



learning the basics

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Comprehension A

Use this passage to answer questions 1-6.

Words acquire more meanings and nuances as new inventions make their way into the world. One of the earlier meanings of the tablet was a pill that served as medicine and needed to be swallowed. The original meaning is still retained, but it now has an additional meaning. The word tablet now also refers to a small portable wireless device with touchscreen interface.

The tablet holds a prominent place at home, at work, and now at school too. Many educationists foresee the tablet replacing books and notebooks in the classroom, and probably the displacement of paper, the pencil and pen. Most parents and educationists also see the introduction of the tablet in the classroom as a solution to the heavily loaded backpack that students carry to school (or sometimes have their parents carry!). Of course, as in any new innovative method that is introduced, there are misgivings among parents and teachers that it could lead to distraction and chaos, especially in the large classrooms, where it is nearly impossible for the individual teacher to keep track of every single student.

Schools in the USA say that the use of tablets is more cost effective than the use of traditional textbooks. Updating software is done automatically; textbooks, however, need to be bought every couple of years when there is a new edition or when teachers ask for a change in publisher or title. The tablet is meant to do its job for a good number of years so there will never be the need to replace it often.

Tablets of course are visually stimulating and can hold the attention of students much more than that of the teacher. When put to use effectively, students will gravitate towards independent learning and be in a position to take quizzes to assess their learning. The motivation has to be in the right direction.

Studies show that the tablet does not allow students to develop critical thinking since all the answers are there in the magic device. There is no need for the student to wade through a text to locate the answer. Keeping the eyes fixed on the tablet can of course be detrimental to the students' health. Students tend to get distracted by the games and videos and stray off course. Teachers too are overwhelmed by the technology and are unable to compete with the gadget as they themselves now appear less appealing and less colourful to students, even though some may have more to offer in terms of knowledge and life skills.

Comprehension B

Use this passage to answer questions 7-10.

Being the senior-most teacher in school, with more than thirty years' experience of teaching, I am outright intimidated by the tablet. I do of course use it at home to browse, to shop and to listen to music and sometimes watch movies. But using it as an educational tool is something that I am still striving to adapt to. I am always so afraid that young students may lose focus; moreover, the tablet is stiff competition.

I am definitely not as interesting as the gadget, even though I am absolutely certain that some of the activities that I do with the students are creative and help with comprehension. It's not that I am reluctant to use technology; it's just that I feel I will lose all sense of control in the classroom. You can't blame me for this kind of attitude because it is the way we have been doing things. I am not tech-savvy and so there is this constant fear that I will not be able to keep up with the knowledge that the students have! The tablet has made me feel outdated and even redundant! I know that there are upsides and downsides to technology. I just probably need to adopt a more positive attitude towards it....and I am trying to work on that!

Answer the following questions.

1. What are the two meanings of the word tablet today?
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2. Why is there a general feeling that the tablet can cause confusion and chaos, particularly in large classrooms?
-
3. What do studies on the use of tablets reveal? Choose the correct answer.
- It does not allow students to develop critical thinking.
 - Students tend to get distracted.
 - It can be detrimental to the students' health.
 - All of the above.
4. *The motivation has to be in the right direction.* What does this mean?
- It is important for students not to get too distracted by the entertainment that the tablet offers.
 - The students need to learn to use the tablet for educational purposes.
 - The teacher needs to guide the students in the right manner.
 - Both a and b.
5. In addition to knowledge, what is the other thing that teachers can still offer students?
- Motivation
 - Innovation
 - Life skills
 - None of the above.
6. *Schools in the USA say that the use of tablets is more cost effective than using traditional textbooks.* Choose the two reasons given for this.
- Students have to carry a heavy load of books.
 - Software gets updated automatically.
 - There is no repeated investment in books.
 - Both b and c.
7. Who is the writer of Comprehension B?
- A student
 - A teacher
 - Someone not very tech-savvy
 - Both b and c.
8. Which word in the first paragraph means afraid?
- Fear
 - Intimidated
 - Control
 - None of the above.
9. The writer is afraid that he/she will not be able to keep up with the students since he/she
- will lose control of the students.
 - is not tech savvy.
 - is not a good teacher.
 - is not creative.

10. ___ is the antonym of the word *redundant*. (Second paragraph)

- a. Essential
- b. Unnecessary
- c. Extra
- d. Spare.

11. Of the two passages, which passage is more personal? Circle the correct answer.

- A. B.

12. Tick the correct option in each box to show which passage holds the given views.

	A	B
i. Tablets hold the attention of students more than that of the teacher.		
ii. It is difficult to compete with the tablet.		
iii. The tablet can have negative effects on the health of students.		
iv. One needs to adopt a positive attitude towards technology.		

