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LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

Cum să studiem un text
Vocabulary in Context

CORINT

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CUVÂNT-ÎNAINTE

Limba engleză. Cum să studiem un text. Vocabulary in Context este o culegere de texte ce se adresează cunoscătorilor de limbă engleză la nivel „upper-intermediate", fie că aceştia sunt elevi în clasa a VIII-a care se pregătesc pentru susținerea examenelor de admitere în clase cu program intensiv sau bilingv, fie că sunt adulți care vor să-şi împrospăteze şi să-şi dezvolte cunoştințele de limbă engleză.

Această culegere de texte alese şi dezvoltate în jurul unor unități tematice este concepută pentru a ajuta utilizatorii să-şi dezvolte deprinderi de înțelegere a textului citit, dar şi de producere de texte de lungime medie, ca de exemplu scrisori, descrieri, poveşti. S-a optat pentru selectarea unor texte autentice, în general articole care acoperă subiecte variate în cadrul celor cinci teme abordate. Toate exercițiile sunt construite în jurul textului, pornind de la structurile de limbă identificate şi care au înlesnit prezentarea şi exersarea unor noțiuni, în special de vocabular şi gramatică. De fapt, *Word Work* şi *Grammar Practice* sunt rubricile cele mai ample, care propun activități dintre cele mai diverse.

Lucrarea de față este concepută pentru studiul individual. Fiecare capitol se încheie cu o lecție recapitulativă în care sunt reluate majoritatea structurilor tratate anterior, un bun prilej pentru evaluarea însuşirii acestora. De asemenea, finalul cărții conține răspunsurile pentru exercițiile de vocabular şi gramatică pentru fiecare lecție, permițând utilizatorului să-şi urmărească pas cu pas evoluția.

Pentru a întâmpina eventualele dificultăți de înțelegere a textelor propuse, la sfârşitul lucrării s-a adăugat vocabularul corespunzător fiecărei lecții. De asemenea, problemele de gramatică tratate pe parcursul cărții sunt detaliate în compendiul inclus în anexă.

Într-un format atractiv, propunând texte de interes general şi exerciții dinamice, această culegere contribuie la consolidarea cunoştințelor deja acumulate, dar facilitează şi introducerea de concepte noi, dorindu-se un instrument de lucru eficient şi plăcut în acelaşi timp.

Autoarele

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Computers

Lead in

1. How often do you use a computer? What do you use it for?

2. What would our life be like without computers? Make a list of advantages and disadvantages.

3. Read the following text and choose an appropriate subtitle for each paragraph. There is one extra.

a) Computers and libraries ☐
b) An aid for doctors ☐
c) Fighting crime ☐
d) An expert in computers ☐
e) How it all started ☐

1. In 1812 Charles Babbage, a professor of mathematics at Cambridge University, invented the first calculating machine. Nearly everything we do in the modern world is helped or even controlled by computers, the complicated descendants of Babbage's simple machine. Did he imagine that this machine would have such an impact on our lives? Most certainly, when he was working on his calculating machine, the Cambridge professor had no idea. The fact is that computers are being used more and more extensively in the world today for the simple reason that they are far more efficient than human beings. Unlike human beings who only use 3% of the capacity of their brain, computers can be used at their full capacity and they can store huge amounts of information doing calculations in a fraction of the time taken by a human mathematician. In fact, computers can do many of the things we do, but much faster and better.

2. Computers can help you find information in any field you might need, be that history or literature, geography or music, you will certainly find it with

the click of a button. That's why libraries use computers to store thousands of books. You tell the computer which subject you're interested in and it produces any microfiche you need in seconds. There're also systems being developed to translate articles from foreign magazines and to make up the many lists of information that are needed in a modern library. So computers can help us deal with the knowledge explosion in many ways.

3. In medicine computers are of great help. For instance, they help make patients' appointments, which saves a lot of time. More importantly, they keep patients' records and anyone who wants information on a patient can get it quickly. Actually, computers can help doctors' work a lot since they don't suffer from lack of sleep, they don't miss important points. As they don't forget anything they are told, they are often better at working out what's wrong with a patient, or the best treatment to give him. Some people even think we should all have regular computer checks on our health and then we would be able to cure most diseases in the early stages.

