



**End-of-Year Assessment**  
**English II**

Congratulations! You worked hard to learn many new things this school year. Taking this English II test is a great way to show your family and school what you learned. It is okay if you do not know all the answers. Just try your best. You are amazing! You are taking this test so adults can learn more about how to help you.

You can ask an adult for help if you do not understand the directions. You can use a dictionary and scratch paper for this test.

If you do not know the answer to a question, choose the answer you think might be correct. You must answer the questions on your own.

You are now ready to start. Take your time and remember that trying your best is what is important. You're awesome, and you'll do great!



## EOY English II

Student \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following and answer the questions below:

### In Sync

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*J.T. wrote this paper about a unique Japanese activity. Read the paper and look for any revisions J.T. should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

### In Sync

(1) Texas is known for its superb high school marching bands. (2) Each week during football season, thousands of students take to the field to display their musical and marching talents. (3) These same students also compete in local, state, and national competitions and exhibitions. (4) However, marching bands aren't found in just this state or even just this country. (5) But in one country there are marchers who skip the music component all together. (6) Students at Japan's Nippon Sports Science University, NSSU, participate in an intricate marching-like exhibition known as precision walking.

(7) NSSU students have perfected the nearly 50-year-old tradition of *shuudan koudou*, which means "collective action." (8) The collective action is a carefully choreographed display of synchronized walking. (9) Identically dressed students walk forward and backward to form lines and shapes, even crossing between one another at times. (10) There are no musical cues for the students to use as they march in the changing formations. (11) Furthermore, they walk in perfect step by following the direction of an announcer. (12) Directors bellow loud, sharp commands, such as "Front row, turn left!" and "Cross walk," over a loudspeaker. (13) And with each command, the students fall into perfect alignment. (14) Even the swing of their arms is synchronized. (15) A misstep by just one student creates a flaw in the perfectly coordinated display that is visible.

(16) To prepare for an exhibition, students practice three days a week for five months at a time. (17) They participate in training exercises to help get them in shape. (18) During this time it is estimated that they walk more than 700 miles, which is about the same distance as walking across the entire state of Texas!

(19) Many of the students at NSSU will go on to become coaches, physical education teachers, and trainers. (20) The university also offers master's and doctoral degree programs. (21) Keiko Suzuki, captain of the 2014 walking team, says that by participating in precision walking, she and her classmates will be better prepared for their careers. (22) "We all mastered this highly disciplined training and made it our habit to stick to strict rules," said Suzuki. (23) "I believe this experience will be an asset as we enter into the job market."

(24) At a recent NSSU festival, close to 11,000 spectators watched as the students performed their walking routine. (25) The school posted a video of the performance on the Internet, where it was watched and shared by thousands of viewers. (26) The announcer commented that people at NSSU were extremely proud that the school's distinctive tradition has now become famous around the world.

1. J.T. would like to add the following sentence to the first paragraph (sentences 1–6).

*Students from around the world are also part of musical marching groups.*

Where is the most effective place to insert this sentence?

- A. After sentence 1
- B. After sentence 2
- C. After sentence 4
- D. After sentence 5

2. J.T. wants to use a more appropriate transition in sentence 11. Which of the following can best replace **Furthermore** in this sentence?
- A. For example
  - B. In conclusion
  - C. Overall
  - D. Instead
3. What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 15?
- A. A misstep by just one student and a flaw is created that is visible in the perfectly coordinated display.
  - B. A misstep by just one student creates a visible flaw in the perfectly coordinated display.
  - C. A misstep by just one student creates a flaw in the perfectly coordinated display, the flaw is visible.
  - D. A misstep by just one student creates a visible flaw that can be seen in the perfectly coordinated display.
4. J.T. has included an extraneous sentence in his paper. Which of these sentences should be deleted from this paper?
- A. Sentence 9
  - B. Sentence 13
  - C. Sentence 18
  - D. Sentence 20

Read the following and answer the questions below:

### **Make the Switch!**

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*Mimi has written this essay to express her opinion about reusable water bottles. Read Mimi's essay and look for the revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*



### **Make the Switch!**

(1) Sweating during a summer afternoon in Texas, people gaze into convenience-store refrigerators. (2) They select chilled bottles of water and stand in line at the register, where they might pay more than \$2.00 per bottle. (3) After chugging the water, they toss the bottles into the trash. (4) What's wrong with this picture? (5) Consumers pay far too much for a drink of water, and those same bottles clog oceans and contaminate the soil. (6) This needs to stop now!

(7) Although bottled water is often advertised for its purity, the quality of this water is not necessarily better than that of tap water. (8) Bottled water may be attractively packaged. (9) It is simply processed tap water. (10) In fact, there is

reason to be concerned about its contents in many cases. (11) When plastic is exposed to heat, it can release harmful chemicals into the water, chemicals that scientists have linked to illnesses. (12) The government regulates only 30–40% of all bottled water, so it can be difficult to know exactly what processes a bottle of water has gone through to ensure its quality. (13) In contrast, municipal water systems are inspected annually to ensure city residents have safe drinking water.

(14) The safety of bottled water not only raises health concerns, but bottled water is also significantly overpriced in comparison to tap water. (15) In fact, it can cost as much as 2,000 times more than tap water. (16) For instance, at eight glasses a day, the yearly cost for tap water is about 50 cents. (17) The same amount of bottled water would cost well over \$1,000. (18) Most people can probably think of better ways to spend that money.

(19) The unnecessary use of bottles causes environmental damage at several stages. (20) Consider the resources used to produce and transport bottled water. (21) Also consider that chemicals are released by these many bottles when they are discarded into landfills over hundreds of years and decompose. (22) Other bottles may end up in rivers, lakes, and oceans. (23) The Ocean Conservancy has determined that every square mile of the ocean is contaminated with 46,000 pieces of plastic.

