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SÈRIE 1

Reading comprehension

1) Ritesh Agarwal got the idea to start his own business
   a) when he was travelling around India.
   b) when he couldn't pay by credit card in a hotel.
   c) when he saw that travellers were having problems in India.
   d) when he couldn't enter his flat one night.

2) Mr Agarwal's company
   a) buys and sells unbranded hotels.
   b) mainly develops apps for hotel guests.
   c) benefits from other hotels' occupancy rates.
   d) improves hotels and gives them its brand.

3) The beginning of Oyo Rooms was difficult because
   a) few people thought this business had a future.
   b) some people thought technology was not a good business.
   c) Agarwal's fellowship demanded that he stopped studying.
   d) the money from the fellowship was not enough to start out.

4) Which sentence is NOT true? In his first hotel, Mr Agarwal
   a) had to do all sorts of jobs.
   b) was in charge of the hotel's website and app.
   c) already had the idea to make the project big.
   d) had a team of people to work for him.

5) The investors were convinced
   a) **when they compared an Oyo hotel to other, unimproved ones**.
   b) when they saw that all Indian hotels had many problems.
   c) after the banks were also interested in the project.
   d) after seeing budget hotels that were as good as the Oyo hotel.

6) Mr Agarwal admits that
   a) he couldn't open any bank accounts in the beginning.
   b) everyone took advantage of his young age.
   c) leaving college at seventeen was easier than it might have seemed.
   d) **his experiences with good people exceeded the bad ones**.

7) At present, Mr Agarwal
   a) is expanding his hotel network to other countries.
   b) pays little attention to customer feedback.
   c) is improving the potential of smartphones for his business.
   d) **hopes to expand in India thanks to the wider use of the internet**.

8) His advice to other people is to start a business young because
   a) **if you fail, what you learn will be useful for your next attempt**.
   b) it is easier for young people to find investors to support their ideas.
   c) studying is the key to success in the business world.
   d) if you fail, you still have time to go back to school.

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Listening Comprehension

BUILDING FOR A BETTER WORLD

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

environment
sustainable
soil
damage
pavements
renewable

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

Narrator/Interviewer: Last year a new building project located outside Amsterdam started. It's called the 20/20 Park Project. The idea is to have buildings that have a positive, beneficial impact on the **environment**. We asked the architect, Mr Zicari, to discuss the 20/20 Park Project with us.
Interviewer: Good morning, Mr Zicari. And welcome to the programme.
Mr Zicari: Good morning. And thank you for inviting me

Interviewer: First of all, tell us something about yourself. You are considered the father of a new concept in architecture: Building for a better world. When did you first think about this?
Mr Zicari: Well, I first thought about this while I was a graduate student at Yale University in the U.S., and I designed and built the first solar house in Ireland. I got help from NASA at the time. I was very interested in green architecture and so, I think that my ideas evolved from that.
Interviewer: So what exactly IS green architecture?
Mr Zicari: Green architecture is a philosophy to building which has become more popular in the last 25 to 30 years. It is also known as **sustainable** design. Green architecture is a way to minimize the impact of building on the environment.
Interviewer: So how is your idea of architecture different from green architecture?
Mr Zicari: I do not only think we have to take care of the environment. I think we have to improve it.
Interviewer: Are you talking about the materials we build with? Or the way we build?
Mr Zicari: I'm talking about changing our ideas about building. We know that we don't inhabit an infinite planet. The concept of throwing things "away" has, in effect, itself gone away. Nothing disappears forever. When I began my architecture career in the late 1970s, I was already thinking about the permanence of things.
Interviewer: Why is the 20/20 Park Project important to you?
Mr Zicari: The 20|20 Park Project became the opportunity to bring all my ideas together.
Interviewer: Could you tell us something more about this project?

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Mr Zicari: When I started the project, I realized we were designing buildings that were dangerous for the **soil**, the air and the water. Why would anybody do that on purpose?

Interviewer: But that's what we have been doing for years, isn't it?

Mr Zicari: Exactly, we have used materials that **damage** our environment. But, instead, we should be asking a different question: How much can we give for all that we get? And that's what I did. Not simply protect, but rather improve the environment.

Interviewer: This project started during the economic crisis. So what about money? Could people buy such houses?

Mr Zicari: The financial crisis has been going on since the start of the project, but the 20/20 Park Project has been very successful. We didn't think it would be so successful. In fact, we've done about 40 percent better than we anticipated. And I believe this is because we've done things thinking about what the world should be like.

Interviewer: Do others agree with you?

Mr Zicari: Most people agree that the project is quite successful. We are proud of the buildings that are complete, and of how comfortable the people living there find them.

Interviewer: So you believe that people prefer green architecture.

Mr Zicari: Well, yes. The concept of green architecture is great, but it's more than green roofs and permeable **pavements**. It is not just a question of managing water.

Interviewer: Could you give us some examples?

Mr Zicari: Green roofs can also be used as parks, farms and natural habitats for wildlife. Green infrastructure can lower air temperature. All these things are really important for making our buildings more sustainable.

Interviewer: So, is the 20/20 Park Project green architecture?

Mr Zicari: Yes and no. It is more than green architecture. The 20/20 Park Project is green architecture but it is also a project where people are more important than business. The things that we value are quality and beauty. The questions are "How can we make it more beautiful? How can we make it healthier? How can we make it more effective through the use of clean energy?" It's always about better, better, better.

Interviewer: And can ordinary people pay for it?

Mr Zicari: It is expensive but people pay for it. Numbers are important, but what makes people happy? That matters, too. That's what we try to do —and maybe change the world a bit, too.

Interviewer: We've run out of time. Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts with us.

Mr Zicari: My pleasure.

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Listening comprehension

1. Where did the idea of building for a better world come from?
❒ **It is an evolution from his interest in green architecture.**
❒ It originated in Ireland where the first solar house was built.
❒ It came from a group of students at Yale University.
❒ It came from a NASA theory when designing a solar house.

2. What is the difference between green architecture and Mr Zicari's idea of architecture?
❒ **Green architecture cares for the environment and his architecture tries to improve it.**
❒ His architecture is more popular than green architecture.
❒ His architecture takes care of the materials we build with and green architecture does not.
❒ Green architecture is continuously improving and his architecture never changes.

3. What is the most important part of a project for Mr Zicari?
❒ The location of the buildings.
❒ The time needed for construction.
❒ **The person's well being.**
❒ The things that are thrown away.

4. What did Mr Zicari worry about when he started the project?
❒ He was concerned about people who put the environment in danger on purpose.
❒ He was only worried about the soil and the water .
❒ **He wanted to give something back to the environment.**
❒ He wanted to sell all the houses in the development.

5. Which of these sentences is NOT correct?
❒ People living in the buildings find them comfortable.
❒ **All the buildings in the project are complete.**
❒ Mr. Zicari thinks the project is a big success.
❒ The financial crisis does not seem to have affected the whole project.

6. Which of these things about green architecture is NOT mentioned in the text?
❒ Green roofs.
❒ Permeable pavements
❒ Green infrastructures
❒ **Green façades**

7. Which are the most important things in the 20/20 Park Project?
❒ **Quality and beauty.**
❒ Beauty and energy.
❒ Biodiversity and clean energy.
❒ Business and quality.

8. What is Mr Zicari's ultimate goal?
❒ To earn a lot of money.
❒ To build for rich people.
❒ **To try to change the world a little bit.**
❒ To make people rich.