

SÈRIE 2.**Comprensió Escrita****ARE LOVE LOCKS ON BRIDGES ROMANTIC OR A MENACE?**

Choose the appropriate answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is correct.
[0.5 oints each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. Carolyn Barnabo and Clive Roberts left a lock on a bridge in Paris **because it was a romantic thing to do.**
2. Which sentence is FALSE? The custom of attaching locks on bridges **follows an Italian tradition.**
3. The phrase “padlocks have spread like fungus” means that **padlocks have appeared in great quantities and very quickly.**
4. The municipal authorities in Paris decided to eradicate this practice **when part of a històric bridge fell because of the weight of the locks.**
5. The city of Paris is putting panels of glass on bridges **to prevent the damage that the locks cause.**
6. According to the text, padlock sellers **are making profits from this epidemic.**
7. Love-locks **can now be found in a variety of places.**
8. Lisa Anselmo thinks that it would be a good idea for local authorities **to assign a place for people to attach their locks.**

Comprensió Oral

AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHAMPION

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

catch up with: retrobar-se, tornar-se a trobar / reencontrarse, volverse a reunir

practice: entrenament / entreno

odd: estrany / extraño

social networks: xarxes socials / redes sociales

insight: percepció / percepción

leisure: lleure, temps lliure / ocio, tiempo libre

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

Reporter: Each year at this time since 2009, tennis player Chris Jules has been coming to New York City and leaving with the U.S. Open trophy. Jules, who is 33 and among the top tennis practitioners, has no immediate plans to retire. Last August he won the Western Open title and was in the semifinals in Wimbledon in July. In November he was in the London Masters final. In today's program he's interviewed by our sports reporter.

Now listen to the rest of the interview.

Reporter: Good evening, Chris. Welcome to our program.

Jules: Good evening. Thank you for inviting me!

Reporter: First of all, Chris, how does it feel being a world champion, again?

Jules: Well, I'm great! I'm feeling so much better than I did last year. But hearing you say I've been coming to New York since 2009, I can't believe how old I am. Time really flies. But I'm feeling in great shape.

Reporter: Being a tennis champion means you must do a lot of travelling. How do you manage personal life and competition?

Jules: I love being in the tennis court but I am also happy to go back home in Austria, where I can **catch up with** friends and family ... although my wife and I also love it when it's time to pack things up and travel abroad. We always see its positive side, even though leaving our kids behind is hard.

Reporter: Tennis is your life and your passion, but has it always been like that? The discipline of **practice** and the tournaments and championships, don't you ever feel it's too much?

Jules: In my early years I had to struggle. There were times when I got bored after 45 minutes of practice; I wasn't enjoying tennis so much. That must have been when I was between 16 and 21 and there were so many of these moments that I nearly gave up. One day I said to my coach, "I'm fed up with this, I want to become professional". And so I did, and then I started to really enjoy tennis practice. Today I love practice; in fact my favorite time is when nobody's watching. When there's a crowd, I feel the pressure of the people watching, taking pictures, analyzing me.... I know it may sound **odd**, because I also enjoy the competition, and it's great when people are cheering and celebrating a good serve.

Reporter: You once told me you don't like being alone. Has that changed?

Jules: Not really. I love having people around. When we're at home, our house is always open; friends and family come in and out all the time. My wife travels with me most of the times but if she can't, well, it feels **odd** not having her with me. I remember when I went to Barcelona by myself last year. I got back to my room after the match and there was nobody there. I felt pretty lonely. My family, my wife and my twin daughters, are really important to me. If we can, we are always together. But, of course, the kids have to go to school; so sometimes that's not possible.

Reporter: Let's talk about tennis now. What has been the biggest change in tennis these last 10 years?

Jules: The game has evolved. The way we play tennis today has changed a lot, probably because of racket technology. Maybe it's not so much fun sometimes as it used to be. Ten years ago tennis players were aggressive in the sense that they would play from the back of the court and also from the front. Nowadays most tennis players play from the back. I prefer the way tennis was played before.

Reporter: But if I ask you what's the biggest change in YOUR life, what would you say?

