

Nombre: _____

1. Read and answer

e-readers

Right now, I am looking at a shelf full of relics, a collection of antiques, fossils. Right now I am looking at a shelf full of books. Yes, that's right. If you have some spare cash (the going rate is about \$89) and are looking to enhance your reading experience, then I highly suggest you consider purchasing an e-reader. E-readers are replacing the books of old, and I welcome them with open arms (as you should).

If you haven't heard of an e-reader and don't know what it is, then please permit the following explanation. An e-reader is a device that allows you to read e-books. An e-book is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices.

So now you know what an e-reader is. But you still may be wondering why they put printed books to shame. E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not.

E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space. The average e-reader can store thousands of digital books, providing a library at your fingertips. What is more, being the size and weight of a thin hardback book, the e-reader itself is relatively small. It is easy to hold and can fit in a pocketbook or briefcase easily. Perhaps the only drawback to the space-saving aspect of an e-reader is that it requires you to find new things to put on your shelves.

In addition, e-readers are superior to books because they are environmentally friendly. The average novel is about 300 pages long. So, if a novel is printed 1000 times, it will use 300,000 pieces of paper. That's a lot of paper! If there are about 80,000 pieces of paper in a tree, this means it takes almost 4 trees to make these 1000 books. Now, we know that the average bestseller sells about 20,000 copies per week. That means that it takes over 300 trees each month to sustain this rate. And for the super bestsellers, these figures increase dramatically. For example, the Harry Potter book series has sold over 450 million copies. That's about 2 million trees! Upon viewing these figures, it is not hard to grasp the severe impact of printed books on the environment. Since e-readers use no trees, they represent a significant amount of preservation in terms of the environment and its resources.

Finally, e-readers are superior to books because they provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not. The typical e-reader allows its user to customize letter size, font, and line spacing. It also allows highlighting and electronic bookmarking. Furthermore, it grants users the ability to get an overview of a book and then jump to a specific location based on that overview. While these are all nice features, perhaps the most helpful of all is the ability to get dictionary definitions at the touch of a finger. On even the most basic e-reader, users can obtain instant definitions without having to hunt through a physical dictionary.

It can be seen that e-readers are superior to printed books. So what good are printed books? Well, they certainly make nice decorations.

1. According to the author, what are the main reasons why e-readers are superior to printed books?

2. What is one of the main disadvantages of having an e-reader?

3. How do e-readers help to preserve the environment?

4. Why is it unnecessary to resort to a printed dictionary if you use an e-reader?

5. Can anyone buy an e-reader? Why (not)?

2. Read this interview to a teacher in England and put the verbs in brackets in the right tense. When you see a +, use a modal

Sarah Jenkins is an English teacher. She _____ (work) in a language school in Brighton. She _____ (teach) English since she _____ (leave) university five years ago. I asked her first if she _____ (enjoy) teaching English.

'Yes, I do,' she replied. 'It's hard work, but it's very rewarding.'

'_____ (you ever work) abroad?'

'Yes,' replied Sarah. 'I _____ (spend) two years in Madrid. But the school closed and I

_____ (make) redundant. Luckily some of my students asked me if I

_____ (continue) to teach them privately, so I stayed in Madrid.'

'And how long _____ (you teach) in Brighton?'

'Since I came back from Madrid three years ago.'

I then asked Sarah what the most memorable moment of her career was.

'Well, a funny thing _____ (happen) while I _____ (work) at the school in Madrid. I had a student called Gloria. On some days she _____ (+be) the best student in the class. But on other days she performed really badly. I tried very hard _____ (help) her,

but things only got worse. Then, one day, I met Gloria on the street and asked her about her boyfriend. (the day before she _____ (tell) me a sad story about him.) She looked surprised and told me

that her name was Victoria, not Gloria. She continued, 'My twin sister and I _____ (take

turns) in your classes since September – two for the price of one!' after that, it was much easier to teach

them. At the beginning of each class I simply asked, 'Are you Gloria or Victoria today?'

Finally, I asked Sarah about her plans for the future.

'Well, I'm very interested in teaching young children, so next September I _____ (do) a special training course.'

'And are you going to stay in Britain or _____ (+ you like) to work abroad again?'

'I _____ (promote) recently. I'm now Director of Studies. So I think I

_____ (stay) here for a few more years. Of course, if someone had offered me a well-paid job in Italy or Greece, I _____ (take) it, but it just didn't happen!'

3. Read this letter from Alberto, who is staying in Bristol, to his friend Paul and complete the blanks with a suitable connective

Dear Paul,

My stay in England is coming to an end. In ten days' time I will back in Argentina. I can hardly believe

_____ I have been in Bristol for three months. The time went by so quickly! Yesterday I

took my final exams. As soon _____ I get the results, I'll let you know.

I'd really like to have a holiday _____ the course finishes, but I have to go straight back to

Argentina in _____ to see my family. I would visit Scotland _____ I had

more time. Unfortunately I haven't seen much of Britain – I haven't even been to London

_____!

My host family have been really nice to me but even _____ I'll miss them I'm looking

forward to seeing my family again. My parents were planning to move to Mendoza. They might have moved

already. My brother was made redundant, _____ now he's looking for a new job. He says

he might have to move to another town _____ there are more jobs.

_____ he's not sure.

4. Go on reading the letter and complete the blanks with one word only

I really like England. The people are friendly and the countryside's lovely and the food's actually quite good.

My friend Pablo loves it here. He even says he wouldn't _____ living here. But for me the

problem is the weather. I think I'd _____ live somewhere else warmer and drier. Recently

it's been _____ terrible – raining every day.

Yesterday I went to the cinema with Pablo to see *Gladiator*. It's the fifth time Pablo has seen it! He

_____ really like it. Well, I do, but I wouldn't want to see it so _____

times!

LEVEL A6

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I have applied for a lot of jobs recently. Yesterday I applied for _____ with the United Nations. It _____ be great if I got it, but I haven't got a very good _____. They want someone with fluent English and French, and my French isn't very good any more. Anyway, I haven't picked up my plane ticket _____ so I have to go into town now and do that. See you next week. I'll give you a call _____ I get home. Take care.
Best wishes,
Alberto

5. **It's Alberto's 21st birthday and he's having coffee with a friend. Complete their conversation**

Friend: Happy Birthday, Alberto. So, _____ ?

Alberto: Kind of strange. I suddenly feel a little anxious, like I'm not moving ahead fast enough.

Friend: But, _____ ?

Alberto: Oh, I've managed to get good grades in all my subjects, but I still haven't been able to decide on a career.

Friend: _____ ?

Alberto: Well, I'm interested in many things. I like traveling and I like helping people as well.

Friend: _____ ?

Alberto: Hmm, tourism is fine, but I wouldn't like to be a tourist guide.

Friend: Your uncle is a travel agent, _____ ?

Alberto: Yes, and a very successful one. But he lives in New York, far away from here.

Friend: _____ ?

Alberto: Yes, twice. It's a wonderful city.

Friend: _____ ?

Alberto: Living in New York would be really nice. But I don't think I'd like to live far away from my family.

Friend: _____ ?

Alberto: My own agency? That would take ages!

Friend: _____ . I'm sure he'll give you good advice.

Alberto: Yes, you're right. I'll talk to him soon.

Friend: What do you hope _____ ?

Alberto: For one thing, I hope I'll have seen more of the world. But more important than that, I'd like to have made a good start on my career by then.

6. **Composition. Write about 150 words on ONE of the following:**

- A Successful Life
- OR
- "I can't put up with this any longer" (beginning or ending sentence)