that the story would serve as a springboard for people to discuss the important topics of faith, religion, and history.

Presenter: How do you put so many ... so much information into your stories and yet they aren't boring at all, they move fast?

Mr Brown: Writing an informative yet compact thriller means ... Well, mm ... using the delete key a lot. In many ways, editing yourself is the most important part of being a novelist...carving away superfluous text until your story stands crystal clear before your reader. For every page in *The Da Vinci Code*, I wrote ten that ended up in the trash.

Presenter: Where did you get the idea for *The Da Vinci Code*?

Mr. Brown: Ha, ha. I first learned of the mysteries hidden in Da Vinci's paintings while I was studying art history at the University of Seville in Spain. Years later, while researching *Angels & Demons* and the Vatican Secret Archives, I encountered the Da Vinci enigma again. I went to the Louvre Museum where I was fortunate enough to view the originals of some of Da Vinci's most famous works as well as discuss them with an art historian who helped me to understand better the mystery behind their surprising anomalies. From then on, I was captivated. I spent a year doing research before writing *The Da Vinci Code*.

Presenter: People say that your daily writing ritual includes some strange practices. Is that true?

Mr. Brown: Well, I suppose that depends on what you consider strange. I do write exceptionally early in the morning. If I'm not at my desk by 4:00 A.M., I feel like I'm missing my most productive hours. In addition to starting early, every hour I stop writing to do pushups, sit-ups, and some quick stretches. I find this helps keep the blood -and ideas flowing. Okay, I guess all this does sound a little strange.

Presenter: What are you working on now?

Mr Brown: Currently I'm writing another Robert Langdon thriller-the sequel to *The Da Vinci Code*. For the first time, Langdon will find himself in a mystery in U.S. Territory. This new novel explores the hidden history of Washington.

Presenter: When is your next novel coming out?

Mr Brown: Because my novels are based on research, they take a couple of years to write. So, tentatively I can say that it will be released in summer 2005.

Presenter: We're looking forward to reading it. Well, Mr Brown, Dr Rhys, thanks a lot for sharing with us some of your ideas and thoughts. Our time is over.

Choose the most appropriate answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct. Look at number 0 as an example.

0.- *Ex libris* is a radio programme about

- ☒ **books**
 - ☐ films
 - ☐ schools
 - ☐ theses.
-

1.- *Digital Fortress* is

- ☐ the first book published on the Internet.
- ☒ **Brown's first book.**
- ☐ Rhys's thesis.
- ☐ the sequel of *The Da Vinci Code*.

2.- Which of these sentences is true?

- ☐ *The Da Vinci Code* has sold 6,000 copies since 2003.
- ☐ *The Da Vinci Code* will be a movie in 2006 starring Ron Howard.
- ☐ *The Da Vinci Code* has been translated into 10 languages.
- ☒ ***The Da Vinci Code* has sold more than 10 million copies**

3.- Why is the book such a big success?

- ☐ Although the writing is basic, the critics didn't like it.
- ☐ It doesn't fit the mood of the time.
- ☒ **It deals with conspiracies and we like them**
- ☐ The story is ridiculous and simple.

4.- Why do a lot of people believe the facts in the novel are true? Because ...

- ☐ Da Vinci' artwork actually exists in the Louvre Museum.
- ☐ the Louvre Museum and the Pyramid are in Paris (France).
- ☒ **the combination of historical facts and the story are very convincing.**
- ☐ all the elements and characters in the novel are real.

5.- What was Dan Brown's objective when writing the novel? He wanted people to ...

- ✗ learn about architecture, documents and secret rituals
- ✗ talk about unimportant questions in our lives.
- ✗ guess which facts were real and which facts were not.
- ✗ **debate themes like history, religion and faith.**

6.- How does Brown achieve his writing style? By ...

- ✗ putting a lot of information in his novels.
- ✗ writing ten pages everyday.
- ✗ **sacrificing unnecessary words and paragraphs.**
- ✗ avoiding a crystal-clear style.

7.- Where did Brown find the idea for *The Da Vinci Code*?

- ✗ **In Seville, in the Vatican and in the Louvre.**
- ✗ In Seville and in the Vatican
- ✗ In Seville and in the Louvre
- ✗ In the Vatican and in the Louvre

8.- What are some of Brown's habits when he writes?

- ✗ 4 a.m. he writes for one hour and does pushups and sit-ups.
- ✗ **He writes very early in the morning and stops every hour to do some gymnastics.**
- ✗ He is at his desk for four hours before he starts writing.
- ✗ He starts early in the afternoon and then goes to the gym for some exercise.