(24) As consumers, we can help our budgets and our world with one simple choice: make the switch to reusable water bottles! (25) For only about \$10 to \$15, one can buy a reusable bottle that is not only useful but looks great too. (26) Reusable water bottles come in a variety of colors and styles. (27) Many come with hooks that attach to backpacks or straps that allow the bottles to be worn on the body. (28) Reusable bottles with filters are also available so that tap water can be further purified before drinking. (29) With all of these great features, there's really no reason to buy plastic water bottles ever again.

5. Mimi's essay does not have a strong position statement. Which of the following sentences should replace sentence 6 to serve as an effective position statement?
- A. It's foolish to buy several bottles of water each day when there's no good reason for doing this.
  - B. People need to stop doing this now and protest against bottled-water companies.
  - C. These problems can be solved, however, if people choose to drink water from reusable containers instead of plastic bottles.
  - D. The list of problems that people are causing, such as increasing pollution, by buying bottled water is endless.

6. What is the most effective way to combine sentences 8 and 9?
- A. Bottled water may be attractively packaged, but it is simply processed tap water.
  - B. Bottled water is simply processed tap water because it is attractively packaged.
  - C. Bottled water may be attractively packaged, so it is simply processed tap water.
  - D. Bottled water is attractively packaged, because it is simply processed tap water.
7. Mimi wants to improve the transition between the third paragraph (sentences 14–18) and the fourth paragraph (sentences 19–23). Which sentence can be added before sentence 19 to accomplish this goal?
- A. Because bottled water can cost so much, a reusable water bottle is a wise investment.
  - B. People think bottled water is harmless, and other plastic containers are just as bad.
  - C. Money is a concern for many people, so it should be saved whenever possible.
  - D. Bottled water is a huge monetary expense, but the cost to our planet is even greater.
8. What is the most effective way to revise sentence 21?
- A. Also consider that many bottles are discarded into landfills, where the bottles release chemicals as they decompose over hundreds of years.
  - B. Also consider that landfills are filled with released chemicals, where they decompose many discarded bottles over hundreds of years.
  - C. These bottles, decomposing over hundreds of years, should also be considered to release chemicals where they have been discarded into landfills.
  - D. Over hundreds of years, landfills are filled with many bottles, and it should also be considered that the bottles decompose and release chemicals.

9. Mimi wants to conclude her essay by motivating her readers to take action. Which of the following statements should she insert after sentence 29 to accomplish this goal?
- A. The future of our planet depends on people like you doing away with a terrible threat—plastic water bottles.
  - B. We should make the decision today to be smart about our finances and responsible with our planet by opting for reusable water bottles.
  - C. Think of how much you can help the fish in our lakes, rivers, and oceans by avoiding bottled water.
  - D. Choose reusable water bottles, and watch your savings grow.

Read the following and answer the questions below:

## Touring Cenotes

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*Gabrielle wrote this paper about a memorable experience she had on a trip with her family. Read Gabrielle's paper and think about the corrections she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

# Touring Cenotes

(1) My parents and I traveled to Mexico to visit my grandparents last summer, and we visited the *cenotes* (say-NO-tays), the natural swimming holes located on the Yucatán Peninsula. (2) The term “swimming hole” might make you think that cenotes are just average, everyday lakes, but cenotes are truly spectacular. (3) I had the most exhilarating experience of my life exploring these wonders of nature.

(4) Thousands of years old, the cenotes formed when limestone bedrock crumbled, creating sinkholes underneath. (5) The disintegration of limestone exposed secret underground pools of nearly pure water naturally filtered by the earth. (6) Though the ancient Mayans used the cenotes as water sources, people can now swim, snorkel, take photographs, and admire local trees and marine life, all through water as clear as liquid diamond.



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(7) In Cenote Azul, the first cenote we visited, my parents, my grandparents, and I swam through water that seemed too blue to be real. (8) Underneath us, meandering through the same turquoise pool, was schools of tropical fish. (9) I witnessed countless younger kids diving into the water from a small cliff, but I was hesitant to jump at first. (10) I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.

(11) A few days later, we went to Cenote Ponderosa. (12) We took easy strokes out to the sun-drenched pond, where we lazily floated while others snorkeled and took underwater photographs. (13) Being surrounded by a valley of trees made everything else in the world seem to disappear.

(14) *Grutas de Loltún* were definitely the most magnificent of all the cenotes, even though there was no swimming involved. (15) *Grutas* are caves, and the *Grutas de Loltún* are among the biggest caves on the entire peninsula. (16) Our guide, Carolina, walked us through a labyrinth of caverns, where we saw many drawings on the cave walls. (17) According to Carolina, the drawings were thousands of years old! (18) Just one glimpse of those drawings made me feel like I had stepped back in time to a forgotten era of history. (19) Just as spectacular were the tree roots growing into the caves' ceilings; it was wondrous to spy roots overhead instead of poking out of the ground. (20) The most amazing parts of *Grutas de Loltún* were the stalagmites and stalactites, which have actually grown together and fashioned themselves into columns. (21) Our group thought Carolina was joking when she claimed she could make them sing for us, but when she tapped them, we heard what sounded like the words "Lol" and "Tun"—the name of the caves! (22) I cannot imagine that a concert at Carnegie hall would have been any better.

(23) Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula is brimming with beauty, but the cenotes are by far the most amazing sites anyone can experience. (24) Cenotes are a one-of-a-kind opportunity to commune with nature in a way that is impossible anywhere else on Earth, and I would not hesitate to do it all again.