Jules: The biggest change for me has probably been social media.

Reporter: You really seem to have taken to it!

Jules: Yeah, but it took me a while. I started with Facebook: downloading a few pictures and making comments. That was my slow introduction into the **social network**. Then last year it was Twitter. Everybody uses social media differently. I said to myself, "If I am going to do it, I'll do it my own way!" My idea was to give people the extra **insight** into tennis nobody else has. Give them something they didn't know. So I'm not publishing game results or other things that people may learn from the news. I'm giving them my feelings, my thoughts. And I'm glad about it since people say they like what I'm doing. I think it's been actually quite nice.

Reporter: Apart from tennis, your family and networking, what other things do you enjoy doing?

Jules: In my leisure time, I love meeting up with friends for coffee. And since I live this busy life, when I'm on vacation my favorite place is going to the beach; just listening to the waves on a solitary, quiet beach.

Reporter: What's one thing you're really looking forward to when you're not playing tennis? Other sports, perhaps?

Jules: I had to stop playing other sports because I'm too scared I might get injured. I used to play squash, badminton, basketball and soccer. So maybe I'll play them again in the future. And of course skiing; can you imagine living in Austria and not skiing?

Reporter: Well, Jules, I'm afraid we've run out of time. Thank you very much for your time.

Jules: My pleasure.

Clau de respostes

Choose the appropriate answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.

[0.25 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. According to the interview, Chris Jules ...
feels he's much better this year than the previous one.
2. Which of these things is the hardest for Jules when he leaves home?
Leaving his children.
3. When did Jules start loving tennis practice?
When he became a professional tennis player.
4. Today, Jules's favorite time playing tennis is when
he is alone and no one is observing what he does.
5. Which of these statements is TRUE?
Jules's wife did not travel with him the last time he went to Barcelona.
6. According to Jules, tennis has changed in the last ten years...
thanks to racket technology.
7. What does Jules say about *Facebook* and *Twitter*?
He likes to use the social media to express his own ideas.
8. What does Jules like to do in his leisure time?
To meet up with friends and going to the beach.

SÈRIE 4**Comprensió Escrita****ESPERANTO AND UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATION**

Choose the appropriate answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is correct.
[0.5 oints each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. Who was *Doktoro Esperanto*?
The inventor of an artificial, neutral language.
2. According to the text, Zamenhof was...
an idealist in favour of international understanding.
3. As a child, Zamenhof quickly realized that language division...
creates barriers to common humanity.
4. At the time of the first Esperanto International congress the French were...
not enthusiastic about a new international language.
5. The text implies that the Nazi regime would not favour Esperanto because...
it had been created by a Jewish person.
6. According to Ramon Perera, a good thing about Esperanto is that ...
it is not the language of any particular community.
7. The French economist François Grin argued that the use of Esperanto in the EU would...
help save a great amount of money.
8. The text suggests that the European Parliament has...
shown little interest in the use of Esperanto.

Comprensió Oral

TELEPATHY

Presenter: In today's programme *Debate* we will have two experts discussing the existence of *telepathy* as a paranormal activity. Telepathy is defined as the transmission of thoughts or feelings from one person to another without using any known **sensory** channel or physical interaction. Dr. John Thompson is a university Professor of physics. He claims that telepathy cannot be explained by modern physics, simply because it does not exist. Dr. Susan Barry runs a foundation in the United States which was established to look at the credibility of paranormal **phenomena**.

Presenter: Welcome to our programme.

JT, SB (simultaneously): Thank you. It's a pleasure.

Presenter: Professor Thompson, what is your position regarding telepathy?

John Thomson: I honestly think there is no firm evidence for the existence of telepathy as some kind of paranormal activity. I think physics can in fact explain what many people call "the paranormal". It's just a matter of having the knowledge and enough resources to be able to investigate these **phenomena** scientifically.

Presenter: Dr. Barry, Susan... What is your view?

Susan Barry: Well, I think Professor Thompson's approach is mainly based on the traditional notion that science and physics can explain everything in the way it has always been done. I think we need to be more open-minded and **figure out** how the mind works beyond physics. I don't think science takes the mind properly into account.