4. Computers can help the police fight crime. People think that the job of a detective is fast and exciting but actually most of it is slow and boring. For example, a detective on a stolen car case may have to check through long lists of information, and in the same time it takes him to do this, the thief may well escape. With the aid of computers policemen can now find out details of car ownership and driving licenses in a fraction of the time it takes by traditional methods. The system of storing fingerprint information and details about people's appearance also helps the police to trace and catch criminals. The only problem is that we now have a new kind of criminal – the very clever man who knows how to make huge sums of money by cheating a computer, and he is very difficult indeed to catch.

(www.questia.com)

Check your Comprehension

4. Answer the questions.

- Did Charles Babbage build the first computer?
- Which are the most important reasons why computers are so much used nowadays?
- Are computers of any help in libraries?

- How do computers help doctors and policemen in their work?
- Have computers changed life in modern society? What's your opinion?
- What do you think: can computers replace teachers completely?
- Why do we still need doctors and policemen in contemporary society?

5. Read the text again and decide if these sentences are true or false.

a) The first calculating machine was invented in the 18th century.
b) Babbage's machine was much more complicated than its descendants.
c) People only use 3% of their brain, while computers can be used at their fullest capacity.
d) Computers have certainly made a lot of jobs easier.
e) No man can cheat a computer.

Word Work

6. Match the words and phrases a – f with their definitions.

a) descendant	1. a sphere of activity, interest, within in a particular profession
b) unlike	2. something derived from a prototype or an earlier form
c) field	3. a meeting set for a specific time or place
d) to store	4. to set down in writing in order to give evidence
e) deal with	5. to be able to handle competently or successfully
f) appointment	6. different from, not typical or characteristic of
g) to keep a record	7. to follow the course, development, or history of
h) ownership	8. to deposit in a storehouse, warehouse, or other place for keeping
i) to trace	9. acting dishonestly, deveiving by trickery
j) cheating	10. the state of being an owner, the legal right to possession

7. Find in this wordsearch grid words connected with the world of computers and use them to fill in the sentences. The first letter of each missing word has already been given.

D	O	W	N	L	O	A	D	R	O
T	S	I	E	A	A	T	T	O	N
W	O	S	W	P	Q	R	Y	P	L
Z	F	C	A	T	W	D	E	L	I
X	T	R	S	O	R	C	M	M	N
U	W	E	U	P	G	R	A	D	E
I	A	E	R	R	Y	S	I	T	X
O	R	N	F	P	U	D	L	O	D
K	E	Y	B	O	A	R	D	S	F
P	N	I	W	E	B	P	A	G	E

1. He's recently accepted a job as a programmer for a s…… company.
2. We need to get a new k……..., this one cannot type k and m anymore.
3. You might want to d…….. these music files first if you want to store them on a CD.
4. I cannot work with l…….. computers because I'm not used to not having a mouse.
5. You need a memory u……. if you want to run this program.
6. Spending long periods of time in front of a computer s…… will certainly damage your eyesight in the long run.
7. If you want to s…….. the internet you need an internet connection first.
8. You can buy their products o……. if you have a credit card. Here is their w…….
9. Once you're on holiday don't forget to e…… me and show me photos of that great place.

Grammar Practice

8. a) Read the Grammar Section on tenses and put these verbs from the text in the table below, as in the example: invented, is helped, did he imagine, was working, are being used, you will find, use, don't suffer, are being developed.

Present Simple	Present Continuous	Past Simple	Past Continuous	Future
		invented		

b) Now match the tenses with their uses:
– an action that is predicted to happen in the future:…….
– an action that is currently in progress: ……
– a completed action in the past: …….
– an action that shows a routine, a permanent state: ……
– an action in progress at a stated time in the past: …….