10. What change should be made in sentence 5?

- A. Change ***disintigration*** to **disintegration**
- B. Change ***exposed*** to **expose**
- C. Insert a comma after **water**
- D. Change ***filtered*** to **filterred**

11. What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A. Change ***meandering*** to **meanders**
- B. Change ***turquoise*** to **turquoys**
- C. Delete the comma after ***pool***
- D. Change ***was*** to **were**

12. What is the best way to rewrite sentence 10?

- A. I finally worked up the courage, my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.
- B. I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest. The experience was invigorating.
- C. I finally worked up the courage. My initial splash instantly put all my worries to rest, the experience was invigorating.
- D. I finally worked up the courage, and my initial splash, instantly, put all my worries to rest and the experience was invigorating.

13. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 22?

- A. Insert a comma after *imagine*
- B. Change *hall* to **Hall**
- C. Change *would have been* to **would not have been**
- D. Sentence 22 should not be changed.

Read the following and answer the questions below:

### **A Different Kind of Princess**

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*Nicole wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. Read Nicole's paper and look for any corrections she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

### **A Different Kind of Princess**

(1) Like many teenage girls, I had been anticipating my first homecoming dance since elementary school. (2) I had imagined my dress, my flowers, and, of course, my date, dressed in formal wear and ready to carry me off for an evening of dancing and fun. (3) The real-life experience turned out completely different from what I had pictured, although better in a strange sort of way.

(4) As I watched friends find dates for homecoming, I was initially a little discouraged, it looked as though my first homecoming dance would be missing a key character. (5) It seemed that no one was inclined to ask me. (6) But I soon discovered that I wasn't the only kid in school without a date to homecoming. (7) I decided that I wasn't going to allow the situation to ruin my chance of enjoying a traditional High School experience.

(8) So several of my dateless friends and me banded together and decided to go as a big group. (9) My older sister, who's a hair stylist at a local salon, volunteered to help each girl with her hair. (10) She even rounded up a friend to do manicures and pedicures. (11) We girls had an awesome "spa day" with lot's of laughs but none of the pre-date jitters. (12) Before leaving for the evening, I caught a glimpse of myself in a mirror. (13) I noticed a sparkle in my eyes, and I felt absolutely gorgeous.

(14) We met the male members of our group for a delicious dinner at a nice restaurant and then arrived at the dance just after it started. (15) We were soon on the dance floor—alone at times, in pairs at other times, and as one large group by the end. (16) When I had imagined going to the homecoming dance as a little girl, I had pictured a Cinderella night of dancing with Prince Charming. (17) The actual experience turned out to be a lot more fun than that. (18) I didn't have to stick with one specific person, I was free to mingle and dance with anyone I wanted to! (19) I probably could have figured out a way to bring a date to the dance, but now I'm glad I didn't.



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(20) My first homecoming experience taught me an important life lesson.  
(21) I don't always have to do things in a conventional way. (22) I can find my own way to have an unforgettably good time.

14. What is the correct way to write sentence 4?

- A. As I watched friends find dates for homecoming, I was initially a little discouraged. Because it looked as though my first homecoming dance would be missing a key character.
- B. As I watched friends find dates for homecoming, I was initially a little discouraged. It looked as though my first homecoming dance would be missing a key character.
- C. As I watched friends find dates for homecoming. I was initially a little discouraged because it looked as though my first homecoming dance would be missing a key character.
- D. Sentence 4 is written correctly.

15. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?

- A. Change ***that*** to **something**
- B. Change ***situation*** to **sitaution**
- C. Change ***High School*** to **high school**
- D. Make no change

16. What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A. Change ***me*** to **I**
- B. Insert a comma after ***together***
- C. Change ***decided*** to **decide**
- D. No change should be made.

17. What change needs to be made in sentence 11?

- A. Change ***We girls*** to **Us girls**
- B. Change ***lot's*** to **lots**
- C. Change ***but none*** to **but without none**
- D. No change needs to be made in this sentence.

18. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 18?

- A. Change ***one specific*** to **no specific**
- B. Change the comma to a semicolon
- C. Insert a comma after ***mingle***
- D. Make no change

Read the following and answer the questions below:

## Living Alone Is the New Norm

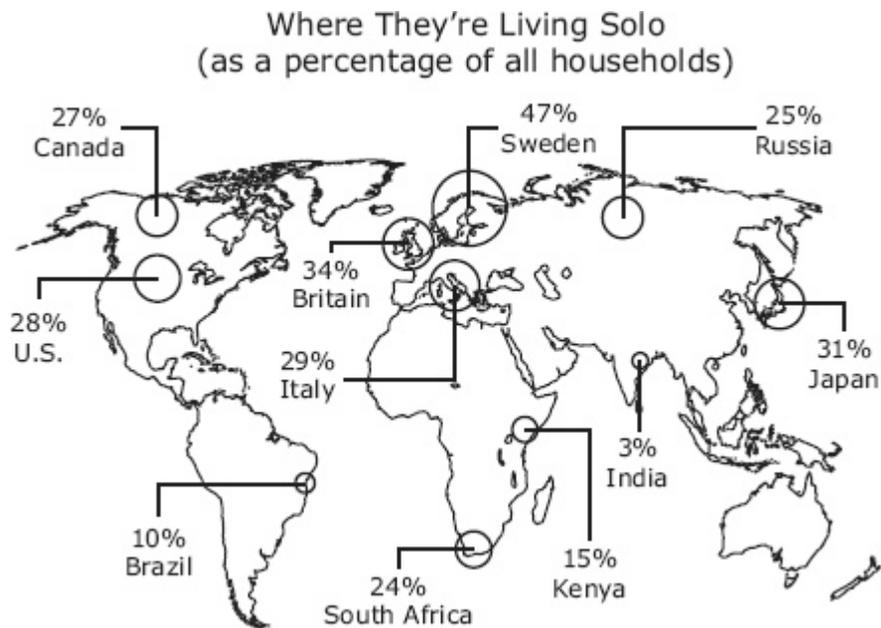
Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

