

第 1 問 Read the following passage and choose the most appropriate answer from **a ~ d** for each question.

Pet-supply companies have taken note of the pet-therapy phenomenon and are producing a variety of devices to help seniors raise animals. For example, electronic feeders release a certain (1) of food at set times of the day. There are also watering machines which automatically clean the pet's bowl and add fresh water. Mini pet-walkers (basically treadmills for dogs) make sure pets get enough exercise if their owners have mobility problems. (2) device throws tennis balls to make it easier to play catch with a dog.

And now, there's even a generation of robot pets. (3) companies like Sony and Matsushita Electric and increasingly lifelike, these cute robots show a range of emotions and interact extensively with their owners. Some, such as the "Robobear," have impressive functions. Equipped with voice-recognition technology, Robobear immediately contacts an emergency response center when it hears its "owner" (4) phrases like "I am sick." For seniors unable to own pets or afford full-time medical care, these super-intelligent robot pets could provide a "best of both worlds" solution. Indeed, whether it barks, meows, or recharges in a wall socket, a pet can be a great companion for a senior citizen.

[Source: Bennett, Andrew E. *Reading Fusion I*]

問 1 Which best fills in the blank (1)? 1

- a** amount
- b** number
- c** extent
- d** dozen

問 2 Which best fills in the blank (2)? 2

- a Another
- b No
- c Every
- d The other

問 3 Which best fills in the blank (3)? 3

- a Develop by
- b Developed by
- c Developing by
- d Having developed by

問 4 Which best fills in the blank (4)? 4

- a say
- b says
- c said
- d had said

第2問 Read the following conversation and choose the most appropriate answer from **a ~ d** for each question.

(Alan and Barry are in the same class.)

Alan: Yesterday I had a date. What do you think of that?

Barry: ⁽¹⁾You're joking! With whom?

Alan: Kathy. The most beautiful girl in our class!

Barry: ⁽²⁾You must be joking! Tell me, how did you manage to make a date with her?

Alan: Well, I just called her up and said, "I have two tickets for a rock concert. Would you like to go with me?" And she said, "O.K. Let's meet at the Stardust Coffee Shop at eleven o'clock." Can you believe it?

Barry: No, I can't believe it!

Alan: But when I woke up yesterday morning, I found that it was already eleven-fifteen. I kept her ⁽⁴⁾waiting for an hour and a half. Can you believe that?

Barry: Yes, I can easily believe it! You always wake up late and your alarm clock never works. . .

Alan: But she was still waiting for me! She said very gently, "It's quite all right. I was a little late, too."

Barry: Really? What a kind girl she is!

Alan: Then we went to a French restaurant called Belle France.

Barry: You're not serious! It's a very expensive high-class restaurant.

Alan: That's right. We had lunch there. It was very good. We enjoyed both the food and the atmosphere. Unfortunately, I dropped some dessert on my shirt.

Barry: Uh-oh.

Alan: Then she handed me her handkerchief.

Barry: Surely not!

Alan: When we finished eating, I found that I didn't have enough money to pay.

Barry: It doesn't surprise me at all. The day before yesterday you were almost broke.

Alan: Then she said, "Never mind. My father gave me some money this morning.

I'll (7) you."

Barry: You can't expect me to believe that!

Alan: It's completely true. To make matters worse, I had forgotten the concert tickets.

Barry: What did she say then?

Alan: She said, "I don't mind. How about going to the park?"

Barry: I can't believe it!

Alan: So we went to the park and rowed a boat. We had a good time.

Barry: And?

Alan: When we said good-bye, she said, "Thank you very much. Thanks to you, I now realize how wonderful Dick is! I broke up with him, but now I've decided to go back to him."

Barry: Of course, I can believe that.

[Source: Williams, Stephen N. *The English You Really Need*]

問 1 Why did Barry say "(1) You're joking!"? **5**

- a** Barry didn't like Alan's attitude.
- b** Barry thought Alan was not likely to have a date with any girl.
- c** Barry thought Alan was asked by a girl to have a date.
- d** Barry thought Alan's mood seemed strange.

問 2 Why did Barry say "(2) You must be joking!"? **6**

- a** He believed it was unthinkable for Alan to have a date with Kathy.
- b** He believed Kathy was not as beautiful as Alan said she was.
- c** He believed Alan misunderstood the situation.
- d** He believed that he should have a date with Kathy instead of Alan.

問 3 Who did Alan call up for a date? 7

- a His very best friend
- b A girl he knew very well
- c A very good-looking girl
- d Someone who likes rock concerts very much

問 4 What was the outcome of keeping Kathy “(4) waiting for an hour and a half”? 8

- a After waking up, it took Alan an hour and a half to get to the coffee shop.
- b Alan arrived at the shop around 12:30.
- c Alan asked Kathy to wait a little longer by phone.
- d Alan overslept for one and a half hours.