9. Use the prompts to write sentences, beginning as shown.

1. jet / wants / he / a / professional / to / ski / be / racer
He ……..
2. they / piano / having / a / lesson / right now / are
Are …….
3. grandmother / her / she / visits / seldom
She …….
4. yesterday / Sally / you / meet / at / did / the cinema
Did …….
5. they / the / watching / you / were / film / when / room / the / entered
Were ……
6. the bankloan / it / felt / that / was / at / wasn't / the time / necessary
It …….
7. thinking / selling / buying / I'm / my / a / of / old / new / one / car / and
I'm ……..
8. think / I / join / you / tomorrow / I / will / at the club / evening
I ……..
9. you / think / do / will / what / you'll / ten years / be doing / from now
What ……
10. you / their / if / visit / website/ the perfect present / you / find / certainly / will / your mother / for
If …….

10. Read the text and fill in the gaps using these words:

calculations	nothing	very	name	to
been	describe	for	as	people

The first computers were people! That is, electronic computers (and the earlier mechanical computers) were given this (1) _____ because they performed the work that had previously been assigned to (2) _____.

“Computer” was originally a job title: it was used to (3) _____ those human beings (predominantly women) whose job it was to perform the repetitive (4) _____ required to compute such things (5) _____ navigational tables, tide charts, and planetary positions for astronomical almanacs. Imagine you had a job where hour after hour, day after day, you were to do (6) _____ but compute multiplications. Boredom would quickly set in, leading (7) _____ carelessness, leading to mistakes. And even on your best days you wouldn’t be producing answers (8) _____ fast. Therefore, inventors have (9) _____ searching for hundreds of years (10) _____ a way to mechanize (that is, find a mechanism that can perform) this task.

Writing

11. Using computers builds walls rather than bridges. What’s your opinion? Do you feel computers have enabled communication or, to the contrary, they do not allow people to develop social skills? Write a paragraph (about 100 words) explaining your views.

2. Your Amazing Brain

Lead in

1. Many of us think that computers are many times faster, more powerful and more capable when compared to our brains. Do you think there are certain aspects in which the human brain is superior to a computer? What are these?

2. You are about to read an article about the amazing powers of your brain. Before that, do the quiz below to test your knowledge on the subject.

1. How much does your brain weigh?
a) 500 g b) 900 g c) 1.4 kg
2. How many brain cells do you have?
a) one million b) one thousand million c) one hundred thousand million
3. The electricity generated by all your neurons can power:
a) a light bulb b) an electric heater c) a loudspeaker
4. The speed at which the information travels from senses to the brain is about:
a) 150 km/h b) 250 km/h c) 300 km/h
5. You are more receptive to learning after:
a) you have exercised b) you have watched TV c) you have eaten

Now read the text and check your answers.

You carry around a three-pound mass of wrinkly material in your head that controls every single thing you will ever do. From enabling you to think, learn, create, and feel emotions to controlling every blink, breath, and heartbeat – this fantastic control centre is your brain. It is a structure so amazing that a famous scientist once called it “the most complex thing we have yet discovered in our universe.”

Your kitten is on the kitchen counter. She's about to step onto a hot stove. You have only seconds to act. Accessing the signals coming from your eyes, your brain quickly calculates when, where, and at what speed you will need to dive to intercept her. Then it orders your muscles to do so. Your timing is perfect and she's safe. No computer can come close to your brain's awesome ability to download, process, and react to the flood of information coming from your eyes, ears, and other sensory organs.

Your brain contains about 100 billion microscopic cells called neurons – so many it would take you over 3,000 years to count them all. Whenever you dream, laugh, think, see, or move, it's because tiny chemical and electrical signals are racing between these neurons along billions of tiny neuron highways. Believe it or not, the activity in your brain never stops. Countless messages zip around inside it every second like a supercharged pinball machine. Your neurons create and send more messages than all the phones in the entire world. And while a single neuron generates only a tiny amount of electricity, all your neurons together can generate enough electricity to power a low-wattage bulb.

A bee lands on your bare foot. Sensory neurons in your skin transmit this information to your spinal cord and brain at a speed of more than 150 miles (241 kilometres) per hour. Your brain then uses motor neurons to transmit the message back through your spinal cord to your foot to shake the bee off quickly. Motor neurons can relay this information at more than 200 miles (322 kilometres) per hour.

Riding a bike seems impossible at first. But soon you master it. How? As you practise, your brain sends "bike riding" messages along certain pathways of neurons over and over, forming new connections. In fact, the structure of your brain changes every time you learn, as well as whenever you have a new thought or memory.