# Living Alone Is the New Norm

by Eric Klinenberg  
Time Magazine  
March 12, 2012

- 1 The extraordinary rise of solitary living is the biggest social change that we've neglected to identify, let alone examine.
- 2 Consider that in 1950, a mere 4 million Americans lived alone, and they made up only 9% of households. Back then, going solo was most common in the open, sprawling western states—Alaska, Montana and Nevada—that attracted migrant workingmen, and it was usually a short-lived stage on the road to more conventional domestic life.
- 3 Not anymore. According to 2011 census data, people who live alone—nearly 33 million Americans—make up 28% of all U.S. households, which means they are now tied with childless couples as the most prominent residential type, more common than the nuclear family, the multigenerational family and the roommate or group home. These aren't just transitional living situations: over a five-year period, people who live alone are more likely to remain in their current state than anyone else except married couples with children. They're concentrated in big cities throughout the country, from Seattle to Miami, Minneapolis to New Orleans.
- 4 Living alone, being alone and feeling lonely are hardly the same, yet in recent years experts have routinely conflated them, raising fears that the rise of soloists signals the ultimate atomization of the modern world. The theme of declining communities entered popular culture with *Bowling Alone*, political scientist Robert D. Putnam's book, which was published in 2000. It argued that social splintering had diminished the quality of life in the U.S. More recently, in *The Lonely American*, Harvard psychiatrists Jacqueline Olds and Richard S. Schwartz warn that "increased aloneness" and "the movement in our country toward greater social isolation" are damaging our health and happiness. Their evidence: First, a widely disputed finding published in the *American Sociological Review* that from 1985 to 2004, the number of Americans who said they had no one with whom they discussed important matters had tripled, to nearly a quarter of the population. (One of the study's authors later acknowledged that there was a problem with the data and that the findings were unreliable.) Second, an interpretation: that the record number of people who live alone is a sign of how lonely and disconnected we have become.

5 In fact, there's little evidence that the rise of living alone is making more Americans lonely. Reams of published research show that it's the quality, not the quantity, of social interactions that best predicts loneliness. As University of Chicago social neuroscientist John T. Cacioppo concluded in the book he co-authored, *Loneliness*, what matters is not whether we live alone but whether we feel alone. There's ample support for this idea outside the laboratory. As divorced or separated people often say, there's nothing lonelier than living with the wrong person.



- 6 My research—which included more than 300 interviews with people who live alone and careful scrutiny of the scientific literature on the social connections of solo dwellers—shows that most singletons are not lonely souls. On the contrary, the evidence suggests that people who live alone compensate by becoming more socially active than those who live with others and that cities with high numbers of singletons enjoy a thriving public culture.
- 7 The truth is, nearly everyone who lives alone had other, less expensive options, from finding roommates to living with family. But today most people presented with those choices will opt to go solo. Wouldn't you?
- 8 After all, living alone serves a purpose: it helps us pursue sacred modern values—individual freedom, personal control and self-realization—that carry us from adolescence to our final days.
- 9 Living alone allows us to do what we want, when we want, on our own terms. It liberates us from the constraints of a domestic partner's needs and demands and permits us to focus on ourselves. Today, in our age of digital media and ever expanding social networks, living alone can offer even greater benefits: the time and space for restorative solitude.

10 This means that living alone can help us discover who we are as well as what gives us meaning and purpose. Paradoxically, living alone might be exactly what we need to reconnect.

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## Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

# Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?

by Jeff Greenwald  
Salon.com  
November 16, 2010

*Broadband arrives on the world's tallest mountain. But having hiked it, I worry the magic will vanish.*

- 1 When I began my career as a travel journalist in the 1980s, there was lots of talk about “remoteness.” This was what many travelers were looking for: places so hard to get to, and so different from the world we knew, that their very existence seemed almost miraculous.
- 2 Today, the value has shifted. What we look for now is connectedness: the opportunity to check our e-mail, upload video clips and chat on Skype—even if we happen to be on the Khumbu Icefall, 18,000 feet high in the Nepal Himalaya.
- 3 Last week, a network of eight 3G base stations began operating along the route to Mount Everest, in Sagarmatha National Park. They were installed by Ncell, a Nepali telecom firm. The news didn’t surprise me. But I felt that, irreversibly, another blow had been struck against magic.
- 4 Access to the Internet is starting to seem like a human right, so let me offer a disclaimer. There is no rational downside to the arrival of broadband on the flanks of Everest. I’m not a Luddite, and would never suggest that developing nations should be denied, for any reason, the global access that technology can provide. This 3G network will undoubtedly save lives—not only by providing weather information and support to Everest climbers and trekkers, but as an alert system for the nearby villages threatened by flash floods from Glacial Lake Overflow (GLOF), another peril caused by global warming.
- 5 It’s a good thing. So why did the news make me feel like Robert Conway in *Lost Horizon*, looking back on a land to which I can never return?

- 6 During my earliest visit to Nepal in 1979, phoning home even from Kathmandu was an adventure. I'd bike to the Telecommunications Office at 2 A.M. (mid-afternoon in New York), fill out a form, and wait hours for my trunk call to go through. The costly result was often a busy signal—or a barely audible connection. The most reliable means of communication was “snail mail”: a metaphor that, with three weeks of lag time between a letter and its response, seemed literally true.
- 7 Even this much contact was a marvel, compared to the situation in the mountains. When I first trekked the Everest route, in October 1983, it felt as though I'd entered a world completely detached from the familiar. After a harrowing flight to the tiny airstrip at Lukla, the 10-day hike to Base Camp (with an elevation gain of more than 8,000 vertical feet) began. Immersion in the Sherpa Buddhist lifestyle was inescapable, and transformative. Phone calls were impossible. Even writing a postcard was like putting a message in a bottle, and tossing it out to sea.

