



Thales Foundation

KANGAROO ENGLISH LINGUISTICS 2019

LEVEL 9-10

Questions 1-10: 3 points

Questions 11-20: 4 points

Questions 21-30: 5 points



Kangourou sans frontières

For questions 1- 5 read and choose the best answer.

It is so cool!

What's cool these days? A very simple question, one would say. Marketers and parents are the first to question this assumption. While parents are having an impossibly hard time trying to cope with the ever-changing wish list of their teenage kids, service providers and marketers are doing their best to meet their demands.

There is no denying that teenagers are the virtual oracles of our time. Who needs a crystal ball when we have teenagers? They know best what smart phone apps or video games or even pop songs are the next cool thing and it is by means of an overwhelming range of virtual tools that they send such crazes into "global stardom" using the force of their shared passions. It turns out that the more new trends youngsters adopt, the more difficult and obscure they become to the adults around them.

In trying to find an answer to the question of what is cool, specialists have carried out a survey among American teenagers. The questions they were asked range from their digital lives and habits, the apps they use and the games they play to pop culture, and even politics. The findings give us some idea of what it's like to be a teenager in 2017.

On average, teenagers receive their first smartphones when they are 10. When asked how much time they spend on their phones, most answered "too much" or "I am too ashamed to admit". However, some were willing to translate such answers into hours, and we got to an average of about seven hours a day. Another popular way of spending their free time is in front of their TV sets and game consoles. Some teens still spend a significant amount of time using their desktop computers. It all adds up to about ten hours a day spent in front of screens. Alarming as it may sound, a possible conclusion would be that this is almost literally every waking moment.

When it comes to clothing, it has resisted the rise in popularity of e-commerce as teenagers still find trying items on essential. Communication by messaging is still the most popular means and it seems that the most common forms of texting among surveyed teenagers are SMS, Whatsapp and Facebook messenger. Instagram and Snapchat text have yet to reach that same level of popularity. One answer we received from most subjects was "I hate things that are cool" which goes to show that the conclusions the survey led us to reach are most likely to lose their relevance in the very near future. After all, banal sayings in the likes of "the customer knows best" are still used for a good reason.

1. According to the text, parents think

- (A) it is fairly easy to keep track of what is cool these days.
- (B) the wish list of their children is easy to define.
- (C) the list of things their teenage children wish to own keeps changing.
- (D) it is not too difficult to cope with the demands of their kids.



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2. **The writer believes that teenagers** .
 - (A) are mostly responsible for upcoming trends.
 - (B) do not have the power to influence modern trends.
 - (C) have a hard time coping with new trends.
 - (D) are discouraged by the obscurity of upcoming trends.

3. **According to the survey carried out among American teenagers** .
 - (A) most participants spend less than seven hours a day on their smartphone before the age of 10.
 - (B) most participants admitted to using their smartphones in front of their television sets.
 - (C) most participants were reluctant to say exactly how much time they spend on their phones.
 - (D) most participants have given up watching TV and playing video games.

4. **When shopping for clothes, most teenagers** .
 - (A) no longer shop in stores.
 - (B) prefer shopping online.
 - (C) think it is better to try items on before buying them.
 - (D) believe e-commerce has become our only option.

5. **According to the text,** .
 - (A) most teenagers do their best to keep up with those things that are becoming cool.
 - (B) most teenagers are not willing to accept those things that are considered cool.
 - (C) the current survey will maintain its relevance for many years to come.
 - (D) the current survey is relevant all over the world.

For questions 6- 10 read and choose the correct answer.

Alice was waiting at a curious croquet-ground for the game to begin. The balls were live hedgehogs, the mallets live flamingoes, and the soldiers had to double themselves over and stand on their hands and feet to make the arches.

The main difficulty Alice had was in managing her flamingo. She succeeded in getting its body tucked away under her arm with its legs hanging down, but every time she had got its neck nicely straightened out, and was going to give the hedgehog a blow with its head, it **would** twist itself round and look up in her face, with such a puzzled expression that she could not help but burst out laughing.

When she finally got its head down and was going to try again, she found that the hedgehog had unrolled itself and was in the act of crawling away. And if this wasn't enough, all the doubled-over soldiers kept getting up and walking off. Alice soon came to the conclusion that this was a very difficult game indeed.