It is well known that any exercise that makes your heart beat faster, like running or playing basketball, is great for your body and can even help improve your mood. But scientists have recently learned that for a period of time after you've exercised, your body produces a chemical that makes your brain more receptive to learning. So if you're stuck on a homework problem, go out and play a game of soccer, then try the problem again. You just might discover that you're able to solve it.

(www.nationalgeographic.com)

Check your Comprehension

3. Read again and find the sentence which best summarizes each paragraph:

a) *Neurons send information to your brain at more than 240 kilometres per hour.*
b) *Your brain generates enough electricity to power a light bulb.*
c) *Exercise helps make you smarter.*
d) *Your brain is faster and more powerful than a supercomputer.*
e) *Your brain is a complex organ which controls your entire body.*
f) *When you learn, you change the structure of your brain.*

1	2	3	4	5	6

4. Tick from the following list of topics the ones that have not been mentioned in the text:

☐ the weight of a child's brain
☐ the animal with the largest brain
☐ the superiority of the brain compared to computers
☐ the blood flow in your brain
☐ the energy your brain consumes
☐ the changing nature of your brain structure
☐ the size of Einstein's brain

Word Work

5. A. While reading, you have come across these words: *enabling to, relay to, transmit to, receptive to*. They are examples of verbs and adjectives that require the preposition "to". Which of the following words take the same preposition? Underline them.

according, contrary, coincide, cruel, dedicate, depend, exception faithful, identical, married, refer, related, result, rude

B. Here is a list of verbs, adjectives and nouns which take prepositions. Write them under the correct column, according to the preposition they take.
afraid, believe, beg, begin, bet, careful, compare, consist, cope, concentrate, delay, demand, depend, disapprove, deal, depart, different, dismiss, failure, fond, insist, interested, look, necessary, popular, protection, recover, rely, succeed, thankful.

IN	FOR	OF	WITH	FROM	ON

6. Use words and suitable prepositions from the previous exercise to complete the following sentences.

a) I've always been very … … going to parties.
b) Due to technical problems, there will be a … … the delivery of the goods.
c) He's now fully … … his illness.
d) The roads simply can't … … all the traffic now using them.
e) How much is produced … … how hard we work.
f) The workers have been unfairly … … their jobs.
g) … … this examination should not stop you trying again.
h) He was so poor he had to … … money from passers-by.
i) The local authorities have taken some measures … … the electorate.
j) You can … … me to keep your secret.
k) I am … … your enthusiasm and commitment.
l) The committee … … twelve members.

Grammar Practice

7. Refer to the Grammar Section on present tenses. Read these sentences, name the tenses of the verbs in italics and match them to their uses.

1. The most complex thing we ***have*** yet ***discovered*** in our universe.
2. A bee ***lands*** on your bare foot.

3. The structure of your brain ***changes*** every time you learn.
4. But scientists ***have*** recently ***learned*** that for a period of time after you've exercised, your body produces a chemical that makes your brain more receptive to learning.

a) action which has recently happened, with visible results in the present
b) habitual action
c) action which happened at an indefinite time in the past
d) imaginary past event meant to seem more exciting and real life

8. Here are some more uses of present tenses. Match the correct halves of the given sentences and then decide on the appropriate use for each of them.

1. I'm going to the cinema	a) drink a lot of tea.
2. He has written two letters	b) and arrive in Paris at 13.00.
3. You beat the eggs,	c) when I wake up.
4. I've been ironing	d) and then you add the flour.
5. We leave London at 10.00 next Tuesday	e) since 1990.
6. He is always going away	f) this morning.
7. English people	g) at the moment.
8. I will phone you	h) tomorrow evening.
9. It is raining heavily	i) for weekends.
10. He has been a car salesman	j) my shirts all morning.

Uses:

→ frequently repeated action which annoys the speaker __
→ an action which started in the past and continues up to the present with emphasis on duration __
→ permanent situation __
→ future planned activity __
→ action which started in the past and are still continuing in the present __
→ fixed arrangement in the near future __
→ action which took place in a period of time which is not over yet __
→ instructions __
→ future action after a time word/in a time clause __
→ present event in progress __