### Technology's Tall Order



A woman uses a laptop in Mount Everest National Park, Nepal. This national park is the highest in the world, with the entire park located above 3,000 meters (9,700 feet). The park includes three peaks higher than 8,000 meters, including Mount Everest.

- 8 None of this seemed like an inconvenience. Though there were bouts of home-sickness, and the occasional longing for new music and old friends, it was exhilarating to have entered such an isolated realm. This, actually, was the point. Travelers embarked on our journeys to Everest or the Annapurnas aware that it would be a full-body experience—an equation that included our brains.
- 9 As a result, trekking in the Himalaya never felt like sightseeing. It was a commitment to the here and now, demanding full-time engagement with both Nepalis and fellow travelers. There were infinite opportunities to forge new friendships, experience Sherpa Buddhist culture, or enjoy exquisite solitude. By day, you could walk alone or with companions; at night, the lodges flickered with candles and butter lamps. Out came the maps, backgammon sets and tattered journals. Tales of avalanches and Yeti sightings were shared, along with cups of the dizzying local rakshi.
- 10 During my most recent trek to the Everest region in 2008, it was clear that the area was changing. Though the mountains looked the same, they felt less like a world apart. For one thing, it was a lot more crowded; an estimated 15,000 trekkers shared the narrow trails. Cell phones were already in use between the main villages, and the isolating aspects of technology were taking hold. Sherpa guides and sinewy porters marched up the steep mountain grades with telltale white headphone cords snaking beneath their parka collars, lost in the private soundtracks of their MP3 files.
- 11 Getting online was a different story. There were only a handful of cybercafes along the trekking route—the highest of which was at Everest Base Camp itself, at 17,500 feet—with Internet access via satellite. Connections were sluggish; it often took Gmail more than five minutes to load. Sitting in a cozy inn, immersed in conversation, was far more seductive than surfing the Web.
- 12 The arrival of 3G will change all that—and not just how quickly trekkers can upload their photos, keep tabs on their investments, or stream the latest episode. Wireless broadband, barely imaginable even 25 years ago, will change the way future travelers and locals interact in the world’s highest mountains.
- 13 For the Sherpas of Sagarmatha, of course, it may well seem that one kind of magic has simply been traded for another. Broadband on Everest! What next? If the Yeti buys an iPad, he might even decide to “friend” Bigfoot on Facebook.
- 14 For the rest of us, this constant connectedness may have a bittersweet aftertaste. My recent trek into the Himalaya was a reminder of the pleasures of remoteness. It was a joy to escape from the hamster wheel of distractions, and immerse myself in the expanded moment of real time. Because being connected—really connected, with the place you’re in and the people you’re with—requires disconnecting, at least temporarily, from everywhere else.
- 15 We are far past the time when we can expect to find a Shangri-La,<sup>1</sup> anywhere, beyond the reach of the Internet. But as the world races towards connectivity, travelers might stop to consider why we travel in the first place, and which connections we really want to make.

Used with permission.

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<sup>1</sup>Shangri-La is a fictional place of harmony whose inhabitants live isolated from the outside world.

**19. Use the first passage to answer the following question.**

According to the author, the growing number of people living alone —

- A. makes it difficult to study how happy people are
- B. is an inevitable result of a decline in family values
- C. should not be interpreted as a sign of increased loneliness
- D. will almost certainly affect the economy in a variety of ways

**20. Use the first passage to answer the following question.**

Which of these is the best summary of the article?

- A. While social scientists have long recognized that the number of people living alone has exploded, they have erred in interpreting the trend as a social problem. In fact, the growing number of households without children has improved the social fabric of the United States.
- B. Single-person households in the United States have become much more prevalent than many realize. Contrary to the views of some experts, however, this development does not signal growing isolation and social disintegration. Many find that living alone allows them to pursue happier and more socially active lives.
- C. The author's research into modern American domestic habits suggests that the rise in solo living has been misunderstood. In the past the nuclear family was the most common form of household, but this type of living arrangement did not necessarily lead to the greatest happiness. People today are decreasingly concerned with raising a family, and it is time policy makers begin to understand this trend.
- D. Many more people live alone today than in the past. Some researchers think this is a worrisome development, but their concern is misplaced. Because of modern technology, people often feel overwhelmed by their social networks and constant connectedness to others.

**21. Use the first passage to answer the following question.**

Which sentence best supports the author’s belief that living alone is an appealing choice for many people?

- A. *The theme of declining communities entered popular culture with Bowling Alone, political scientist Robert D. Putnam’s book, which was published in 2000.*
- B. *The extraordinary rise of solitary living is the biggest social change that we’ve neglected to identify . . .*
- C. *Living alone, being alone and feeling lonely are hardly the same . . .*
- D. *Today, in our age of digital media and ever expanding social networks, living alone can offer even greater benefits: the time and space for restorative solitude.*

**22. Use the first passage to answer the following question.**

The graphic titled “Where They’re Living Solo” suggests that the practice of living alone is —

- A. global
- B. temporary
- C. dominant
- D. cyclical

**23. Use the second passage to answer the following question.**

In paragraph 8, the word *exhilarating* means something that —

- A. creates happiness and excitement
- B. prompts a longing to return home
- C. provokes a fear of the unknown
- D. gives assistance and comfort

**24. Use the second passage to answer the following question.**

In 2008, what did the author notice about how the new technology was affecting those who work near Mount Everest?

- A. They did not have the means to take advantage of the new technology.
- B. They were becoming much more efficient in their jobs.
- C. They preferred to stick with traditional forms of communication.
- D. They were embracing the new technology rapidly.