Presenter: Are you saying, to put it simply, that the mind is so powerful that not even physics can explain some of the things it can do?

JT: I think this is a crazy idea. However powerful the mind is, everything will eventually need to be explained by physics because this is just the way nature works and the way human nature has evolved over thousands of years.

Susan Barry: However, at the moment, science has not been able to give a full explanation for a whole range of phenomena that would fall under the name of telepathy. And I think it is unfair and not very "scientific" to say that anything that physics cannot explain can only be attributed to coincidence.

John Thomson: Well, there is the case of this book entitled *Thoughts through Space*, published by Sherman and Wilkins in 1942. The authors explained a number of experiments with the aim of providing evidence for the existence of telepathy.

Susan Barry: Yes, I read the book! I know about the experiment: Sherman was in New York and Wilkins was in the Arctic. At the end of each day they both visualised a mental image of the events they had experienced during the day and then wrote them down. And they also wrote down any thought impressions they had. When they compared their diaries they found that about seventy-five per cent of the thought impressions they had had coincided! Isn't that amazing!

John Thomson: Yes, but in the book they say they had demonstrated that it was possible to send and receive thought impressions from the mind of one person to another. I don't think that is possible. I think most of it was **guessing** and coincidence!

Susan Barry: Well, I think scientists should try to explain such coincidence!

John Thomson: Well, in fact, I believe physics does not need to explain the paranormal, because there's nothing to explain. I mean, the question really is whether there is any scientific evidence for the existence of telepathy, or for any of the other similar phenomena. Until its existence is scientifically demonstrated, we cannot say telepathy exists.

Susan Barry: But these phenomena have been observed again and again. I think scientists should be concerned about them, don't you? They should be interested in investigating them.

John Thomson: No. Not if we haven't got any phenomena to explain. If anyone could demonstrate that there is evidence for telepathy, or evidence that one can **bend** a piece of metal through the power of the mind, or anything like that, then institutions like universities would **invest** time and money to investigate telepathy. But we haven't got any evidence of such things!

Susan Barry: Well, with Uri Geller's metal **bending** for example, I suppose people would say that the evidence is in the eyes of the observer. So if you observe metal spoons bend before your eyes, then you have to believe it.

John Thomson: I don't think so. I actually think you can be in a show and see things happen before your eyes that you can't explain, but this does not mean that you need a revision of the laws of physics in order to explain them. Really, the one thing I think you should do is ask the artist in the show to explain what the trick was. But of course, if anyone asked artists to do that they would not do it. I think this was the case with Uri Geller and his spoon bending.

Susan Barry: Professor Thompson, is there no evidence that would satisfy a scientist?

John Thomson: Let me make the point; there is actually a big difference between a show and a scientific experiment. If someone wants to demonstrate that telepathy exists they should go to a scientific laboratory to properly test it and get **reliable** results.

Susan Barry: I see Professor Thompson is somebody who is very difficult to convince. I wouldn't mind taking part in any experiment to test the existence of telepathy. And he could watch that experiment! But I do understand that an experiment on telepathy may be very difficult to do scientifically. We would probably need a conscious observer to make the observation, a person with a conscious mind rather than a robot or a machine.

Presenter: Well, sadly, we must leave the argument here. Thank you both very much.

SB, JT (Simultaneously): Thank you. Thank you!

Words: 923

Clau de respostes

Choose the appropriate answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.

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1. Professor Thompson thinks that telepathy...
has not been demonstrated.
2. Dr. Susan Barry believes that Professor Thompson...
is a traditional scientist.
3. According to Professor Thompson,
physics can explain the world.
4. Dr. Susan Barry thinks that science...
does not explain telepathy.
5. The book *Thoughts through Space...*
is a well-known book about telepathy.
6. According to Dr Susan Barry, the bending of metal spoons can be explained by
the power of the mind.
7. According to Professor Thomson,
the bending of spoons is just a trick.
8. Dr Susan Barry and Professor Thomson agree that...
a telepathy experiment is not easy to carry out.