問 5 When Alan came to the coffee shop, why didn't Kathy blame him? 9

- a She didn't get there by the appointed time.
- b She knew about his odd behavior in daily life.
- c She wanted him to behave kindly.
- d She'd already been informed of his delay.

問 6 What happened at the restaurant? 10

- a Alan broke up with Kathy before dessert.
- b Alan's shirt didn't fit properly.
- c Alan couldn't take care of the bill.
- d Alan didn't use a handkerchief.

問 7 Which best fills in the blank (7)? **11**

- a pay
- b confirm
- c treat
- d contribute

問 8 Why didn't they go to the rock concert? **12**

- a He didn't have enough money for the tickets.
- b She didn't want to go to a rock concert.
- c He woke up late.
- d He forgot the tickets.

問 9 What caused Kathy to change her mind about Dick? **13**

- a Kathy's regret for going out with Dick
- b Kathy's confused feelings for Alan's aggressive attitude
- c Alan's rude behavior
- d Alan's not asking for another date

第3問 Read the following passage and choose the most appropriate answer from **a～d** for each question.

In the 16th century Europeans came to South America looking for gold. Gold they found, but although they did not at the time realize it, they also found something much more valuable, the potato.

It was the Spaniards who first brought the potato (X) the New World and cultivated it (Y) Europe as a garden vegetable. By 1580 potatoes were used as food stores on Spanish ships. They did not rot as quickly as meat, and although it was not yet known, the vegetable helped to prevent *¹scurvy, the vitamin-deficiency disease that threatened all those on long sea voyages.

A second and independent introduction of the potato was made by English adventurers. Sir Walter Raleigh obtained some to grow on his estate in Ireland. ⁽⁴⁾This was later indirectly to influence the history of the United States.

The potato, now grown in over 130 countries, owes its success to its being hardy, fruitful, and nutritious, growing quickly in almost any climate, except steamy jungles, and producing twice as much *²nutritious food as wheat, maize or rice grown on the same area of land. Its protein is of higher quality than the soya bean, and a single potato supplies half the daily Vitamin C requirement of an adult. It is so nutritious that a man in Scandinavia once lived healthily for 300 days on nothing but potatoes and a little margarine.

In hard winters, potatoes and salt *³herring used to be the mainstay of many poor families in northern Europe. One salt herring was enough to give a good flavour to a large number of boiled potatoes.

Meanwhile, in Ireland the potato had become a staple food, so much so that in today's Ireland even Chinese restaurants must serve potatoes. It is possible that the availability of this cheap and nourishing food spurred the Industrial Revolution throughout Britain by supporting the swelling population of the towns; it is certain that the Irish potato blight and famine of 1845-50, when the potato crop failed, caused more than a million

starving Irish people to *⁴emigrate to the United States.

Convincing people to accept the potato in the first place was not easy. When introduced to Europe, it was called an evil food, fit only for pigs to eat, and said to be the source of many diseases. The story of how it was introduced to France is entertaining.

The French chemist A. A. Parmentier was a prisoner of war in Germany in 1757, and survived by eating potatoes. On returning to France, he found his countrymen facing starvation but still suspicious of the vegetable that had saved his life. He persuaded the King to give him a notoriously infertile sandy field near Paris, where he grew a splendid crop of potatoes, which flourish in sandy soil. Well aware that most people believe that anything forbidden must be desirable, he asked the King to give the potatoes royal protection, stationing guards around them by day but withdrawing them by night. The trick worked. The local farmers slipped into the field for their private potato harvest, and soon the vegetable was growing all over the country. By the end of the century potatoes were considered to be so *⁵indispensable that the French government issued a decree ordering all luxury gardens to be dug up and devoted to growing potatoes.

Parmentier presented the King with a bouquet of potato blossoms, and the Queen started a new fashion when she wore some of them in her hair.

The northern parts of Europe took to the potato far more readily. By the end of the 16th century cookery books in Germany and in Switzerland were already offering potato recipes. In 1799, the Austrians and the Prussians fought what is known as the Potato War. It got its name from the fact that after the two sides had eaten all the potatoes available nearby, they gave up fighting and went home. No potatoes? No war!

[Source: Kotake, M. Heather. *Food in Tradition and Culture*]

Notes: *¹scurvy 壊血病

*²nutritious 栄養のある

*³herring ニシン

*⁴emigrate (他国へ) 移住する

*⁵indispensable 不可欠な

問 1 What did European adventurers unexpectedly find in the 16th century? 14

- a Gold
- b Potatoes
- c South Americans
- d A new country

問 2 Which combination best fits in (X) and (Y)? 15

- a X: to Y: from
- b X: to Y: in
- c X: from Y: in
- d X: in Y: from

問 3 Why were potatoes stored on Spanish ships? 16

- a They lasted for a long time.
- b They tasted better than meat.
- c They were known to prevent scurvy.
- d They could be bought on the ship.

