

PRACTICE TEST

ACTIVITY 1

Read the text and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 1-2.

1. The writer

- A. advises readers to work fewer hours.
- B. criticizes people who overwork.
- C. explains that people who work too hard may need help.

2. The writer is probably someone who

- A. is trying to relax more.
- B. enjoys working a lot.
- C. is trying to work harder.

'Workaholics anonymous' is for real. Membership is free and the only qualification you need is the wish to stop working all the time. My favourite thing about it is that they also have meetings online and by phone for people who are too busy to turn up in person!

Workaholic

What's so wrong with being a workaholic anyway? At least it's better-paid than being addicted to more dangerous habits. Instead of getting you into debt, it gets you promotion, extra money and more interesting work. Aren't these things what most people want? Like many who work late into the night, I am a workaholic and proud of it. I know it's not very healthy, but it is preferable to being lazy. It's the latter who are likely to develop more dangerous addictions.

But there is a difference between those who are workaholics because they love their work and can relax at some point and those who are workaholics because they have nothing better to do.

I once saw a colleague get promoted to a job she was not ready for and she began to work around the clock to cover up for the fact that she didn't know what she was doing. The more hours she worked, the worse things became. In six months, she had a nervous breakdown.

Anyway, the point is you have to know whether being a workaholic is good for you and those around you. If you can manage to be a bit of a workaholic and yet still lead an ordinary life outside work, you're fine. If not, maybe you need help.

Read the text again and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 3-6.

3. Workaholics meetings are for people who

- A. are too busy.
- B. want to work less.
- C. enjoy working hard.

4. The members of Workaholics Anonymous

- A. do not have face-to-face meetings.
- B. can talk to each other on the internet.
- C. are too busy to talk to each other.

5. The writer thinks lazy people

- A. have a serious addiction problem.
- B. are luckier than workaholics.
- C. are in greater danger than workaholics.

6. The writer says that one of his colleagues worked very hard

- A. but was not effective.
- B. and was always upset.
- C. and got a lot done.

ACTIVITY 2

Match the underlined words (items 7-11) with words or phrases having a similar meaning in this context (options A-F). There is one option you do not need.

A. join B. receive C. see D. need E. give F. test

Becoming a blogger

What is a 'blog'? Well, it is an abbreviated word for weblog—a journal in which people can publish their thoughts and opinions on the Internet. Anyone can start a blog. It's straightforward and, in a lot of cases, free.

Steps

1. Find a blogging site. Most of these sites don't (7) require much technical know-how.

2. Once you (8) sign up, you see a set of ready-made layouts and schemes. Select one. Then add your name, interests, images, etc.
3. Add buttons, images, guest maps, comment boxes for readers' input.
4. Decide on whether or not you want your blog to be private or public. Most blog sites (9) offer you the choice to protect your work so that only those you approve of can (10) view what you've written.
5. After you've set up your blog, write a few posts to (11) try out your blog and make any changes to the layout or style. At first, it will seem tough to know what to write, but once you get into a routine of daily blogging, you will find it gets easier.

ACTIVITY 3

Read the text below and for each gap (12-16) choose the best option (A-F). Use each option once only. There is one option you do not need.

- A. from B. for C. beyond D. at E. after F. of

The ancient agora in Thessaloniki was the administrative centre of the city during the Roman period. It was built (12)_____ the end of the second century AD on the site (13)_____ an older agora. In the fifth century, the government moved it to Galerius' Palace. In the sixteenth century, Jews (14)_____ Spain came to live in the area. The main entrance to the agora was on Olympou Street (as it is called today). The agora had a row of shops along today's Philippou Street. Some statues of the Muses were found near the ruins of a building, so the building was probably a theatre. (15)_____ the fire of 1917, the site was going to be used for the new law courts but it became an archeological site and the name was changed from "Plateia Dikastirion" [Law Courts Square] to "Plateia Archaia Agoras" [Ancient Agora Square]. Today, the area of the agora known as the Odeon is used (16)_____ cultural events such as concerts, plays and exhibitions.

ACTIVITY 4

Read the text about body language and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17-18.

17. The main aim of this text is to

- A. introduce the reader to body language.
- B. help the reader get a better job.
- C. show why handshakes are important.

18. The writer says that body language

- A. is less important than words.

- B. is the best form of communication.
- C. tells us a lot about what people are like.

Body Language: Basics

How you move and gesture says as much about you as what comes out of your mouth.

A firm or a limp handshake?

Jenny Smith, 34, an assistant vice-president at a bank in New York, was interviewing candidates for a position which required a person with good people and communication skills.

One candidate in particular stood out, but not in a good way. While she could have been very intelligent, her body language sent out very different messages. Her handshake was more of a finger shake, her eye contact was weak.

To Jenny, what the candidate said didn't matter because her body language said everything: she wasn't suitable for the position. The candidate may have been quite appropriate, but she didn't manage to get that across. So our body language may not do us justice. But there are some signals which are very common and are worth a thousand words.

For example, a handshake can say much more than 'hello, nice to meet you'. The most important part of a handshake is palm-to-palm contact. It's even more important than how strong your handshake is. The palm-to-palm contact makes people seem honest: it seems to say 'I am sincere'. A weak handshake –when the palms don't touch– makes you seem unfriendly, insincere.

But people sometimes use body language to give each other the wrong impression. Somebody who has a firm handshake may be pretending to be sincere, and somebody with a weak handshake may just be a bit shy and nothing more.

Body language can also be overdone. While eye contact gives an impression of friendliness, too much eye contact or eye contact which is too intense can make people feel uncomfortable.

Read the text again and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 19-25. 19.

19. A firm handshake is considered rather positive, whereas a limp handshake is considered negative.

- A. This is correct.
- B. It's the other way around.
- C. According to the text, this is wrong.

20. Jenny Smith, who's mentioned in the text, is

- A. a good communicator.
- B. an employer.
- C. an expert in body language.

21. The candidate for the job failed because

- A. she wasn't clever enough.
- B. she said the wrong things.
- C. she had bad body language.

22. When you shake someone's hand you should

- A. say 'hello' at the same time.
- B. hold their hand tight.
- C. make good contact with their hand.

23. If someone has a firm handshake

- A. they must be sincere.
- B. they may be friendly.
- C. they are not honest.

24. When can eye contact be a problem?

- A. When it is too friendly.
- B. When it lasts too long.
- C. When we do not feel relaxed.

25. According to the text, our body language

- A. may give other people the wrong impression.
- B. tells other people what we are really like.
- C. shows other people what we are thinking.