**25. Use the second passage to answer the following question.**

What is the most likely reason the author wrote the article?

- A. To recall how his love of trekking in the Himalaya in Nepal developed
- B. To show readers that bringing broadband service to the Himalaya is dangerous
- C. To convince readers that Internet service has changed the experience of trekking the Himalaya
- D. To criticize the growing popularity of Mount Everest with climbers and tourists

**26. Use the second passage to answer the following question.**

In which sentence does the author seem to accept that technology on Mount Everest is inevitable?

- A. *This was what many travelers were looking for: places so hard to get to, and so different from the world we knew, that their very existence seemed almost miraculous.*
- B. *When I first trekked the Everest route, in October 1983, it felt as though I'd entered a world completely detached from the familiar.*
- C. *Sitting in a cozy inn, immersed in conversation, was far more seductive than surfing the Web.*
- D. *We are far past the time when we can expect to find a Shangri-La, anywhere, beyond the reach of the Internet.*

**27. Use both passages to answer the following question.**

How are the authors of the articles **similar**?

- A. Both worry that their views may be out of step with those of the majority.
- B. Both are interested in how changes to culture affect the human experience.
- C. Both express an intention to continue their research.
- D. Both believe it is important to examine trends in other cultures.

**28. Use both passages to answer the following question.**

**Both** articles conclude with a —

- A. bold contradiction
- B. stern warning
- C. reflective suggestion
- D. pessimistic prediction

**29. Use both passages to answer the following question.**

Which statement do **both** articles support?

- A.** Life was better before the Internet.
- B.** Change is inevitable.
- C.** Most people dislike change.
- D.** Technology should be embraced.

30. Use both passages to answer the following question.

Read these quotations from the two articles.

**Living Alone Is the New Norm**

*On the contrary, the evidence suggests that people who live alone compensate by becoming more socially active than those who live with others and that cities with high numbers of singletons enjoy a thriving public culture.*

**Will Wi-Fi Ruin Mount Everest?**

*This 3G network will undoubtedly save lives—not only by providing weather information and support to Everest climbers and trekkers, but as an alert system for the nearby villages threatened by flash floods from Glacial Lake Overflow (GLOF), another peril caused by global warming.*

The tone of **both** quotations can best be described as —

- A. guarded
- B. surprised
- C. incredulous
- D. positive

Read the following and answer the questions below:

from **All the Light We Cannot See**

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

**from**  
**All the Light We Cannot See**

*by Anthony Doerr*

*Eight-year-old Marie-Laure, who went blind at the age of six, lives with her father in Paris shortly before World War II. Marie-Laure's father has built a model of their neighborhood so that Marie-Laure can practice navigating the streets on her own. Each Tuesday on his day off work, her father takes her to a new area of the neighborhood and lets her guide them both home.*

- 1            Tuesday after Tuesday she fails. She leads her father on six-block detours that leave her angry and frustrated and farther from home than when they started. But in the winter of her eighth year, to Marie-Laure's surprise, she begins to get it right. She runs her fingers over the model in their kitchen, counting miniature benches, trees, lampposts, doorways. Every day some new detail emerges—each storm drain, park bench, and hydrant in the model has its counterpart in the real world.
- 2            Marie-Laure brings her father closer to home before making a mistake. Four blocks three blocks two. And one snowy Tuesday in March, when he walks her to yet another new spot, very close to the banks of the Seine<sup>1</sup>, spins her around three times, and says, "Take us home," she realizes that, for the first time since they began this exercise, dread has not come trundling up from her gut.
- 3            Instead she squats on her heels on the sidewalk.
- 4            The faintly metallic smell of the falling snow surrounds her. *Calm yourself. Listen.*
- 5            Cars splash along streets, and snowmelt drums through runnels; she can hear snowflakes tick and patter through the trees. She can smell the cedars in the Jardin des Plantes a quarter mile away. Here the Metro hurtles beneath the sidewalk: that's the Quai Saint-Bernard. Here the sky opens up, and she hears the clacking of branches: that's the narrow stripe of gardens behind the Gallery of Paleontology. This, she realizes, must be the corner of the quay and rue Cuvier.
- 6            Six blocks, forty buildings, ten tiny trees in a square. This street intersects this street intersects this street. One centimeter at a time.

7 Her father stirs the keys in his pockets. Ahead loom the tall, grand  
houses that flank the gardens, reflecting sound.

8 She says, "We go left."

9 They start up the length of the rue Cuvier. A trio of airborne ducks  
threads toward them, flapping their wings in synchrony, making for the Seine,  
and as the birds rush overhead, she imagines she can feel the light settling  
over their wings, striking each individual feather.

10 Left on rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire. Right on rue Daubenton. Three storm  
drains four storm drains five. Approaching on the left will be the open ironwork  
fence of the Jardin des Plantes, its thin spars like the bars of a great birdcage.

11 Across from her now: the bakery, the butcher, the delicatessen.

12 "Safe to cross, Papa?"

13 "It is."

14 Right. Then straight. They walk up their street now, she is sure of it. One  
step behind her, her father tilts his head up and gives the sky a huge smile.  
Marie-Laure knows this even though her back is to him, even though he says  
nothing, even though she is blind—Papa's thick hair is wet from the snow and  
standing in a dozen angles off his head, and his scarf is draped asymmetrically  
over his shoulders, and he's beaming up at the falling snow.

15 They are halfway up the rue des Patriarches. They are outside their  
building. Marie-Laure finds the trunk of the chestnut tree that grows past her  
fourth-floor window, its bark beneath her fingers.

16 Old friend.

17 In another half second her father's hands are in her armpits, swinging  
her up, and Marie-Laure smiles, and he laughs a pure, contagious laugh, one  
she will try to remember all her life, father and daughter turning in circles on  
the sidewalk in front of their apartment house, laughing together while snow  
sifts through the branches above.