問 4 What does “(4) This was later indirectly to influence the history of the United States.” refer to based on the whole passage? 17

- a Irish emigration to the US
- b Irish introduction of potatoes to the US
- c Irish economic contribution to the US
- d Irish exportation of potatoes to the US

問 5 What is not mentioned as a characteristic of potatoes? 18

- a They are good for your health.
- b They are easy to transport.
- c They are expensive.
- d They grow in various conditions.

問 6 What caused Irish emigration to the United States? 19

- a Too few potatoes
- b Too many people
- c The Industrial Revolution
- d Towns becoming too populated

問 7 What made potatoes unpopular when they first came to Europe? 20

- a The King told his people not to eat potatoes.
- b Evil people were thought to eat potatoes.
- c Potatoes were believed to cause illness.
- d Potatoes were difficult to grow.

問 8 What trick of the French chemist worked? 21

- a He cheated the King out of potatoes.
- b He made potatoes desirable to others.
- c He escaped from Germany with potatoes.
- d He protected his potatoes night and day with guards.

問 9 What stopped the Potato War? 22

- a The lack of motivation
- b The lack of equipment
- c The lack of a food supply
- d The lack of justice in the war

第4問 Read the following passage and choose the most appropriate answer from **a ~ d** for each question.

People often say that life is like climbing a mountain. Until you reach the top, there are all kinds of difficulties and troubles, and the hardest thing can be coming down from the mountain. Canadian adventurer and consultant Steve Donahue is opposed to this notion. He argues that life is really more like a desert; mountains offer a clear goal, the summit, but deserts are trackless, and people don't know for sure where to go. Donahue suggests several ways to cross the desert wisely, based on his experience.

The most important thing is to follow the compass, not the map. Do not cling to the place where you are but be aware of where you are heading. Mountains and maps have something in common — both have a clear goal and known paths and you can calculate the time to your destination. But unlike mountains, deserts usually don't have roads. Common sense is not enough and no one knows where a path may lead. Therefore, in a desert it is important ⁽⁴⁾to read the compass within yourself and pay heed to your own sense of direction rather than what you see. French author and pilot Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said, "I stayed up all night reading the map. However, it was useless. I couldn't find out (5)."

The advice that one should ^{*1}deflate a tire when caught in sand is very interesting. In the wilderness of the desert, the more you press on the gas to speed up the car, the deeper the car sinks into the sand. A strong ego is important, as is a powerful engine in a car, but when you are in trouble, ⁽⁶⁾wisdom ^{*2}dictates letting some air out of the ego. By letting go of past behaviors and beliefs and becoming more humble, you are able to (7) the fact that you are not perfect.

Resting once in a while when you come across an oasis is another wise thing to do. Don't just drink water from the oasis, but rest. Rather than pressing to reach the goal, resting once in a while, restoring your energy and looking both forward and ⁽⁹⁾back allows you to work more efficiently. The more you rest, the farther you can get ahead; it's another wisdom of a desert journey.

Notes: *¹deflate 空気を抜く *²dictate 決定する

問 1 What is climbing a mountain like according to the writer? **23**

- a** A person follows the known route to the top to avoid many difficulties and enjoys coming down.
- b** A person must overcome many difficulties to get to the top and pay even more attention when coming down.
- c** A person can have the great experience of overcoming difficulties and reaching the top.
- d** A person finds going up more difficult than coming down due to changing weather.

問 2 What is crossing a desert like according to the writer? **24**

- a** Miles of sand makes you lose your way easily.
- b** You can't find any roads for easy traveling.
- c** You can enjoy the unusual scenery.
- d** You seldom have a chance to meet people.

問 3 What is important when you are in a desert? **25**

- a** To concentrate on where you are bound for
- b** To believe what you see
- c** To follow what is shown on the map
- d** To read a map to find the track

問 4 What does the writer mean by “(4) to read the compass within yourself”? 26

- a Trusting one's internal ability to know where to go
- b Using one's eyesight to see in all directions
- c Relying on common sense
- d Keeping a compass in your pocket

問 5 Which best fills in the blank (5)? 27

- a where to stay
- b where to live
- c where I slept
- d where I was

問 6 What does “(6) wisdom” require when you are in trouble? 28

- a That you should stand up with strength and fight
- b That you should put aside your pride
- c That you should take to the air and escape
- d That you should let go of others and find a new direction

問 7 Which best fills in the blank (7)? 29

- a accept
- b refuse
- c deny
- d forget

問8 What should people do in an oasis according to the writer? 30

- a They should meet fellow travelers.
- b They should check their car.
- c They should eat the local foods.
- d They should stop traveling for a while.

問9 Which best describes the writer's idea of looking “₍₉₎back”? 31

- a Watching other people
- b Searching for things
- c Refreshing the memory
- d Leaving the place behind

問10 What allows you to work more efficiently toward your goal according to the writer? 32

- a Working hard and reaching your goal quickly
- b Restoring energy by moving around
- c Stopping and taking things into consideration
- d Getting ahead by never quitting