Grammar

A. Some words can be both nouns and verbs depending on how they are used in a sentence. Circle the words that can be both nouns and verbs. There are 10 of them.

- | | | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|--------|----------|
| swing | call | guess | guest | paint |
| project | laugh | laughter | record | disagree |
| wave | lock | dance | action | editing |

B. Read the following tongue twister and answer the questions.

Of all the felt I ever felt _____

I never felt a piece of felt _____

Which felt as fine as that felt felt _____

When first I felt that felt hat's felt. _____

1. How many times has the word *felt* been repeated?

2. Write what part of speech the word *felt* is in every line. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

Spelling



There are some words in the English language that sound very similar but have different spellings and meanings. There are 10 such words in this passage. Underline the wrong words and rewrite their correct forms in the blanks provided.

We wear going to a concert. I was very excited and wondered what to where. The whether forecast said that it would be hot and humid. I put on my favourite dress, but decided not to wear the new bracelet because it was a little lose. The concert hall was far from quite when I arrived. My friend was already waiting impatiently for me. She complemented me on my dress and than we went in, finding our weigh in the crowd. We found our seats and looked around. It was indeed a site to behold.....how beautiful everything looked! I was glad I had excepted my friend's invitation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Vocabulary

Look at the words in the grid. There are nine words in colour. Find rhyming words from the grid for each of them and write them in the blanks.

toe	flour	marry	pole	sew
tier	mole	Jerry	mire	tire
sore	ferry	fire	carry	pour
our	hire	merry	more	very
shower	deer	near	cherry	sour
Larry	bury	whole	floor	due
we're	toll	fear	Harry	core
new	bowl	floor	door	Few

Writing

The following telephone conversation is in SMS language. Rewrite it in correct English, paying attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation.

A: gud AM. welcom 2 Woodlands htl

B: gud AM. id lk2 mke a resRv8n 4t 3rd w/e in oct

A: jst a min sir. w'v sevr l r%ms avail. 4 dat pRticulR w/e. n watz d Xact d8 of yr arrival

B: d 16th

A: how mNE days wiL U reqiR d room sir

B: IL B stayin 4 2 nyts.

A: hw mnE ppl S d resRv8n 4 sir

B: jst 1. watz d r%m trff

A: yr rm S 3 K per nyt. undR wot nAm do l tAk d resRv8n sir

B: Mohan Singh

A: cUd u spel yr lst nme 4 me sir

B: suR. S-I-N-G-H

A: c%d i hav yor kontak # sir

B: yes. my ceL # iz 7609889011

A: thk U sir. l%kin 4ward 2 CN U. hav a nlsdA

B. U 2.

Pronunciation

Look at the following words. There are eight words where the letter g sounds like a j. Circle the word and underline the g in the word that sounds like a j.

giant	game	generous	giagantic
geography	bulge	go-getter	dragon
geology	ghost	giraffe	gentle

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Pronunciation: giant, generous, gigantic, geography, bulge, geology, giraffe, gentle

A: Thank you, Sir. Looking forward to seeing you. Have a nice day.
 B: You too.

A: Could I have your contact number, Sir?
 B: Yes. My cell number is 7609889011.

A: Could you spell your last name for me, Sir?
 B: Sure. S-I-N-G-H.

A: Your room is three thousand per night. Under what name do I take the reservation, Sir?
 B: Mohan Singh.

A: How many people is the reservation for, Sir?
 B: Just one. What's (What is) the room tariff?

A: How many days will you require the room, Sir?
 B: I will be staying for two nights.

A: The 16th.
 B: date of your arrival?

A: Good morning. Welcome to Woodlands hotel.
 B: Good morning. I'd (I would) like to make a reservation for the third week in October.

Writing

Vocabulary

1. toe: sew, owe
 2. flour: our, shower, sour
 3. marry: carry, Larry, Harry
 4. pole: mole, toll, bowl, whole
 5. tier: deer, fear, near, we're
 6. Jerry: ferry, merry, cherry, very, bury
 7. mire: tire, fire, hire
 8. sore: pour, more, floor, door, core
 9. due: new, few

Spelling:

1) were 2) wear 3) weather 4) loose 5) quiet
 6) complimented 7) then 8) way 9) sight 10) accepted

Grammar:

A. swing, call, guess, paint, project, laugh, record, wave, lock, dance
 B. 1) ten; 2) noun, verb, noun, verb, noun, verb, noun, adjective, noun

Comprehension

1. a) a pill b) a small portable wireless device with touchscreen interface
 2. There is this general feeling that it will be nearly impossible for the teacher to keep track of every single student.

3) d 4) d 5) c 6) d 7) d 8) b 9) b 10) a
 11) B 12) i) A, iii) B, iv) B

Answers