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<sup>1</sup>The Seine is a river in Paris.

31. In paragraph 14, the word *asymmetrically* means —
- A. lopsidedly
  - B. luxuriously
  - C. stylishly
  - D. conspicuously
32. The story explores a theme about the —
- A. challenges of parent–child relationships
  - B. need to face reality
  - C. pleasure of becoming self-reliant
  - D. struggle for recognition
33. The sentence fragments in paragraph 10 help convey Marie-Laure’s —
- A. total disorientation
  - B. quiet resentment
  - C. giddy overexcitement
  - D. intense focus

- 34.** The tone of the concluding paragraph can best be described as —
- A.** serious
  - B.** joyous
  - C.** sentimental
  - D.** condescending
- 35.** After Marie-Laure’s father says “Take us home” in paragraph 2, the reader can infer from Marie-Laure’s reaction that —
- A.** her father says this whenever they go for a walk
  - B.** her father never explains the exercise
  - C.** she has gained self-confidence
  - D.** she fears being disappointed
- 36.** For Marie-Laure, the chestnut tree in paragraphs 15 and 16 symbolizes —
- A.** success
  - B.** forgiveness
  - C.** solitude
  - D.** hope

- 37.** Which quotation shows that Marie-Laure is referring to the model in her kitchen as she finds her way home?
- A.** *They start up the length of the rue Cuvier.*
  - B.** *This street intersects this street intersects this street. One centimeter at a time.*
  - C.** *She says, "We go left."*
  - D.** *Instead she squats on her heels on the sidewalk.*
- 38.** What does the description of the model in paragraph 1 reveal about the father's character?
- A.** His expectations for his daughter are unrealistic.
  - B.** His love for Marie-Laure is limitless.
  - C.** He is meticulous and dedicated.
  - D.** He is concerned with irrelevant details.

Read the following and answer the questions below:

## Your Brain on Movies

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

# Your Brain on Movies

by Aaron Millar

Odyssey Magazine

March 2014

- 1 The fell beast, a black dragon with snake teeth and razor talons, swoops down on the wizard Gandalf. Cut to Frodo, a hobbit from the Shire, holding the ring of power over the fiery Cracks of Doom. As the ring falls, Mount Doom starts to explode, leaving Frodo stranded, surrounded on all sides by red-hot lava, and facing certain death.
- 2 During the final scenes of *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, we experience the full gamut of emotions. We gasp as the flames engulf Frodo; we cheer when Gandalf saves him. But hobbits do not exist, and there never was one ring to bind them all, or save them. So what's going on? There must be a special kind of movie magic that makes us believe what we know to be false and care about what we know isn't real. Well, as it happens, there is a special kind of magic, but it's not in the movie. It's in the minds of people who watch them.

### Handing Over Control

- 3 Dr. Norman Holland, of the University of Florida and author of *Literature and the Brain*, believes this magic is particularly potent when we watch movies on the big screen. "The first thing that happens," he argues, "is you give up control. The movie is in control." In normal life our brains are like tractor beams, busy scanning the environment with our senses, and sucking up any information that seems important or interesting: a sudden loud noise, a car racing towards us. This is called the attentional system, and it literally means the part of the brain that directs what we pay attention to. But as the lights come down in the cinema, and the characters come alive on screen, we switch off our tractor beams and let the movie control our attention instead. Edits, close-ups, sudden on-screen movement—these are all filmmaking techniques that direct our attention and allow us to cede control to the movie.

- 4 As that happens, we become increasingly absorbed in the film: the real world of school and parents and homework disappears. We stop sensing our body, we forget where we are, we are utterly transported to the world of the silver screen. Psychologists call this kind of mental state “flow”: when our attention is completely absorbed in one activity and there isn’t any juice left in the tractor beam, our attentional system, to suck up any more information. We are effortlessly swept along in the currents of the ride. This is why we love the movies: it’s like going on a roller coaster for the brain.

### **Are You for Real?**

- 5 But there’s another kind of magic at work here too: as we give up control, our sense of reality changes. “The way we know things are real,” Holland explains, “is when we interact with them. In a movie theater we’re not planning to do anything—we’re not going to change what we’re watching—and that turns off the systems we use for regulating our actions; in particular it turns off the system that tells us what’s real and what’s not real.” Deep down we know that what we’re seeing is make-believe, but because we’re not going to act upon it, because it doesn’t have a direct physical bearing upon us, we don’t test its plausibility in the same way we do normal life. It’s like that part of our brain goes on a temporary vacation. Film theorists and psychologists call this “suspension of disbelief” and because of it, fell beasts really are frightening, and we genuinely care about what happens to Frodo.
- 6 But something else is happening in the brain to make this possible too. In the same way that a smart phone has different apps for different jobs, and each one has a unique place on your home screen, the mind has different abilities, and each one has a distinct place in the brain. “Your knowledge that you’re only watching a movie happens in the front part of your brain,” Holland explains. “That’s the most advanced part, where you do your thinking and planning.” But emotions come from a different area, the limbic system, in the back of the brain, one of the most primitive parts. “We feel real emotions toward unreal fictions,” Holland says, “because two different brain systems are at work.” In other words, even though our front brain knows that a movie isn’t real, the back brain never gets the message. When Frodo is rescued from the fire, our limbic system automatically produces a physiological response, and a feeling of genuine relief, as if it were actually happening. Movies may be an illusion, but the emotions they produce are real.