6. **What is a mallet?**
 - (A) a hammer
 - (B) an axe
 - (C) a saw
 - (D) a lawn-mower
 - (E) a shovel



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7. The verb *would* in the text can be replaced with:
(A) preferred to (B) used to (C) wanted to (D) desired to (E) could

8. The flamingo's puzzled expression made Alice feel like
(A) crying (B) screaming (C) giggling (D) singing (E) joking



9. Who or what would twist itself round?
(A) The flamingo. (B) The hedgehog. (C) Both of the animals. (D) The mallet.
(E) The ball

10. The croquet game proved to be difficult because
(A) Alice didn't know how to play it
(B) Alice wasn't paying attention at all
(C) everybody was laughing
(D) the croquet ground was in a bad condition
(E) the equipment consisted of live animals

Read the first sentence. For the second sentence, choose the best answer for each gap (11-15) so that the meaning stays the same.

11. When it comes to chess, Brian has no competition.
When it comes to chess, Brian is
(A) in a group of his own (B) in a place of his own (C) in a league of his own

12. It was the second time Ann had seen a show on Broadway.
Ann on Broadway.
(A) had never before seen a show (B) had once before seen a show
(C) has once before seen a show

13. Thank you for letting me stay at your place for the night.
Thank you for For the night.
(A) putting me up (B) setting me up (C) having me up

14. The test was so tough that most candidates failed.
..... That most candidates failed.
(A) So tough was the test (B) Such tough was the test (C) Too tough was the test

15. True friends stick by you in difficult times.
True friends stick by you
(A) through tight and narrow (B) through thick and thin (C) through bad weather



Read the text. For each space (16-25), choose the correct answer.

Ray Bans

Many brands of sunglasses have come and gone in the (16) of history but only a few have positioned (17) as leaders in this segment. Ray Ban is without a (18) a make that owns a special place in American culture. Many personalities such as pop stars, movie stars, models and even Presidents have (19) public appearances wearing these iconic accessories. What most people do not know is that these ideal accessories had a very humble start. They were (20) in 1937 and they were meant to protect aviators (21) the blinding rays of the sun, but at the same time to make the wearers look elegant too. The Aviator model is the coolest Ray Ban and it was hugely popular during the Second World War. Since this very practical beginning, Ray Bans have been (22) popularity in a gradual way and they have slowly but surely invaded American popular and fashion culture with the new plastic frame creation, known as "The Ray-Ban Wayfarer", which was (23) in 1952. Wayfarers were worn by Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and they reached a different level of fame. They soon (24) a favourite and were seen on the faces of "everyone that mattered". They are still immensely popular nowadays and owning a pair can cost quite a (25) bucks.

16. (A)court (B)course (C)crash (D)class
17. (A)themselves (B)them (C)us (D)it
18. (A)doubt (B)trace (C)mark (D)hesitation
19. (A)seen (B)spotted (C)gone (D)made
20. (A)found (B)done (C)founded (D)seen
21. (A)at (B)by (C)from (D)off
22. (A)gaining (B)making (C)doing (D)realising
23. (A)replaced (B)released (C)retold (D)reconsidered
24. (A)became (B)began (C)beheld (D)believed
25. (A)little (B)lot (C)much (D)few



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For questions 26-30, read and choose the correct answer.

26. Complete the sentence: Oh dear. I don't feel well. I think

- (A) I faint (B) I'll be fainting (C) I've fainted (D) I'm going to faint
 (E) I fainted

27. Andrew knows that if any problems, he must call his parents immediately.

- (A) raise (B) arise (C) rise (D) arisen (E) uplift

28. Put the following lines into the correct order.

- a. *Pass into nothingness; but will keep*
 b. *A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:*
 c. *A bower quiet for us, and a sleep*
 d. *Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.*
 e. *Its loveliness increases; it will never*

(John Keats, from *Endymion*)

- (A) 4-2-5-1-3 (B) 2-5-3-1-4 (C) 4-3-5-2-1 (D) 1-5-3-4-2 (E) 2-5-1-3-4

29. Name the thing being defined as:

"a publisher's short description of the contents of a book, usually printed on the jacket or the cover"

- (A) billboard (B) blurb (C) script (D) library (E) review

30. I was furious her her behaviour.

- (A) on/ about (B) with/ about (C) with/ on (D) to/ about (E) with/ for

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