## The Big Screen

- 7 Sadly, the intensity of the emotions that movies produce in us, and the consequent pleasure we get from watching them, may actually be diminishing. It has to do with the new ways in which we consume them. At home, or on our smart phones, movies are wonderfully convenient. But watching in this way limits their magic because we're in control: we have the power to stop the film or fast forward bits we don't like. On top of that, we are bombarded with distractions: unfinished homework lying on the coffee table, the text message that's just arrived from a friend. The cinema is designed to take us away from all of that, and in doing so, it maximizes the psychological effects of film. "If you're not giving up control to the movie," Holland says, "you're getting a thinned-out movie experience." More control might be more convenient, but it won't mean more magic. Surely we deserve better than that, and Frodo does too.

### Maximizing the Magic of Movies

The best environment to watch movies is in the theater; cinemas are designed to maximize the psychological effects of film. But if you're watching at home, try out these simple tips to make your viewing experience richer and more fun.

- **TURN THE LIGHTS OFF.** Remove all sensory information except the lights from the screen. Your brain's attentional system, the part that directs what we pay attention to, will be drawn deeper into the world of the movie.
- **REMOVE DISTRACTIONS.** Turn off your phone and clear the clutter from your coffee table. Your brain's ability to suspend disbelief will be increased if there's nothing drawing attention away from the screen.
- **DON'T TALK.** When you talk during a movie—especially when you analyze what's happening—you're reminding your brain that what you're watching isn't real, reducing the movie's believability and emotional impact.
- **TURN THE SOUND UP.** Onscreen sounds are an important way film makers direct our attention and keep us engaged with the movie. Music is important too: noises and soundtracks affect us emotionally, intensifying the viewing experience.

"Your Brain on Movies" by Aaron Millar, from *Odyssey*, March 2014. Copyright © 2014 by Carus Publishing Company d/b/a Cricket Media.

39. Read this quotation from paragraph 4.

*This is why we love the movies: it's like going on a roller coaster for the brain.*

Why does the author use this comparison?

- A. To illustrate the level of excitement a movie can provide
- B. To explain the filmmaking techniques used by movie directors
- C. To show how movies help people cope with real-world worries
- D. To describe the mental processes involved with making a movie

40. Which word from paragraph 3 means “powerful” or “effective”?

- A. *potent*
- B. *racing*
- C. *attentional*
- D. *literally*

- 41.** What is the primary purpose of the boxed information at the end of the article?
- A.** To persuade readers to watch movies in an actual theater rather than at home
  - B.** To explain why movies watched at home are less enjoyable
  - C.** To give advice for ways to enhance the home movie-watching experience
  - D.** To demonstrate why the convenience of watching movies at home is appealing
- 42.** Which statement best expresses the main idea of paragraph 5?
- A.** Movies can cause people to become emotional.
  - B.** The way people relate to a movie depends on how realistic it is.
  - C.** Movies can make people ignore the difference between reality and fiction.
  - D.** People lose awareness of their surroundings in a movie theater.
- 43.** According to paragraph 6, what does the limbic system control?
- A.** Emotions
  - B.** Selective attention
  - C.** Comprehension
  - D.** Spatial awareness

**44.** Why does the author include paragraph 7?

- A.** To contrast the enjoyment received from older and newer movies
- B.** To express concern regarding the ways people often watch movies today
- C.** To suggest that newer movies lack emotional appeal for viewers
- D.** To explain why theater attendance has declined in recent years

**45.** Which of these best describes the author's purpose for writing this article?

- A.** To inform people about what makes a movie-watching experience enjoyable
- B.** To analyze the techniques moviemakers use to create popular movies
- C.** To compare the experiences of watching a movie at home and in a theater
- D.** To persuade people to avoid watching movies on smart phones

Read the following and answer the questions below:

## A Blessing

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

# A Blessing

*by James Wright*

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,  
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.  
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies  
Darken with kindness.

- 5 They have come gladly out of the willows  
To welcome my friend and me.  
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture  
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.  
They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness
- 10 That we have come.  
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.  
There is no loneliness like theirs.  
At home once more,  
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.
- 15 I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,  
For she has walked over to me  
And nuzzled my left hand.  
She is black and white,  
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,
- 20 And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear  
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.  
Suddenly I realize  
That if I stepped out of my body I would break  
Into blossom.

James Wright, "A Blessing" from *Collected Poems*. © 1971 by James Wright. Reprinted by permission of Wesleyan University Press.

46. Which line from the poem provides context that supports the meaning of the word *grazing* in line 8?
- A. Line 4
  - B. Line 9
  - C. Line 14
  - D. Line 17

47. Which of these lines contains poetic language that conveys a sense of gentleness?
- A. And the eyes of those two Indian ponies  
Darken with kindness.
  - B. At home once more,  
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.
  - C. We step over the barbed wire into the pasture  
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
  - D. She is black and white,  
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,

48. Which of these best describes the structure of the poem?
- A. A regular pattern of rhyming couplets
  - B. Triplets of three successive rhyming lines
  - C. Unrhymed lines all in the same meter
  - D. Free verse with no rhyme or meter

49. Read line 12 from the poem.

There is no loneliness like theirs.

What tones are conveyed by this line?

- A. Mournful and intimate
- B. Bitter and disgusted
- C. Scornful and cynical
- D. Resigned and baffled

50. Lines 13 and 14 suggest that the ponies —

- A. have traveled far
- B. are in a comfortable and familiar place
- C. have not had a chance to eat for a while
- D. are excited to see their visitors

**51.** In line 7, the act of stepping over barbed wire represents the speaker's —

- A.** increasing self-awareness
- B.** imagined hardships
- C.** desire to embrace nature
- D.** ability to forgive mankind

**52.** The simile in line 11 —

- A.** suggests that the ponies have been in the rain
- B.** describes how the speaker and his friend interact with the ponies
- C.** presents the ponies as timid and graceful
- D.** reflects the ponies' fearful behavior







